

# COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS

A Community Report on the  
Sequoias Community College District  
2018-2019



HANFORD | TULARE | VISALIA



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With the conclusion of the 2018-2019 academic year, College of the Sequoias is pleased to provide our annual community report. The year was highlighted by another record number of degrees conferred; a successful reaffirmation of our accreditation; and a visit from our statewide Chancellor, Eloy Oakley.

A more detailed version of our 2018-2019 Annual Report is presented to our Board of Trustees and is available for your review online at [cos.edu](http://cos.edu). In the pages that follow, we highlight real success stories from our students and staff as they navigate their educational and professional journey with us.

As we begin our second three-year Strategic Plan under our current 2015-2025 Master Plan, we continue to focus our efforts and resources on growing our District, increasing success for all students, and closing the achievement gap for students lagging behind and creating sustainable programs/services to endure over time. Within our 2018-2021 Strategic Plan, we have ten District objectives specifically targeted to measure improvement in these key areas. Our faculty, staff and administrators are working together through a well-designed participatory governance system to plan, implement and assess our work and allocation of resources. This system includes a strong and talented Academic Senate made up of faculty; a diverse District Governance Senate made up of a cross-section of all staff and students and District committees appointed to specific operations such as the District budget, technology and annual program reviews; and a Student Senate.

Simultaneously, COS is working to integrate important statewide initiatives including the Student Success Scorecard, Student Equity and Achievement Initiative, College Promise, Multiple Measures, Guided Pathways and the Strong Workforce Act. Simply put, these expectations are embedded in the statewide Community College Vision for Success and require all community colleges to sharpen our focus on increasing student graduation/transfer rates, accelerating completion for students performing below our district average, and increasing the completion rates for job and career training/certificates in areas of industry growth relevant to our region.

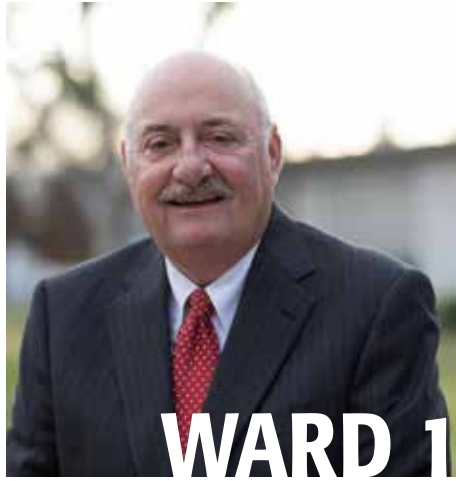
Our COS Board of Trustees provides a solid foundation of leadership that guides our institution through their ongoing review of our integrated planning and institutional assessments, and successful oversight of our District resources and labor relations.

Finally, I want to thank our entire college community which includes our campus cities of Visalia, Hanford and Tulare. We enjoy tremendous community support from throughout Tulare/Kings Counties and are grateful for the opportunity to serve our region!

