

*Opening Day
Newsletter*

**SPRING
2023**



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Administrative Services

Vice President – Melanie Highfill

UPDATES



Construction of the Center for Fine and Performing Arts.

Welcome back everyone! Spring is shaping up to be just as busy as the fall semester was. Looking into the spring semester we will have a lot of activity happening around campus. The Center for Early Childhood and Education will be completed in late May, scheduled to open for the Fall 2023 semester. The Center for Fine and Performing Arts building is coming along. We will see the building take shape during the semester, on target for a December 2023 open. Upgrade of the Softball facility will begin in late spring and the Track replacement is in the final design stage. We anticipate it moving to DSA during the spring semester.



Construction of the Center for Early Childhood and Education.

The Reedley Certification Center, located in what was formerly known as the LAL portable, will be open the first week of the spring semester. Free speech bulletin boards will be complete in January. The new bulletin boards will replace the one by the Student Services



building that was damaged and we are adding an additional one by the CC1 complex. Other projects we will be working on during the semester include the computer services move to the former DSPS building, window tinting of the SOC, PHY, BUS wings, and the Administration Building, carpeting MSC1 204, remodeling LRC 104, adding faculty offices to LRC 106, installation of Auto Lifts, and a campus-wide signage project. We also have the Career and Employment Center remodel, Bookstore facelift, and completion of the Greenhouse upgrade. Over the summer, the ENTIRE Reedley College Campus will be painted. SOC, HUM, PHY, and BUS wings will be getting new roofs and the HVAC in SOC will be replaced. The boilers in HUM and the Women's PE Locker room will also be replaced this summer.

The Facility & Safety Committee will be identifying the next set of projects for the campus to focus on, reviewing and recommending construction related special funding requests, assist pathways to help refine pathway hubs, and work with the equity committee to begin establishing affinity spaces around campus.

The Budget Management Committee has been busy reviewing special onetime funding requests. Next, they will advance recommendations on the special onetime funding to college council. In case you are wondering, the special funding opportunity arose in the fall after instructional equipment monies and some onetime funding from the district was received, after the final budgets had been submitted. Reedley received \$1.176 million in instructional equipment funding and \$442K

in onetime funding. These had special criteria to meet: funds could only be spent on equipment and construction. During the spring semester, the Budget Committee will be looking at program review requests for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and making funding recommendations to college council.

With the help of an outside consultant, DBRAAC (District Budget and Resource Allocation Advisory Committee, is working on a new allocation model for the district. Rebecca Snyder and Melanie Highfill are representing Reedley College on the DBRAAC taskforce which is concentrating their efforts on looking at a model that will incentivize the college to grow and focus on student success. The proposed model would fund the colleges based on the current Student-Centered Funding Formula (SCFF) which is how district is currently funded. As we get closer to a final product, we will begin presenting it to the campus community for comments and recommendations.

The Reedley College Business Office is hard at work with the implementation of Marketplace. Marketplace will allow programs on campus to create websites to sell products. We are currently in the testing phase of this project and are working diligently with Kings River Review to iron out all the kinks. Once we have things smoothed out we will provide more information to the campus on how it will work and how programs can sell products online. The Business Office is also busy working on the implementation of One-Card. One-Card will allow students to have a digital student body card offering broader use of them.

Building Services worked on floor projects over the winter break and will remain busy with all of the events happening during the spring semester, culminating with commencement in May.

Reedley College Café will be expanding services to the north side of campus with the Tiger Café mobile cart. They will also be in full swing with all of the catering for the many events on campus during the spring semester, also culminating with graduation.

We in Administrative Services hope you all have a great Spring Semester and we look forward to seeing all the hard work you do payoff at graduation!

NEW STAFF



Rupinder Kaur
Food Services



Dora Lizola
Food Services



Isaac Mechaca
Custodian



Benjamin Mitchell
Food Services

TEMPORARY STAFF



Angelina Barajas
Provisional Custodian



Christopher Cortez
Accounting Technician

Office of Instruction

Vice President – Dale van Dam

UPDATES

Up to our holiday break, our enrollment for spring 2023 was running well ahead of our enrollment for the same period last spring. Thanks to all who've been involved in outreach to students, worked with them to ensure their successful enrollment and struggled for months to find the right mix of classes, times and locations to optimize our enrollment. More updates to come, but we appear to be on track to meet or be very close to our ambitious goal of 6.75% enrollment growth for the 2022-2023 academic year.

