

BOARD REPORT



CHEERS TO THE CLASS OF 2022!

Under a pair of brilliant evening skies, Reedley College celebrated the Class of 2022 with two separate commencement ceremonies May 19 & 20 on the south cafeteria lawn. This was the first outdoor commencement ceremony for the campus since 2019 and the 94th in College history. Graduates were grouped into their pathways, with our Agriculture & Natural Resources, Industrial & Manufacturing Technology and Business students recognized on the 19th and our STEM, Social Sciences, Art, Music & English and Early Childhood & Education pathway students honored on the 20th. We had 472 graduates participate in the ceremonies, and both events were livestreamed on our YouTube channel.



TOTAL # OF GRADUATES (FALL 2021): 579

TOTAL # OF GRADUATES (SPRING 2022): 806

GRAND TOTAL: 1,385

COMMENCEMENT 2022: A SPECIAL LOOK BACK (VIDEO): <https://bit.ly/3xfBTeg>

COMMENCEMENT MEDIA COVERAGE



Ari Ruiz (left) with SCCC Board Trustee Danielle Parra and President Buckley.

Jon Earnest of the Mid Valley Times and Juan Esparza Loera of the Fresno Bee (Vida en el Valle) gave us great media coverage of our commencement ceremonies. Mr. Esparza Loera wrote an article about newly minted RC alum Ari Ruiz, who has been the primary caretaker for her grandmother, while maintaining a 3.85 GPA and taking part in our Honors program. She graduated with a degree in Business, and is transferring to UC Davis to major in Economics/Pre Vet. Ari's incredible story was published May 24. LINK: <https://bit.ly/3NW95pN>

MORE MEDIA COVERAGE

Our flight science program continues to get new pilots off the ground, and that did not go unnoticed by Shayla Girardin of ABC 30, who came to campus to do a story on what we're doing to help address the nationwide pilot shortage. The story aired May 4. LINK: <https://abc30.com/reedley-college-pilot/11818663/>

Tigers safety Jadon Pearson is one of the most sought after defensive backs in junior college football, and he received 12 Division I offers after his impressive 2021 campaign at RC. The Air Force transfer has narrowed his choices down to Utah, Oregon State, Missouri, Florida State and Washington State. Bri Mellon of ABC 30 came to football practice to meet Jadon and tell his story, which aired May 8. LINK: <https://bit.ly/3mbGlln>

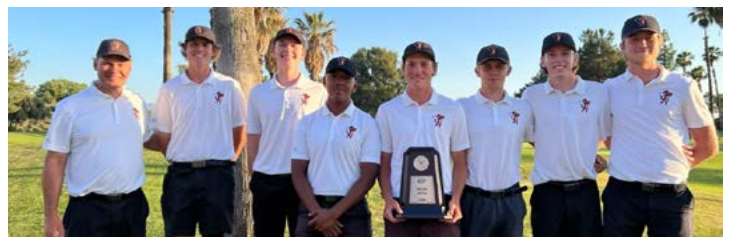
Jadon Pearson with ABC 30 Sports Anchor/Reporter Bri Mellon.



KSEE 24 recognized Forestry and Natural Resources Instructor Joshua Soderlund in their "Educator of the Week" series. One of his students, AJ Jibrill, nominated Josh for the award, and he was honored with a check to GW School Supply for his hard work. The story aired May 11. LINK: <https://bit.ly/3G0dp8q>

MEN'S GOLF TEAM SHINES AT STATE AGAIN

The Tigers made their annual appearance in the Men's State Golf Championships, and came away with an impressive third place finish at Soboba Springs Golf Course in San Jacinto. Eight teams were in the field, four from the Nor Cal region and four from the south. RC literally saved their best for last, firing a season best 363 (+3) in the afternoon round. Leading the way was the duo of Cole Obrigewitsch and Jack Peters, who both posted terrific rounds of -1 under par 71. College of the Canyons took home the title, with RC finishing just 10 shots behind them. The 730 (+10) team score was also the lowest in school history at the CCCAA State Championships. Congratulations to Head Coach Scott Stark and his team for another spectacular season!