Sincerely,

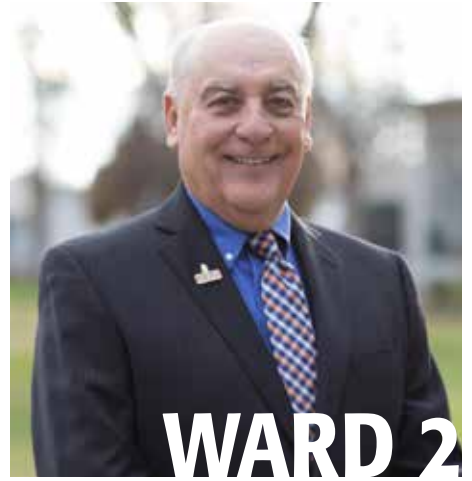
Brent Calvin, Superintendent/President

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES



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Board Vice President



**WARD 2**

Ken Nunes  
Board President



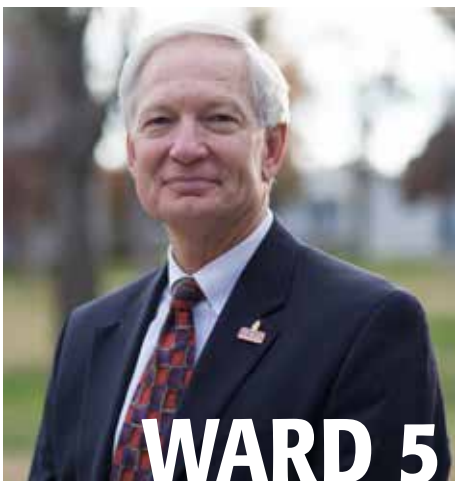
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Trustee



**WARD 4**

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Board Clerk



**WARD 5**

John Lehn  
Trustee



Ribab Boumzough  
Student Trustee

# COS FOUNDATION

**The COS Foundation raised over \$400,000 in scholarships in 2018-2019.**

The COS Foundation is a private not-for-profit organization led by volunteer community members. It exists to exclusively benefit the College of the Sequoias and our students. Foundation volunteers and staff cultivate and direct community resources to COS in areas that matter most to the communities that COS serves. Gifts generally come in the form of direct cash gifts, special event participation, and planned gifts. Some recent uses of raised funds include student scholarships, educational equipment purchases, and capital improvements.

**\$429,000**

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS  
2019-2020

**\$78,950**

COS PROGRAM SUPPORT  
2019-2020

**\$63,000**

UPGRADED PRACTICE & PERFORMANCE  
PIANOS FOR PERFORMING ARTS

**\$50,000**

SCHOLARSHIP INCENTIVE PROGRAM FOR  
COS STUDENTS TRANSFERRING TO  
FRESNO STATE VISALIA CAMPUS,  
INTEGRATED TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM

**\$29,500**

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

**\$9,500**

EDUCATIONAL EQUIPMENT SUPPLIES

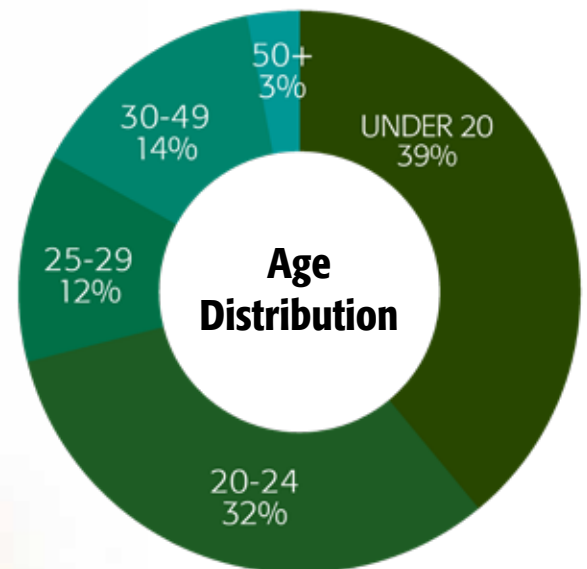
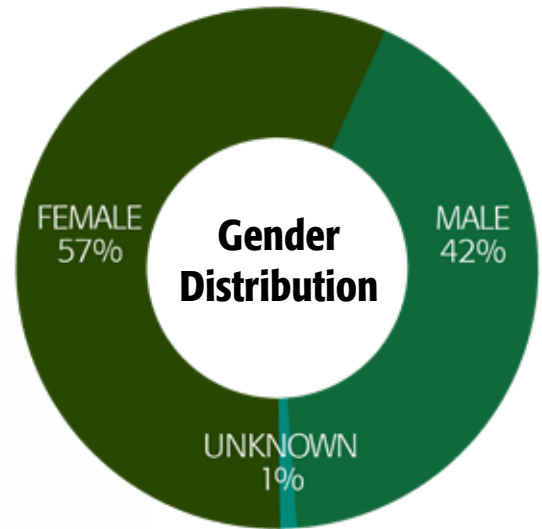
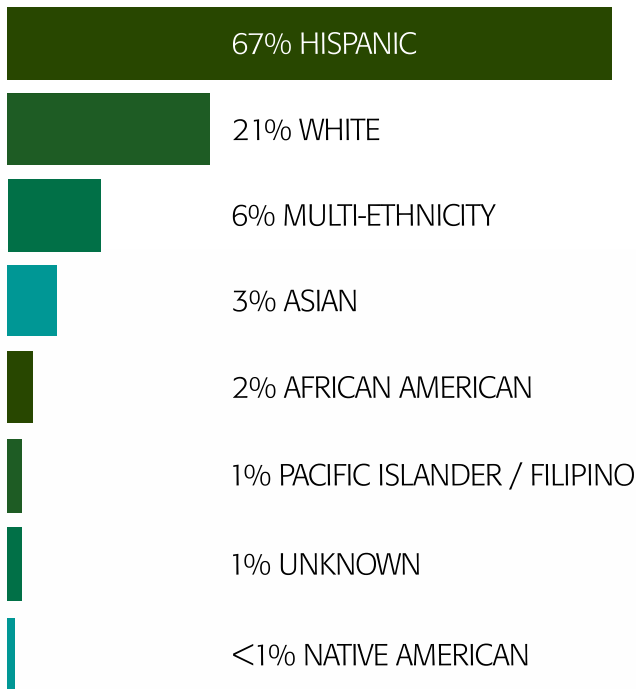