On the accreditation front, based on strong advocacy from Reedley, the District has decided to utilize ACCJC's new accreditation standards. The new standards have much the same focus as those previously used, but reduce the number of standards from more than 100 to about 40, provide more clarity, reduce repetition and overlap and generally simplify the process. We are fortunate that Onesta Francis, FT Kinesiology faculty and Women's Soccer Coach, has agreed to step in as the Accreditation Faculty Liaison. If he hasn't already, Onesta may be reaching out to you soon to begin work on our Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (or ISER). The Planning Committee is working alongside Onesta to create a system for evidence identification and storage and help with the hard work of writing an ISER that represents all of the excellent processes and practices already deployed at Reedley and addressing any shortcomings we might have in time to make corrections or improvements.

Several distinguished retiring faculty will leave us by the end of May, so we are working hard on the formal process for hiring their replacements. Look for your opportunity to serve on a hiring committee and help shape the future of the college. Instructional deans are looking forward to becoming more directly involved in Pathway Success Teams; you'll hear more about that message later on Opening Day. One of their roles is to help put into motion your pathway's vision for your hub – yes there are certain elements that students need to be able to access at every hub, but the way those elements are provided may depend on your hub space/facilities and the way your pathway already engages with students.

The VPI, Deans and academic support staff are looking forward to a great spring.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Reedley College Literary Arts Speakers Series has an exciting lineup for spring 2023. Sofia Sergovia is headlining on March 16th. She is the author of this year's 1Book/1College selection, *The Murmur of Bees*. Local writer, Ethan Chatagnier, will be with us on February 16. Thanks to

the generous donations from our college community during our September Lit Arts fundraiser, we are also able to bring back the San Francisco Shakespeare Company on March 2, performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

The Literary Arts Speakers Series has a long tradition of bringing Pulitzer and National Book Award-winning authors and poets to Reedley College, Joyce Carol Oates, Jane Smiley, Tobias Wolff, Richard Blanco, Phil Levine, Charles Baxter, TC Boyle, Richard Rodriguez, and Meg Wolitzer, to name just a few.

To keep with this tradition, a costly endeavor, we are excited to announce that we have begun a new fundraising campaign. We hope to establish an endowment for future writer visits and support literary arts events. Your donation to the Writers by the River fund will help continue to bring life-enriching literary and cultural experiences for our students and community.

One-time donations or continuing employee payroll contributions may be made by visiting the following:



<https://www.reedleycollege.edu/academics/rc-literary-arts.html#donate>



NEW FACULTY AND STAFF



Ariel Fuertes
Science Laboratory Coordinator - Biology

Ariel is from Fresno, attended UC Irvine, previously worked at Thermo Fisher, and enjoys hiking, trying new restaurants, and spending time with her family.



Acacia Lapin
Adjunct Librarian



Melissa Mejia
PPT Library Technician

Melissa Mejia has recently become a part of the Reedley College Library staff as the new Part-Time Library Technician. Melissa, or Mel, as they are generally referred to, is a graduate of Reedley College and Fresno City College. Where-

in they've obtained their associate degree in Liberal Studies and Library Technology respectively. Previously, Mel was a student worker at the Fresno City College Library for a year before coming to work at the Reedley College Library. Mel enjoys watching movies, reading graphic novels, traveling with their friends, and collecting enamel pins in their spare time. They are eager to join the team as the new Library technician and hope to help students have a good experience at the library.



Sarah Micu
Adjunct Librarian With a Focus on OER Work with Amanda Taintor



Jose Roman
CTE Lab Technician



Johnny Rodriguez
CTE Lab Technician

Johnny graduated the AMT program in 2010 and went on to work in the aviation field for 12 years before applying for the Aviation lab technician here at Reedley College. He is excited to be part of the AMT team here and also

join the Reedley College family. Thank you everyone for welcoming him!



Darcy Stricker
Adjunct Librarian

Darcy Stricker moved to Fresno over the summer from Indianapolis where she worked as a Children's Librarian for five years. Previous to that role, she worked at Indiana University's Education Library as a Reference Librarian. She is

a soap maker in her free time and also enjoys yoga, cooking, and reading.

TEMPORARY FACULTY AND STAFF



Jennifer Burnett
Agriculture Business Instructor, 1 year temp



Richard Gallegos
Criminology Instructor, 1 year temp

Richard Gallegos was born and raised in Brawley, California, located near the border of Mexico. He grew up working in the fields during the summer to make extra money. After high school, he attended Fresno State

for a BS in Criminology. He began his law enforcement career with the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, where he worked in the : Jail, Court House, Patrol Unit, Special Investigations Unit, Undercover Unit, Homicide and a sergeant on Patrol. He continued his education while working and obtained a master's degree, then completed all the course work for his doctorate and is working on his thesis. He has been an adjunct criminology Instructor at Clovis Community College and Fresno City College for the last seven years.



