

the **PROGRESS** REPORT

May 10, 2017



Equity in Higher Education

Equity in higher education is all about equal access and equal opportunity of success for all students regardless of race, gender, disability, or economic circumstances. At Cerro Coso, this means providing opportunities for our demonstrated gap populations of African American, American Indian, and male students, as well as students of low socioeconomic status.

It has been a busy year on the Student Equity front at Cerro Coso! Here is a look at what we have been up to.

Activities

Students from our gap populations have had the chance to find out about higher education by visiting Historically Black College and Universities (HBCU's) such as Morehouse, Spellman, and Tuskegee University, as well as taking local college tours at CSU Northridge, UC Los Angeles, and Loyola Marymount among others.

There was also a focus on bringing students to key association conferences in multiple states. These included Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) in San Antonio, the African American Male Education Network and Development (A2MEND) in Los Angeles, Voto Latino in Las Vegas, and the California Conference of American Indian Education in Palm Springs.

Speakers

Speakers have also brought awareness to the college about issues affecting our gap populations, including Kathy Buckley, a motivational speaker, who spoke about her unique story of growing up deaf, and Odell Bizzell, speaker and author recognized for helping students turn their lives into success stories. Bizzell in addition gave a presentation to more than 180 of the college's students at California City Prison.

Faculty/Staff Run Activities

Because faculty and staff members can now apply for equity funding to help pay for events related to gap populations, the college saw a 250% increase in the number of funding requests (from 12 to 30) between the 15-16 and 16-17 school years. The purpose of these presentations is to provide employees and students an avenue to understand issues that students from gap populations often deal with. Talks have focused on topics like implicit bias, cultural awareness, and achieving student success through equity resources. Events more focused for students have included movie showings of "He named me Malala" and "Hidden Figures," Manzanar Pilgrim Weekend trip, and the Latinos Unidos Olvera Street Experience.

Goals for Next Year

While Cerro Coso has been busy with its equity efforts this year, we plan on increasing the number of trips, tours, speakers, and staff development opportunities to make a difference! In addition, we plan to

- Implement an UMOJA Program starting fall 2017
- Host representatives from four-year institutions that have programs of interest for gap populations
- Implement "EDI (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Talks" for faculty and staff to take part in
- Promote "Porch Talks," safe places for various students, community members, and employees to discuss current trending topics related to equity.

Find out how you can be involved! Contact Blaine Simmons at 760-384-6114 or blaine.simmons@cerrococo.edu.

Some Equity Numbers

From CC's 2015 Student Equity Report

- Males account for 54% of CC's service area population but only 38% of total enrollment
- African-Americans account for 5% of the service area population but only 2% of total enrollment when distance education courses are excluded
- African-American students successfully complete courses at a 38% lower rate than the college average.
- Low-income students transfer at a 15% lower rate than more economically advantaged students.
- American-Indian students complete a degree or certificate at a 14% lower rate than the college average.

Did you know?

In fall 2015 Cerro Coso offered only one class at the California City Prison. We now offer classes at two prisons (Cal City and Tehachapi) and will be offering over 40 classes this upcoming fall 2017 semester! Prison classes are made up of students from gap populations, male and overwhelmingly of low socioeconomic status. Cerro Coso is also only one of two schools in the state that offers the Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) program to its incarcerated students.