Left: Student Athlete, Volleyball, Emily Soto. Center: COS Mascot, Timber. Right: Student Athlete Quincy Hall, 2019 NCAA Division I 400m Hurdles Champion.

# STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

A more technical version of our Annual Report is presented to our Board of Trustees and is available for review online at [cos.edu](http://cos.edu).

## Ethnicity Distribution



\*Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Management Information Systems Data Mart: [datamart.cccco.edu](http://datamart.cccco.edu)

# HIGHEST HONORS FOR AGRICULTURE



## **COS Agriculture Honored by California FFA.**

The California FFA Association is a youth organization that promotes leadership, personal growth and career success through agriculture education and includes over 89,000 members in California.

The State of California FFA Executive Committee voted to award the College of the Sequoias Agriculture Division with the Distinguished Service Citation; the highest honor the state association can bestow on an organization. Representatives from the College of the Sequoias Agriculture Division attended the 91st annual State FFA Leadership Conference in April 2019, where they were recognized for their contributions to the FFA organization.

Since 2013, the COS Tulare College Center and Ag Division have hosted the San Joaquin Regional Speaking and Parliamentary Procedure Contest

for the FFA Association with several hundred local high school FFA members in attendance. Student participants compete in events such as job interview, extemporaneous speaking and prepared public speaking. Additionally, the COS Ag Faculty hosts many other contests and events to support the local chapters of the FFA, including a freshman field day in the fall and the best informed greenhand competition for high school freshman in the spring.

There are seven members of the Ag Division: Kim Pitigliano, Division Chair; Fernando Fernandez, Ornamental Horticulture; Russell McKeith, Animal Science; Shannan Cooper, AgriBusiness Management; Charlie Abee, Ag & Irrigation Technology; Dr. Allison Ferry-Abee, Plant Science; and Dr. Allison Vander Plaats, Animal Science. Dr. Louann Waldner serves as the Administrator of the Ag Division and as the Provost of the COS Tulare College Center.



# GIANT WEBSITE



**Having the site proportionately available and easy to navigate on any device was critical in the final design.**

College of the Sequoias began designing and organizing the layout of a new website in 2017, and during the spring of 2019 launched the District-wide website. The new site is visually dynamic, student centered and most importantly, mobile friendly. Visually, the site features thousands of COS photos that represent COS students, staff, faculty, programs, departments, and spaces. The site creates a unique experience for students to navigate between campuses, featuring largely labeled tiles displayed for each department, program, and service.