Elizabeth Hosler
Professional Development Coordinator, limited term

Student Services

Interim Vice President – Dr. Natalie Culver-Dockins

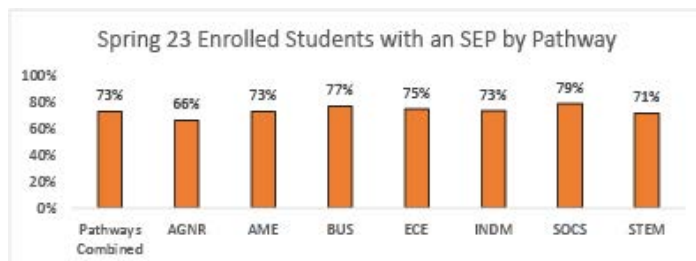
UPDATES

Starfish

Starfish To Do Items at Reedley College: 26% of students assigned the RC Register for Next Semester To Do have registered for Spring 23! (as of 12/16/22). In November 2022 we went live with the first Reedley College To Do item in Starfish. RC Register for Next Semester is being used as part of our enrollment retention efforts. This item is visible by people in student services, support programs and instruction to collaborate on outreach efforts. The item was raised for 4,360 students who had not registered after their Spring 23 registration date had passed. This item is helping us gather information about our student's intentions for the next semester.



- Degree Planner Highlight: Students can access their Counselor-approved Student Education Plan (SEP) in Starfish! Students can interact with their plan and will be alerted when changes being made require a Counseling visit. Let's hear it for empowering our students to being better involved with their SEP!



- Early Alert Highlights: For Starfish Early Alert, we set a new high for progress survey completion rate during Fall 22. We have also expanded on the early alert data that is available to you both at the college and pathway level through each pathway's sharepoint site.

Progress Survey Completion by Pathway



- Have questions or want assistance with Starfish? Student and Faculty and Staff Resources are available at www.reedleycollege.edu/starfish. We offer drop-in support through regularly scheduled Fish Food Friday sessions. The schedule is available on the Starfish Faculty/Staff webpage. If you can't find what you're looking for or would like to setup a time to meet with a starfish team member, please email us at starfishquestions@reedleycollege.edu.

NextUp

The NextUp component of the EOPS programs has received new guidance regarding recent changes to NextUp foster youth eligibility criteria. These changes include lowering the minimum age in care from 16 to 13, eliminating the requirement that students be enrolled in nine units, and allowing services to continue after students turn age 26. The guidance also clarifies that all current and former foster youth who meet the "statutory" NextUp eligibility criteria are eligible to be enrolled in the NextUp program and "shall not be required to meet any additional EOPS eligibility requirements as a condition for enrollment. As such, the minimum of nine units is no longer required, but rather only need to have a student education plan (SEP) designed to move the student towards subsequent enrollment in at least nine units or more. These are welcome changes for the NextUp program as this will help increase the number of eligible foster youth students attending Reedley College.



Developing Hispanic Serving Institution

Reedley College Developing Hispanic Serving Institution (DHSI) grants Title V 2019 & 2020 joined forces to establish the Office of Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) Initiatives. Since its establishment, the office has been successful in supporting and launching new programs and initiatives.

- Pathful Connect, formerly known as Nepris, is a platform that brings the real-world into the classroom. Career chats have been held weekly throughout the semester in the Career Center providing students with the opportunity to chat virtually with industry professionals from around the world giving students a global perspective!
- The 1st ever Experience Fair- Service Learning, Applied Learning, and Work-Based Learning showcase was held in September. There were 362 attendees, 23 organizations, and seven on-campus resources. Students were also able to chat virtually with CBS TV Director Mark Grant regarding his college to career experience via the Pathful Connect platform!
- Office of HSI Initiatives, Dual Enrollment, Equity, and Ensenamos en el valle Central represented Reedley College at the 36th annual Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities (HACU) conference held in San Diego, CA.
- 300+ professional headshots have been taken of over 150 faculty, staff, and students throughout the Fall 2022 semester.



