

BOARD REPORT



HERE WE GROW AGAIN!

The third groundbreaking event on campus in the past two years will take place tomorrow morning, as the ceremonial shoveling of dirt will mark the official start of construction of the McClarty Center for Fine and Performing Arts. Guest speakers include SCCCD Chancellor Dr. Carole Goldsmith, RC President Dr. Jerry Buckley, SCCCD Board Trustee Magdalena Gomez and Bob Petithomme of Darden Architects, as well as performances by our music and choir students. The new facility is approximately 25-thousand square feet and includes a 509 seat performance hall, box office, concession stand, office, restrooms, art gallery, storage areas, green room, and large lobby area for gathering space. "We cannot wait to usher in a new and exciting chapter of fine arts education for our students, and we look forward to recognizing our donors, elected officials and the communities that are responsible for making this amazing resource possible," said RC President Dr. Jerry Buckley. Completion of the project is set for June of 2023.

JOINING THE TIK TOK UNIVERSE

Reedley College is spicing things up a bit on social media! IKA Social has partnered with us to build up our TikTok follower base. Former KMPH FOX 26 morning reporter Jenna Liston was on campus with her team to create new videos for the page, which include appearances by Art Instructor Tracy Carrera, Reading & Writing Center Coordinator Deb Borofka, student government members and Clyde, who shows off his dancing skills. New videos will appear on the page weekly.



Clyde and Jenna Liston of IKA Social quickly became best friends.

DRUMMING UP A STORM

It felt like old times on campus February 10, with a large group of students and faculty participating in an African drumming performance as part of Black History Month. Libóta Mbonda, which translates to 'generation and family of the drum,' is an African Drum



Members of the football team took part in the African drumming performance.

Ensemble located in the Central Valley. Their performance group established Fresno African Drumming, a community outreach program which focuses on using drum circle facilitation as a way to bring people together. The group uses drumming to preserve

African heritage through drum circles, classes, workshops, and performances. Their mission is to uplift and unify all people, heal families and communities, and spread joy and culture through African Drumming. Much thanks to the RC Black Faculty Staff & Faculty Association and RC Associated Student Government for sponsoring this amazing event. We now have a few new musicians on campus!

BHM PROFILES

Black History Month was also the perfect time to profile some of our faculty and staff who go above and beyond for our students. Thank you to Dr. Darlene Murray, Aaron Eubanks, Jasmyn McWells, Dr. Samuel Morgan, Charles Harris and Onesta Francis for participating. Their profiles can be seen on the RC Instagram page.

AARON EUBANKS
COUNSELOR/COORDINATOR

What does Black History Month mean to you?
Black History Month is time for talking about the successes and contributions that African Americans have made to the United States and around the world and highlighting African Americans' contributions to our local Central Valley communities.
How many years have you worked at RC?
3 years.
Why do you like your job?
I enjoy my job because I have the opportunity to make a positive impact on students' lives with the academic counseling that I provide to Reedley College students. It is such an honor to have the opportunity to help Reedley College students fulfill their dreams by completing a degree, certificate, exploring careers, and continuing their educational and career goals.
What's one fun fact about yourself?
I played football for Fresno State, and my position was center. My grandfather taught Statistics at a community college in Oklahoma until he was 84 years old.



WORLD AG EXPO

Much thanks to our agriculture student "ag-bassadors" and staff for volunteering at the World Ag Expo in Tulare February 8-10. This event is always a great recruiting opportunity for the College to showcase our award-winning ag department and the programs and classes we have to offer with prospective students. We also handed out swag and course brochures to the many people who stopped by.





Our men's golf team is off to another impressive start.

SPORTS UPDATE

Our baseball, softball and men's golf teams are off to solid starts. As of February 23, our baseball team owns a 10-2 record, including a 4-3 win over Fresno City College. The softball squad is 6-4, having already exceeded their win total from last season. Men's golf won the Van Sweet Invitational in Stockton February 22, firing a 390 to defeat seven teams from Northern California. And our men's basketball team defeated Fresno City 75-71 February 16 for their only win in conference play this season. The Tigers dealt with multiple COVID issues throughout the season, but managed to finish on a high note.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT – AHLEENA COOLIDGE



Sophomore Ahleena Coolidge always makes the most of her opportunities, whether it's in the classroom, at work, or on social media! The Kingsburg high school alum is majoring in Communication, with her eyes set on transferring to either Santa Clara, St. Mary's, Fresno State, TCU or Cal Poly. Ahleena has a sparkling 4.0 GPA to go along with a full course load through the honors program. She also just started her first job as a student worker in the President's Office. An avid TikTok poster, Ahleena has over 30-thousand followers, thanks to – a gingerbread house? Find out more about that and her RC journey in this special board report edition of the Student Spotlight.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE RC? “During the pandemic, it was really hard to figure out what I wanted to do and where I wanted to go. I felt like Reedley College was the best place and option given everything that was happening in the world and in my life. It was close to home and a great steppingstone. It felt like an easier path from high school and a perfect way to prepare for a four-year university.”

FAVORITE TEACHERS AND WHY? “My favorite instructors are Vanessa Buldo (Communication) and Jamie Buettner (Art History). They are so passionate about what they do and it shows in the way they communicate with students, their teaching styles – even through zoom. With Mrs. Buldo, we have weekly zoom sessions and you can tell she loves what she does and wants to share that love with her students. I also like how organized she is. Her class structures make it very easy to follow and understand, and she always has great content. For Professor Buettner, she connects with students and creates an engaging environment by asking us questions. She wants you to engage in conversation to make the lectures easier to understand, which also makes it fun. She's also great in letting us know about opportunities to participate in other activities that would help us gain more knowledge about her art history class. She makes us think outside the box.”

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT THE HONORS PROGRAM? “I love that I'm able to take these honors courses that help push me to be the best student I can be. I have taken six honors courses and loved all of them. I feel more prepared going into a four-year university after taking these courses at Reedley College. I am so grateful to be in this program filled with wonderful instructors who truly do an amazing job. They also keep us updated on activities and opportunities on our Canvas pages, so they're always going above and beyond to give us a great experience here.”

HOW DID YOU GET OVER 30K FOLLOWERS ON TIKTOK? “When TikTok first started becoming popular, I decided to start making videos with my friends. My first viral video took place during my senior year of high school in my civics class. It was the end of the semester and we were making gingerbread houses. I thought that it would be great content, so I filmed it during class and posted it. I went to the formal that same night and didn't check TikTok until the next day. When I checked my phone, it was blowing up with all of these notifications and text messages from my friends saying, 'your TikTok blew up!' Now, that video has over 730-thousand views and over 250-thousand likes. I still can't believe it!”

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL PEOPLE ABOUT RC TO GET THEM TO ENROLL HERE? I would tell people that everyone here, from the faculty and staff and classmates who have become great friends, are so nice and welcoming. Reedley College provides awesome opportunities to get you ready to transfer to a four-year university. I have grown and learned so much in my two years here. I'm forever grateful to have experienced college here first. You can have great personal experiences, but in the end, it's up to you to make it the most it can be, and it can be a tremendous experience. I would recommend Reedley College to anyone.”