The language used on the site is straightforward and uncomplicated for new or returning students, providing the students a quick way to find the information they need. The most important feature is the mobile-friendly capability. Students spend a lot of time on their phones, and having the site proportionately available and easy to navigate on any device was critical in the final design.



# STUDENTS TO PEACE OFFICERS

## Careers in law enforcement begin at COS.

The College of the Sequoias Police Academy at the Hanford Educational Center had 125 cadets graduate during the 2018-2019 academic year. For Director, Jack Amoroso, who retired as of spring 2019, working side-by-side with the cadets and watching them advance from student to professional Peace Officer candidates is the most gratifying part of his work with COS. Jack Amoroso came out of retirement to join the COS Hanford Campus as the Director of the Police Academy and Training Programs, after serving over 39 years in law enforcement.

In fall 2018, graduation plaques were added to the hallway of the Public Safety Building on the Hanford Campus. The plaques display the recent history of the Police Academy Program, dating back to 2006 and are a great source of pride to local law enforcement personnel and Police Academy Alumni.

The Tulare-Kings Basic Police Academy has been providing quality law enforcement officers to agencies in the Central Valley for over 50 years.

"Graduating quality law enforcement candidates from the Police Academy is a mission," says Amoroso. Graduating from the COS Police Academy provides an opportunity for cadets to be employed in law enforcement anywhere within the State of California. The Police Academy not only prepares cadets for a job in law enforcement, but also educates them on accountability, discipline, commitment, and daily preparation for potential life changing events in the field.



In May 2019, the Police Academy was recognized at a Visalia Rawhide baseball game. Cadets were announced and recognized during the pre-game and Amoroso had the honor of throwing the game's first pitch.

# GIANTS GO GOURMET

**College of the Sequoias offers food services in Hanford, Tulare and Visalia. The Hanford Campus houses the Avenue Coffee Shop serving gourmet coffees and paninis located in the Education Building. The Tulare Campus offers students a variety of snacks and beverages in the Student Store located in the Bookstore in Building A. The Visalia Campus offers four food services options including the Giant Grill, the COS Café, the Grind Coffee House, and the Food Court.**



During Summer 2018, the Alta Peak building on the Visalia Campus received an extensive remodel. Prior to the remodel, Alta Peak housed the Student Union and the COS Café. The remodel included new flooring, tile, fixtures, signage, and seating. The largest component of the remodel included a new kitchen, walk-up counter, and menu for the Giant Grill.

The Giant Grill offers students a fast-casual venue serving acai bowls, avocado toast, build-your-own burgers, and a salad bar. The COS Food Services department offers hands-on experience for students interested in a culinary or hospitality career with over 40 employment opportunities for students every semester.

College of the Sequoias Food Services was recognized and honored by Tulare County Health and Human Services with the Food Excellence Award in 2018-2019 for consistently maintaining exceptional sanitation, efficient operations and high quality standards assuring the maximum protection of the public's health and safety.

# CULTURAL & HISTORICAL AWARENESS PROGRAM

Engaging opportunities for students and the community.



The Cultural and Historical Awareness Program (CHAP) at College of the Sequoias is an annual speaker and performance series designed to expose COS students, and the broader community, to a variety of intellectual and cultural topics vital to contemporary society.

Each academic year, the CHAP program establishes a general theme, and invites speakers and performers from across professions and academic disciplines to share their work and scholarship. By encouraging a range of interdisciplinary conversations, the CHAP program enriches the intellectual life of COS and of the broader communities of Central California. Some of the highlights from 2018-2019 include **Rodman Flender**,

Director of Conan O'Brien's "Can't Stop" and **Marc Tarpenning**, co-founder of TESLA.

The CHAP program provides COS students an opportunity to learn and engage with industry professionals and artists from a variety of areas of interest. Several of the topics covered during 2018-2019 included history, political science, cinematography, the medical field, and engineering. CHAP committee members work to bring leading thinkers, culture-changers, and industry distributors to the Central Valley, providing an accessible opportunity for COS students and community members to learn from thought-provoking individuals.