Student Activities

- The Clyde Cares Committee awarded 40 RC students experiencing hardships a \$50 Save Mart grocery gift card. Thank you to all you donated to make that possible!
- There were eight new campus clubs started by students this year, bringing our total to 33 active clubs! We are excited to see students wanting to get involved on campus.
- Thanks to the collaboration with the newly formed Asian Pacific Islander Faculty & Staff Association (APIFSA), the Student Activities Department has been able to help host more cultural events than in recent years.
- The Clyde Cares program received a generous donation of \$500, initially meant to be used to reward the person that found FDR, Jim Mulligan's cat, which had been missing for 36 days. The person who found him turned down the reward and asked that it be donated to a good cause instead. We are grateful for this donation and cannot wait to use these funds to help more RC students in 2023!



Admissions and Records

The purchase of a Transfer Evaluation System (TES) helped us to more efficiently evaluate external transcripts, working with David Shoemaker, Ruby Duran, and Ellyce Parento-Garcia on Articulation Binder. Evaluations Specialist Donna Hunt participated in Partners in Community. In Fall 2022, we received and processed 759 graduation applications, and so far for spring we've received and processed 340 graduation applications, with more coming in every week.

Guided Pathways

Students can now explore our Reedley College (RC) Pathways through our online Pathways Program Mapper. Each Pathway has a list of programs, program information and career exploration information. Students can get help on registration and program information.

Residence Hall Events

RC Residence Hall was home to over 100 students this fall. As a community, students could participate in weekly events such as Pie Eating Contests, Karaoke Nights, Scavenger Hunts, and more. The Residence Hall also coordinated with various Student Service Offices to put on awareness events to educate students on drugs and alcohol, the Influenza virus, and mental health coping resources.



Pie Eating Contest



Spicy Food Contest



Halloween Costumes



Club Night

NEW STAFF AND FACULTY



Olga Garcia
Sr. Program Specialist – Student Services (promotion)

Olga Garcia started working at Reedley College in October 2006 as the EOPS/CARE Program secretary. She returned back to school in 2017 and earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration in 2019. She worked as the provisional EOPS Senior Program Specialist beginning in June 2021, and ultimately was selected to permanently fill the EOPS/CARE Program Specialist position in August 2022. Olga is a Reedley College alumni who graduated in 1998 with her associate degree. Over the past 15 years, Olga has been a valuable asset and member of the EOPS/CARE program team.



Heather Hilscher
Administrative Assistant

Heather joined RC in September as the Administrative Assistant to the Dean of Students. She came over from CCC as an office specialist in the Counseling Department and for the TRIO program. As a former student worker and graduate from Fresno City College, she enjoys having attended/worked at three of the four SCCC campuses. Heather has a B.A. in English and many years of office and administrative assistance experience. She lives in a century old farmhouse in Parlier with almost every type of fruit tree and has enjoyed learning to be a homesteader. Her hobbies are traveling, hiking and reading. She is very happy to be working at RC and has enjoyed the comradery and opportunities to meet staff and faculty.



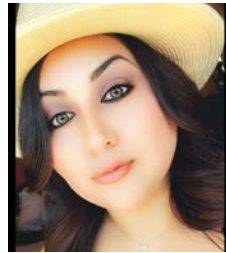
Gloria Lopez
Office Specialist, Outreach

Gloria Lopez has been working at Reedley College since 2019. She started working as a student ambassador for the Outreach department for three years. For the 2021-2022 school year she served as the Temporary Office Assistant for the President's Office. She also completed an internship with the Marketing and Communications Department where she took on multiple roles assisting with social media, email, and text messaging students, and creating the 2021-2022 Annual Report. She is a first-generation college graduate. Gloria is a Reedley College Alumni as she received her associate degree in Communications then transferred to Fresno State where she received her Bachelor's degree in Media, Communications, and Journalism with an emphasis in Advertising and Public Relations. In her free time, she enjoys traveling and film-making.



Taylor Lopez
Workability III Counselor DSPS

Taylor Lopez is a two-time graduate of CSU Fresno. Her Bachelor of Science degree is in Criminology and her Master of Science degree is in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling. She was a first generation college student who praises her faith, family, friends, and student services for ensuring that she had the supports necessary to complete her education. Taylor is passionate about serving underrepresented students and strives to create platforms for these students to have their voices heard and their needs met. She is currently a Workability III Counselor and Instructor for the DSP&S program at Reedley College. It is here where she is able to combine her love of serving students with her passion for higher education. In her free time, Taylor enjoys going to the Chaffee Zoo, spending too much time in Target, and watching horror movies.