CULTURAL CELEBRATIONS



Title V Coordinator Sarah Maokosy and Residence Hall Assistant Manager Stephane Tchang having fun during AAPI Heritage Month.

It was great to see so many people attend our Cinco de Mayo and Asian American & Pacific Islander Heritage Month events. Special thanks to the Clovis High School Marimba Band and Folklorico Dancers for the first class entertainment, as well as local author and historian Humberto Garza for his interactive presentation on Joaquin Murrieta. For AAPI Month, we had Hmong story cloth sewing, origami and Chinese jump rope craft activities, as well as a hula performance by Halau Hula I Ka La (Hula School in the Sun) and a cultural fashion show.

For the first time in RC history, a flag raising ceremony in honor of Pride Month took place June 1, recognizing the LGBTQIA+ community. The flag will be raised for the entire month of June. Over 25 people came to the ceremony, which included a brief history of the pride flag and refreshments.



PRIDE MONTH

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ECE building

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Progress on our Center for Early Childhood and Education building and the McClarty Center for the Fine and Performing Arts continues to be right on schedule. These updated photos of the construction sites were taken June 3. Expected completion dates are April of 2023 for the ECE building and June of 2023 for the CFPA.



CFPA

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: HANNAH THOMPSON

Hannah Thompson is into heavy metal. As the only woman taking welding classes at RC, Hannah is showing by example that if you put your mind to something, anything is possible. The Reedley native talks about what made her interested in welding, life on the family farm, and possibly opening up her own business in this edition of the RC Student Spotlight.

WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO CHOOSE WELDING AT REEDLEY COLLEGE? "I always found it really interesting, so I wanted to try the Intro to Welding class. After I tried it and found out I really did like it, I went crazy and I just started wanting to get into any sort of welding I could do."

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU THAT YOU'RE SHOWING OTHER WOMEN THAT WELDING IS AN OPTION? "All I know is that you should follow your dreams no matter what you want to do. Just focus on your goal and do it."

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE THINGS THAT YOU LIKE ABOUT THIS PROGRAM? "I'm in the fabrication class, and I am loving learning how to actually structurally make something out of metal and realizing that it's actually not as simple as just sticking it together - when you're welding a long piece you can't just make a straight weld - it won't stay straight. That happened with my mobile sheep pasture so I learned something new right there! I'm really enjoying learning how to build things, construct things and make something out of what I come up with in my mind."

DOES YOUR FAMILY HAVE A FARM? "Basically. I would call it a zoo! The only thing that makes it more like a farm is our sheep and our pigs but other than that we have a lot of other animals. We've had a our sheep for about a year and we realized that the structure that we had was made for hogs - we kind of zip tied it together but it didn't work - they were able to bend it so it wasn't good, so that's why I made a mobile sheep pasture - that way I don't have to worry about them breaking through and I can also move it to new areas of grass so it's going to be convenient for us and hopefully more comfortable for the sheep."

WHAT'S IT LIKE TO BE AWAY FROM A HOMESCHOOLED ENVIRONMENT AND BE ON A CAMPUS? "I'm having fun. Everybody is pretty friendly here. It's a little different - I'm not used to learning something around a lot of people but I'm comfortable with everybody."

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF YOUR WELDING INSTRUCTORS? "Mr. (Andrew) Mancini is great. He lets you know when you're not doing something right immediately and shows you how to correct it. He's straightforward about it so he makes it easy to look at something and say, "that's a mistake, I can fix that and that's how to do it. I also take the night class. It's a free class I signed up for and Mr. (Robert) Fransen helps me in that class. He's a fun teacher."

WHERE WILL HANNAH THOMPSON BE IN FIVE YEARS? "I'm not sure. I've never been exactly sure of what I want, but I know what skills I want and what I want to do with them. I want to find a job where I can make art, especially with welding. I'd love to make sculptures for companies or whoever - I would love to do that kind of stuff, so it might be (to open up) my own business. That's what I really want to do."



Hannah welding her mobile sheep pasture in class.