# 92ND COMMENCE

# 1,744

DEGREES AWARDED

# 1,427

CERTIFICATES AWARDED

# 1,796

CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION  
ASSOCIATE DEGREES & CERTIFICATES

# 125

PEACE OFFICERS

# 80

REGISTERED  
NURSES

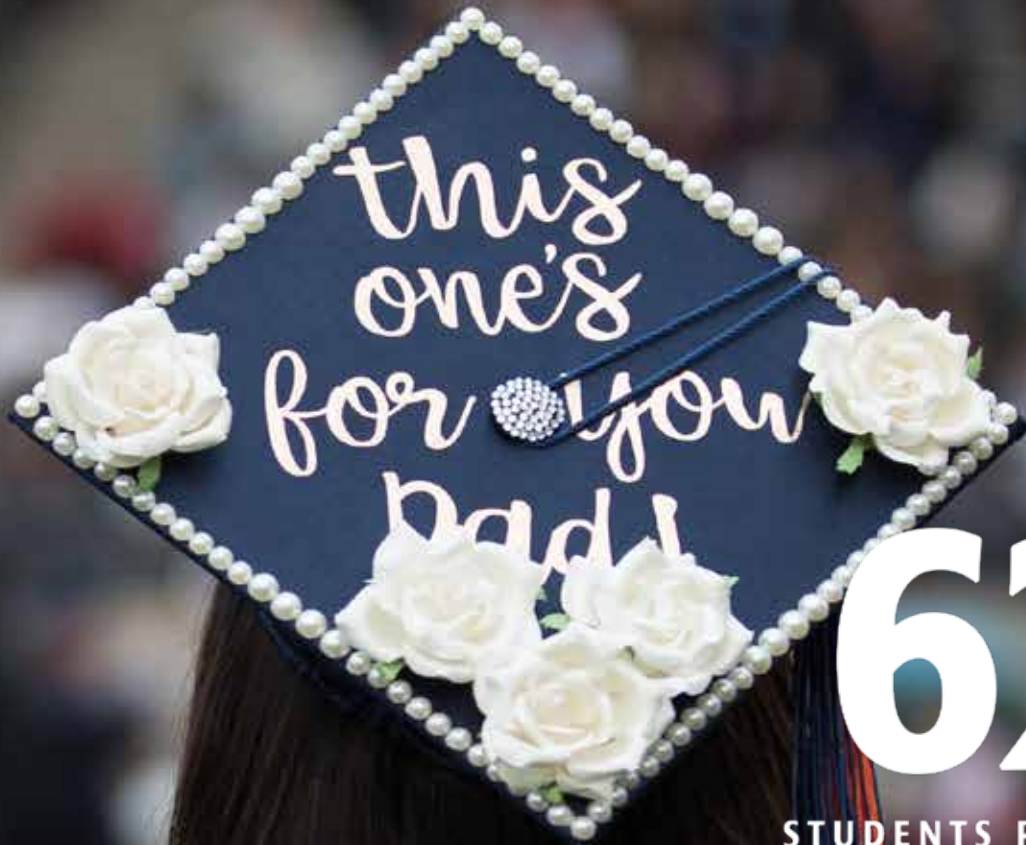
# 30

FIREFIGHTERS

# 28

PHYSICAL THERAPY  
ASSISTANTS

# EMENT CEREMONY



**625**

STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN  
THE 2018-2019 CEREMONY

**380**

STUDENTS GRADUATED WITH  
HONORS, 3.5 GPA OR HIGHER

# EXPLORING THE ARTS

**The College of the Sequoias Art Gallery hosts six exhibitions a year that feature regional, national, and international artists to expose COS students, faculty, and staff to engaging art and cultural experiences.**