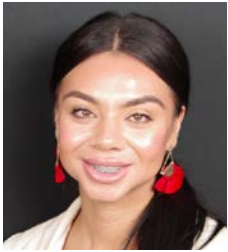


Lorena Morales
Financial Aid Specialist



Marisol Patino
Sr. Program Specialist – Student Services (Upward Bound)

Marisol has worked for State Center Community College District since Fall 2018. She originally began working at Madera Community College with the Classic Upward Bound Program. She recently made the move to Reedley College Upward Bound to run another Classic Program that services Selma High School, Dinuba High School, and Fowler High School. Marisol obtained her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Fresno State and currently she is completing a master's degree in Educational Counseling from National University. Marisol is extremely excited to join Reedley College and looks forward to working with everyone on campus to continue the great work helping our communities.



Jenett Porras
Job Developer

Jenett Porras is a proud alumni of Reedley College who is a first-generation student and former participant of the EOPS and CalWORKs program from the class of 2019. While earning her associate degree in Biological Sciences, Jenett

worked as a student aid in the Counseling Department and provided firsthand student support while working closely with the academic counselors. After transferring to Fresno State in the fall, she pursued higher education. She earned her baccalaureate degree in Sociology in the spring of 2022 while still maintaining a student aid position in the counseling office at Reedley College. After witnessing firsthand the positive impact counselors had on students, Jenett decided she would pursue a career in higher education and is currently earning her master's degree in Student Affairs and College Counseling Program at Fresno State. While pursuing her education in the graduate program, Jenett now works as a part-time job developer (Title V, 2019) at the Career and Employment Center at Reedley College. Her emphasis in this role is to continue supporting students in helping them prepare for job readiness during college by gaining relevant work experience within their pathway and providing them with necessary support towards a brighter future.



Nancy Rodriguez
SSS Counselor

After she graduated from high school, she started her college journey here at Reedley College as a first generation, and low-income student. Later, she transferred to CSUF (Fresno State) to earn a bachelor's degree and was also

accepted into the graduate program. She graduated with a master's degree in School Counseling K-12 with a P.P.S. Credential. Shortly after, she began her counseling career at Clovis Unified School District for two years. In June 2016, she transitioned over to higher education at SCCC- Reedley College and started working as an Adjunct Counselor for the TRIO Program - Student Support Services (SSS). She is very happy to be working at RC for the past 6.5 years with SSS. In December 2022, she became a full-time counselor for the above-mentioned program. "I love working for the SSS program because I'm able share my first-generation, low-income college experience with students in hopes to inspire, guide, and motivate them in reaching their educational goals."



Patrick Tackett
**Learning Disability Specialist/
Counselor**

Prior to joining the Reedley College DSP&S team, Patrick Tackett served as a Learning Disability Specialist, instructor, and counselor at Fresno City College. He has over 25 years

of experience teaching and working with college students in areas that include reading, composition, assessment, adult transition, developing individualized educational strategies, assistive technology, and effectively utilizing academic accommodations. His experience in post-secondary education settings also includes teaching in the English and Rehabilitation Counseling departments at CSU, Fresno, where he also served as Program Director for the Rehabilitation Counseling Evaluation Services clinic. Patrick is the current regional representative for the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED) Learning Disability Advisory Council.



Maria Trujillo
Program Assistant Counseling

Maria has been with the District for the last five years as a Senior Admissions & Records Assistant with the Admissions department, and with the Counseling department as a Program Assistant starting this semester. Maria came from

Madera Community College, and is excited to now be part of Reedley College, which she attended before as a student. She has a genuine passion for the educational field and truly enjoys working with students. She has a BA in Spanish and recently earned her Master's in Higher Education Administration and Leadership on May, 2022 from Fresno State. As a first generation and former ESL student, Maria understands the importance of education and how it can positively impact our communities. During her free time, she likes going on hikes, outdoors activities, visit family, but one of her favorite things to do is traveling out of the country.



Savannah Uhlir
**Provisional Assistant
Residence Hall Manager**

Savannah Uhlir is the newest Assistant Residence Hall Manager. Savannah earned a degree in Exercise Science from California Baptist University where she lived in on-campus Residence Life

Housing. Being both a D1 athlete and coach has paved her way to Reedley, where she is excited to pour into the students. You can catch Savannah with my dog Auggie hiking or watching crime shows in my free time. She is honored for the opportunity to foster lifelong relationships through the Reedley College Residence Hall.