During fall 2018, the Art Gallery hosted Minneapolis-based artist Michael Benedetti. He visited the COS Visalia campus during his exhibition where he gave an artist talk and workshop for COS printmaking students. In the spring of 2019, the first exhibition "Threading the Lines" featured the custom-made costumes for the "Picasso at the Lapin Agile" created by the COS Theatre Department and James McDonnell. To accompany the exhibitions, the gallery also hosted an interdisciplinary presentation. In March 2019, the gallery hosted art advising hours which provided an opportunity for students interested in an art major or careers in art to meet one-on-one with faculty to go over their intended/selected degree paths, transferring, and program questions, as well as career opportunities and awareness.

At the end of spring 2019, the gallery featured the work of COS students. This year the gallery was able to use their own set of reusable maple stock frames, which were purchased using approved above base funding. With the gallery acquiring a stock set of reusable frames, the artwork on display can be presented in a professional manner. Additionally, the students participating in the Gallery Exhibition class had an opportunity to gain valuable framing experience and skills. Lastly, the COS Art Gallery has joined forces with the Learning Resource Center (LRC) to create an exhibition venue in the LRC. These exhibitions will run on a four-month cycle, changing in the middle of each semester. The COS Art Gallery is vital to the COS community – students, staff, and faculty - as it serves as a visual and cultural resource to expose, enrich, and engage viewers with art.

# GIANT THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT COS

**COS receives recognition at the state and regional level.**



Left: College of the Sequoias received GIANT recognition during 2018-2019, including a COS team of seven colleagues that presented at the ACCJC conference to community colleges around the state; Right: the State of California Community Colleges Chancellor, Eloy Oakley, visits the College of the Sequoias district.



Left: COS Board Member Raymond Macareno, COS Superintendent/President Brent Calvin, Tulare County Superintendent of Schools Tim Hire, and Fresno State President Dr. Joseph Castro attended a fundraising event at the COS Hanford campus; Right: The State of California Board of Governors President, Tom Epstein, and former State Assembly woman and minority leader, Connie Conway.

# EXCELLENCE IN EQUINE AT TULARE COLLEGE CENTER



**College of the Sequoias, Tulare College Center (TCC) offers an Equine Science Certificate Program for students who are interested in careers associated with horses, including herdsmen positions, vet clinics, feed stores, and equine barns.**

TCC houses 25 head of American Quarter Horses and American Paint Horses that are integrated into all Equine classes. The college owns a variety of horses including mares, stallions, and foals that are housed in the Equestrian Unit, comprised of barns, pastures, arena, and working pens at TCC. The program offers students an opportunity to register for equine courses that offer equitation, colt training, reproduction, evaluation, disease and sanitation, and general husbandry.

The COS equine program has been recognized nationally for the Women's Equestrian Team that consists of 12 team members who travel to competitions with other colleges and universities through the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association (IHSA). The COS Equestrian Team competes primarily against four-year institutions including Stanford, Cal Poly, and the University of Nevada. COS has had the distinct honor of being awarded with the Horse of the Year in the region by IHSA three times between 2016-2018.





Equestrian student-athlete Cheyenne O'Dell on "Chubs." The Women's Equestrian Team begins their season this Fall. Home competitions are held at the Tulare College Center and are open to the public.