Rosalva Valdez
EOPS-CARE Counselor

Rosalva Valdez is a first generation college graduate who started her educational journey at the community college level. After completing community college, she transferred to CSU Fresno where she earned her undergraduate degree then went on to graduate from Fresno State in 2002 with a Master’s Degree in Educational Counseling (Student Services) with a P.P.S Credential. She most recently started working for the EOPS/CARE program as a counselor and has well over 20 years of counseling experience working with students. She dedicates her life and career to helping students and their families. Rosalva is a welcomed addition to the EOPS/CARE program and feels honored to assist students with their personal, academic, and career goals.

**TEMPORARY AND INTERIM NEW
FACULTY AND STAFF**



Jose Arrezola
SSS Director

Jose Arrezola is the current Reedley College Interim Director of Student Success, and Coordinator and Instructor of the Healthcare Interpreting Program. Before coming to Reedley College, Jose served as the Business Director of a Civil Engineering firm in Fresno, CA. His work experience includes various healthcare settings including: Rural Health Centers, Private Agencies, Non-Profit, Hospitals, Public Health Departments, and Community Colleges. He has over 15 years of public health work experience with proficiency in Public Health Accreditation, Administration and Coordination of State and Federal Health Education Programs, Supervision of Quality Improvement Projects and Performance Management, Development and Implementation of Health Policy. Mr. Arrezola is a proud alumnus of California State University Fresno (Fresno State); where he earned an MPH in Public Health and was the Dean’s Graduate Medalist for the class of 2014. He holds a B.S. in Health Science and a B.A. in Spanish Literature. He is also a former Master Trainer – Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) from Stanford University, and also receive a certificate as a LEAN Practitioner from UCLA. His passions include traveling to different countries as much as he can, cooking for his friends and family, arts, music, exercising, and meditation.



Gurpreet Bhogal
Interim Director, Title V

Gurpreet Bhogal started as a classified professional at Fresno City College in 2016 and came to Reedley College in 2019 as a full-time Counseling faculty member with DSP&S. In March of 2020 during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Gurpreet transitioned into the role of a Coordinator, Title V for a five-year grant awarded to the campus in 2019. As the grant is in its 4th year, Gurpreet now serves as the Interim Director, Title V. Gurpreet immigrated from Punjab, India to Torrance, California with her family at only a few months old and is a first-generation college graduate. She holds a B.S. in Psychology, a M.S. in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling, and is currently working toward the completion of a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) in Educational Leadership, focus on Higher Education Leadership, with an estimated completion of the end of this current semester, May 2023. During her spare moments, Gurpreet enjoys visiting family and spending some quality time with her husband, daughter (age 5.5) and son (age 1.5).



Elba Nohely Vidal
Provisional Food Pantry Coordinator

Elba is our new Provisional Food Pantry Coordinator. Her Community College career started at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose California and has continued here at Reedley College. Elba is passionate about nutrition and improving food security amongst college students. On her free time, she enjoys hiking, cooking, and playing volleyball.



Kia Tan
***Interim Director, Outreach,
Onboarding and Student
Engagement***

Kia Tan is a higher education professional with 13 years of experience in admissions and outreach. She received her Sociology, B.A. degree from UC Santa Cruz and has a Master’s of Art degree in Higher Education Leadership from CSU Sacramento. As a Central California native, Kia is a champion for access and equity for underrepresented communities. At her previous institution, UC Merced, she developed the Diversity Engagement and Transfer Initiatives unit where she created new positions dedicated to diversity recruitment and outreach of transfer students, African American/ Black students, and Native/Indigenous students. Kia has extensive experience in developing K-14 partnerships. She most recently oversaw the development and execution of the Merced Promise Pathway Program with Fresno City College and UC Merced. Kia’s experience includes student development for student ambassadors and tour guides, managing professional outreach staff, and admissions evaluation.

Fall 2022 Semester in Review



President Buckley with Choinumni Tribal Liaison Burt Stalter (far left), Choinumni Tribal Elder Audrey Osborne, and Mono Tribal Liaison Dirk Charley.