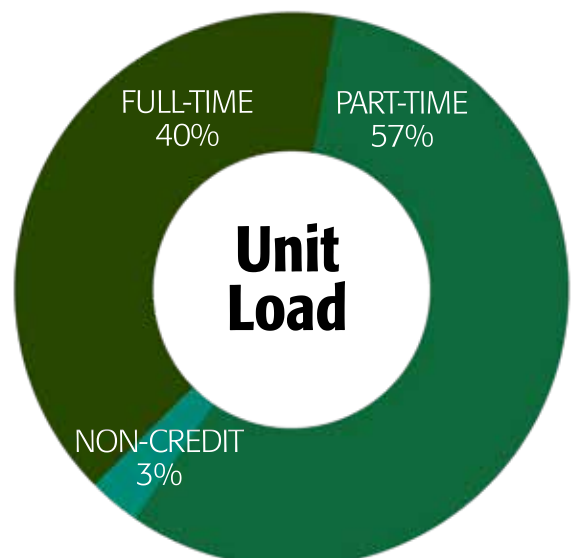
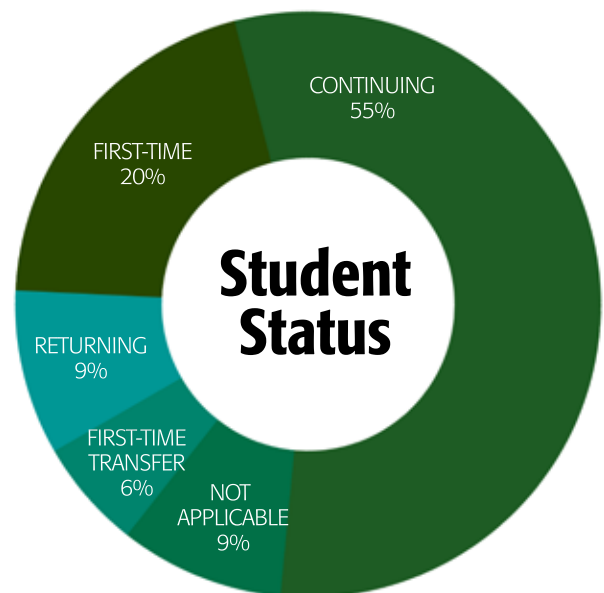
# ENROLLMENT DEMOGRAPHICS

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# 16,795

STUDENTS ENROLLED IN THE 2018-2019 YEAR



\*Source: California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, Management Information Systems Data Mart: [datamart.cccco.edu](http://datamart.cccco.edu)

# BUILDING BRIDGES WITH THE PUENTE PROJECT



The Puente Project supports underserved students transferring to four-year colleges to earn degrees and become leaders for future generations. Dr. Ambar Alvarez-Soto and English Professor, Jamie Moore, operate the Puente Program on a three-pronged approach of counseling, culturally-relevant material in English courses, and mentoring. This approach has proven effective as Ambar and Jamie work to increase the number of underserved students who transfer to a university. They work together to provide a curriculum meant to foster creativity, critical thinking, and empowerment.

Puente students have a dedicated counselor stationed in the Puente Center. As a result, Puente students are provided with individualized counseling services to meet their goals. Students are taught the

importance of developing a strong support system early on as they move through their first year as a cohort.

During the 2018-2019 year, the Puente Program received approval and funding for ten laptops which have been instrumental in the success of COS Puente students. The laptops are housed in the Puente Center and students can use them while in the center. In December 2018, the Puente Project collected over 60 coats for the Giving for Guadiana Coat Drive. In spring 2019, the COS Puente Project was recognized by the Puente statewide office with a plaque for more than 20 years of service in the District and community. Finally, the cohort raised \$500 for textbooks during the second annual BBQ for Books fundraiser.

# RETURNING TO SCHOOL

**“Don’t be shy, we are all here for the same reason, to better ourselves and our future” says Shannon Morris.**



Shannon Morris attended College of the Sequoias, Tulare College Center and graduated in the Spring 2019 with four Associate of Science degrees in Plant Science, Ornamental Horticulture, Ag Technology and Landscape Management.

Shannon had several goals in her educational plan and COS supported her every step of the way. Shannon attributes her success to the staff and faculty who believed in her enough to go above and beyond to help her succeed. Shannon took advantage of resources and additional support like the Math Lab and the Library to strive through subjects that were more difficult than others.

Shannon had numerous opportunities to expand her academic experience. She won a scholarship to attend the 2018 Irrigation Foundation Conference, where she participated with 30 other college students from across the country who were carefully selected out of hundreds of applicants. Shannon was the first student from College of the Sequoias to apply and win! This experience, for Shannon, was a once in a lifetime opportunity, providing her increased awareness of the Agriculture and Irrigation industry that goes well beyond the Central Valley. Shannon remarked that taking the risk to apply was “well worth it!”

At age 36, returning to school to pursue her academic goals, was one of the best decisions Shannon ever made. Shannon encourages new and returning students stating, “Don’t be shy, we are all here for the same reason, to better ourselves and our future. You attend COS for yourself, not to impress anyone else, and achieving your academic goals is not selfish, it’s your future. I am beyond proud to be a COS Giant.”

# COACHING THE WHOLE STUDENT



The College of the Sequoias Track and Field Program has been a state power for decades. The 2017 team won the State championship, led by head coach, Curtis Allen, who recently took a position to coach at UCLA. New head coach, Kenny Jackson, who was appointed in 2017, had previously been serving as the Student Success Coordinator for the Athletic Department.

Under Coach Jackson's leadership, the track program has not skipped a beat, continuing to win conference championships and to challenge Northern California for State supremacy. Last spring, the team won the Central Valley Conference title and finished second in Northern California and fourth in the state. And this year's squad looks even more promising!

Coach Jackson attributes the continued success of the program to his dedicated coaching staff as well as the quality of the student athletes they have recruited. The staff has incorporated the importance of friendship, social skills, and self-esteem into the program and have placed a great emphasis on student success.

# FACULTY & STAFF

College of the Sequoias has hired over 100 new faculty and staff in 2018-2019. Meet some of our newest faces at COS.



**Victoria Rioux**  
**Education**

"As a student, COS offered me access to opportunities I didn't know were possible. I hope to provide a similar experience for my students while helping to develop future educators for the Central Valley."



**Octavio Barrajas**  
**Ethnic Studies**

"COS stands out in being one of the few community colleges in the state to have a fulltime Ethnic Studies position. I am very pleased to work for a trailblazing institution that values this area of study."



**Sidney Hammond**  
**Administration of Justice**

"It is my sincere desire to help my students find and develop the best possible version of themselves and give it to the world. I want to continue the tradition and remind students that it's ok to be great, and it's great to be a GIANT!"



**Allison Vander Plaats**  
**Animal Science**

"I'm happy to be at COS because of the strong emphasis placed on teaching and student success. We want our students to gain real-life skills here that they can use in their careers and lives."

# COS GRADUATES AT FRESNO STATE

In fall 2018, the South Valley Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP), which is part of the Kremen School of Education at Fresno State, accepted 35 students into their first cohort. Of these 35 students, 24 transferred from College of the Sequoias.

After researching the quickest pathway into teaching, Lemoore resident and COS graduate, Sheena Briceno decided to transfer to the ITEP program, which is located on the College of the Sequoias, Visalia Campus. The partnership with Fresno State has provided opportunities for students in the South Valley to obtain a four-year degree without the commute to Fresno. Sheena explains that attending COS and transferring to the ITEP Program was the best decision she ever made.

"I believe as a returning student, these experiences have provided me with a different outlook on life, my education and my future," says Briceno. "When you are working towards your goals, there are always challenges. Those challenges are worth overcoming

and have allowed me to get closer to meeting my goals."

Students who complete the ITEP program will graduate with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies and a Multiple Subject Teaching Credential. This program directly addresses a critical need for well-qualified, highly-committed teachers for learners in schools in the South Valley. Dr. Luz Gonzalez, Dean of the Fresno State Visalia Campus, explains that the Fresno State Visalia Campus alleviates the time, stress, and financial burden for students pursuing careers in teaching.

Students from the first cohort completed their BA in Liberal Studies in May of 2019, and are currently working on their Multiple Subject Teaching Credential at Manuel F. Hernandez Elementary School in Visalia, with a expected completion date of May 2020. The second cohort, which includes 28 transfer students from COS, began in August 2019.





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VISALIA CAMPUS  
915 S MOONEY BLVD  
VISALIA, CA 93274