Native American Heritage Month Gathering

A historical day for our campus took place November 29, as we hosted a Native American Heritage Month gathering to acknowledge the land our College is built upon. The special event included a blessing/prayer, land acknowledgment presentation, tribal apprenticeship program kickoff, and native pride drumming and dancing video. An information fair followed the presentation providing important historical information to attendees. The event highlighted the importance of amplifying indigenous voices and celebrating the diverse and rich culture of Native American people. Reedley College's Equity Committee and Land Acknowledgment Workgroup would like to express sincere gratitude to the Choinumni tribal leaders for their guidance, leadership, and wisdom as Reedley College works to build an authentic relationship and allyship with local tribes. We understand that allyship is not a title we give ourselves but rather something that is earned through our actions and commitment. We recognize the Yokuts, specifically the Choinumni, Mono, and Wuckchumni people who have lived and continue to live here as the original stewards of the land on which we now call Reedley College. "I appreciate all the great support and dedication from all of you," said Dirk Charley, Mono Tribal Liaison. "This was a great success and I learned a lot from this experience. A big thanks to college leadership for their sincerity and for being good role models."

Giving Tuesday

Much thanks to everyone who contributed to our Giving Tuesday fundraising efforts. We raised more than \$23K for the Tiger Pantry and Clyde's Closet. From fresh food to snacks, the Tiger Pantry provides plenty of options to help with food insecurities and provide healthy choices to give students the brainpower they need to fulfill their educational goals. Clyde's Closet is a professional clothing resource students can utilize to look sharp for job



(L-R) Linda Launer, President Buckley, Clyde, and Tiger Pantry Coordinator Emily Anderson.

interviews and other career events. Providing basic needs is a major contributor to course completion and increased graduation rates. Special thanks to our donors who provided matching donations for this year's campaign! For the fourth consecutive year, community pillars Ken and Sally Zech matched \$5,000. Dinuba Mayor Linda Launer (who is also president of the Reedley College Foundation) and her husband Chris matched \$2,000, and Foundation board member Gina Cuttone and her husband, Shawn Patty also matched \$2,000. These donations will go a long way to ensure our students are provided with the additional tools they need to succeed.

Women's Golf Team Finishes 4th at State Championships

It comes as no surprise that the RC women's golf team had another strong showing at the State Championships this year. The Tigers finished 4th, with conference rival Modesto Junior College taking the team title. Freshman Keahna Castillo (81, 79, 160) finished 4th individually to earn All-State honors. Castillo and fellow frosh sensation Maddie Reed led the way for RC all season, with Reed finishing tied for 7th (80, 83, 163). The championships were played at Morro Bay Golf Club November 13-14. The Tigers finished second at the Northern California Championships at Madera's Dragonfly Golf Club November 7, with Reed taking the individual title (74, 76, 150). Reed and Castillo were both First Team All Northern California selections. Head Coach Scott Stark won't have too many roster spots to fill, as all six players on the roster are set to return next season.



Dennis Donohue of Western Growers moderating the Field & Packing Automation Innovation panel.

Ag Tech Conference

RC hosted the second annual Ag Tech Conference November 4, sponsored by Western Growers. This year's summit focused on technology in water management and water quality, as well as food safety innovations.

SESSIONS:

- Innovations in Environmental Monitoring: Joelle Mosso, Associate Chief Scientific Officer, Eurofins
- Water Management Innovations: Mike Hemman, President & CEO, Netafim
- Water Innovations Panel, moderated by Ryan Jacobsen, Fresno County Farm Bureau
- Workforce Training Innovations: Hernan Hernandez, Executive Director, California Farmworker Foundation
- Field and Packing Automation Innovations, moderated by Dennis Donohue, Western Growers Director, Center for Innovation & Technology

Women's Soccer Enjoys Best Season in Program History

The RC women's soccer program saw its season end in the second round of the Northern California Regional Playoffs, falling to City College of San Francisco, 1-0. Despite the loss, the Tigers finished with the best record in program history (14-6-3), which includes a ten game unbeaten streak and a 1-0 victory over Los Medanos in the first round of post-season play. Head Coach Onesta Francis will look to replace sophomores Denise Elias Martinez, Jiselle Batres, Izabella Baez, Perria Edmond, Liberty Wolf, Amber Becerra, Gloria Sevilla, Brianna Vasquez, Mariela Cruz, Isabella Salcedo, Gema Sandoval-Anton, and Kashmir Baker.



The Tigers after their playoff win over Los Medanos.

New Grant Award to Benefit RC STEM

Reedley College was awarded a Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions Title V grant for the FY 2022 grant competition from the U.S. Department of Education. The United in Diversifying Our Students (UNIDOS) in STEM project will seek to increase the number of first generation Hispanic and low-income students who enroll, complete, and transfer in STEM degree pathways. Funding will support STEM outreach, wrap-around case management, improved lab spaces and equipment, curriculum development, and a Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program which will further support underrepresented students to excel in STEM fields. "I would like to thank all the faculty and staff that made this grant award possible by their hard work in serving our students and ensuring that students who want to pursue a STEM career have the best support to reach their dreams and goals," said RC Dean of Instruction Juan Bedolla. The total funding of three-million dollars for this award will be received over five years (\$600-thousand/year).

RC to Receive part of \$65.1m Grant

President Biden announced the Fresno-Merced Future of Food Innovation (F3) Coalition as one of 21 winners of the \$1 billion Build Back Better Regional Challenge, the most impactful regional economic development competition in decades. Funded by President Biden's American Rescue Plan and administered by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA), the Regional Challenge is awarding approximately \$65.1 million in grants to the Fresno-Merced Future of Food Innovation (F3) Coalition, led by the Central Valley Community Foundation, to drive agriculture innovation in California's Central Valley. RC is one of eight community colleges across the five-county region that will be involved in providing job skills training and certification for farm workers and food industry workers through what is called the AgTEC Workforce Initiative, led by Merced College. The training will be geared toward low-skill, low-wage workers whose jobs are most likely to be displaced by automation, helping them gain the knowledge and skills they need for more advanced jobs in agriculture or food-related manufacturing. The coalition aims to integrate technology into the agriculture industry to improve productivity and job quality for farmworkers, while also driving a more resilient and sustainable food system.



Scholarship Surprise

Darla Castillo had no idea that Christmas was coming early for her in class Tuesday morning (October 18), as she was named the recipient of the Ohana Aviation Maintenance Technician (AMT) Scholarship. Darla was presented with a check for \$5,000 from State Center Community College Foundation Executive Director Rico Guerrero with her fellow students on hand to congratulate her. The AMT scholarship was established by a group of employees from a corporate flight department in San Francisco to help those with a financial need to attain the training and certification needed to succeed in an aviation career. She will be sponsored throughout her stay in the AMT program if she maintains a 3.0 grade point average, and could also receive an additional scholarship. Darla is majoring in Aviation Maintenance Technology and is obtaining her Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Airframe and Powerplant certificates through the program as well. "This is a program I enjoy and an industry I love, and to continue that dream of being an aviator, a mechanic, to explore the world of aviation, this is a big part of it, so I cannot thank everyone enough," she said. Darla's parents have always told her that anything is possible, and with the recent passing of her mother, she wishes she could share this special moment with her. "She would be so proud." Castillo is interested in pursuing a career in accident investigation, and thanks Reedley College for the opportunity to make her dreams come true. "I'm very surprised (to receive this). This is my passion. The sky's the limit."

RC Awarded EOC Program

Reedley College was awarded an Educational Opportunity Center program which will provide counseling and information on college admissions to 850 qualified adults who want to enter or continue a program of postsecondary education. This program will also provide services to improve the financial and economic literacy of participants. An important objective of the program is to counsel participants on financial aid options, including basic financial planning skills, and to assist in the application process. The goal of the EOC program is to increase the number of adult participants who enroll in postsecondary education institutions.

All Systems Go

The Reedley College Business/Information Systems department inaugurated their new Information Systems Lab Tuesday, August 16th. Information Systems Instructor Jason Boyer opened the doors to the new Information Systems Lab at 12:00 pm, with excited students arriving for class, ready to learn. The lab moved from its previous location under the bleachers of Reedley College's gym this summer to its new home in the Humanities building. In addition to the renovation efforts put in by Reedley College's classified staff, the vast majority of the instructional technology equipment installation and configuration was completed by student workers from the college's Information Technology Services Department. These students recently completed the major requirements for the Information Technology Support and Cisco CCNA Networking programs at Reedley College and directly used the skills they learned to support the program from which they graduated.



Farmers Market at RC!

After a successful fall 2022 pilot, Reedley College secured additional funding from partner Sierra Kings Health Care District to support a spring 2023 repeat of our on campus Farmers Market. Fresno Street Eats will again help to plan and execute the events and provide food trucks at each market. RC will work with other stakeholders, including vendors, farmers, on-campus departments, and the Greater Reedley Chamber of Commerce, to finalize plans for the spring Markets. We anticipate beginning in mid to late March and continuing at least through the end of the spring semester. If you have ideas to enhance the Markets and in particular encourage greater community attendance, please reach out to the Office of Instruction.





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Vice President of Administrative Services – Melanie Highfill

Dean of Instruction – David Clark

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Dean of Student Services – Shannon Solis

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