

# BOARD REPORT

## WELCOME, DR. VEGA!

Dr. Jesús Vega is a dedicated student services leader with a passion for enhancing the student experience. As the new Vice President of Student Services at RC, he brings over 20 years of student services experience to the role, along with a deep understanding of the needs and aspirations of our student community. For the past four and half years, Dr. Vega was the Dean of Student Services at Ventura College where he oversaw their off-campus



center, Dual Enrollment, and Student Engagement programs. During his time at Ventura College, he also served as the Interim Vice President of Student Services for a year. His family immigrated from Michoacan, Mexico and settled in Oxnard, California. He was born and raised in Oxnard (La Colonia and South Oxnard) and attended the local school system where he was a migrant education and ESL student. He is a first-generation student that attended Oxnard College after high school and transferred to the University of California Irvine to obtain his bachelor's degree in History with an emphasis in Mexican History. He continued his education at California State University Northridge where he obtained his master's degree in Chicana/o Studies and his doctoral degree in Educational Leadership. During that time, he and his wife were fortunate to start their family and have two daughters. "I am excited to begin on this journey as the new Vice President of Student Services for Reedley College," Dr. Vega said. "I look forward to the opportunity to contribute to the growth and success of our diverse student body. I invite everyone to join me in providing excellent service, developing innovative programs and resources that will promote inclusivity and meet the needs of our students. I am honored to be one of the leaders of this Hispanic Serving Institution that will lead it to its next 100 years." Dr. Vega's leadership extends beyond the boundaries of the office, as he is dedicated to fostering a vibrant campus culture that embraces diversity, equity, and inclusivity. He is committed to creating an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and empowered to thrive academically, socially, and personally. His first day as a Tiger will be July 17.

## EXTREME REGISTRATION

Extreme Registration is currently being offered to assist students for the fall 2023 semester. Students can choose between virtual or in-person sessions. Virtual sessions are held on Wednesdays; they began June 21 and will end July 26. In-person sessions are held in the Student Center. These sessions also began on June 21 and will continue weekly until July 28.



## EXCELLENCE IN AGRICULTURE CONTINUES

For the 7th time in RC history and the 3rd time since 2018, our Agriculture Department is the winner of the Outstanding Post-Secondary Program Award from the California Agriculture Teachers Association (CATA). Members of the department and administration attended the awards ceremony in San Luis Obispo June 28. The Outstanding Postsecondary Agriculture Program Award recognizes exemplary postsecondary institutions and full-time young farmer and adult agriculture education programs. SEVEN-TIME AWARD WINNERS: 1994, 1997, 2004, 2007, 2018, 2020, 2023.

## UPWARD BOUND SUMMER CAMP

This summer, Upward Bound is hosting over 220 students from 12 high schools. This TRIO college prep program serves first generation college going students from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds and offers summer elective classes such as English, Science, Animal Science, Sports Medicine, Nursing, VEX Robotics, Seaperch Robotics, Foreign Language, College Life, Computer Literacy, and more. Students get to stay at the Residence Hall for two weeks to experience the dorm life. Students also receive tutorial support, a stipend, school supplies, food, transportation, academic counseling, college/university field trips, and more. Additionally, 72 of those students



are enrolled in college classes through High School Enrichment. Furthermore, the program trained and placed over 74 rising high school seniors in stipend based internships and externships with community partners as well as on campus sites.

## STEM CAMP

A summer STEM Camp will be held at Reedley College from July 24-28 for students in 5th grade and higher. Participants will enjoy learning about topics in science, engineering, and computer science. Each day students will also have a team building activity.





## JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

Reedley College's first ever Juneteenth celebration was held on Wednesday, June 21 and featured a guest speaker, historical content, refreshments, and a time to gather and reflect. This freedom celebration is scheduled to be an annual event on campus.



## CAMP BANQUET

The College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) held its celebration banquet June 9. The event recognizes our first cohort of CAMP students' achievements and completion of their first year of college. RC Mentors, and RC Faculty/Staff efforts for achieving program goals were also acknowledged. Families, counselors, professors, administrative staff were invited. The banquet promotes social and emotional support, recognition of academic success, and the efforts to learn how to navigate college, as they continue into their second year of college and beyond. CAMP was established at RC in July of 2022. It serves 60 students per year (cohort-based). The program is designed to help first-generation students from a migrant farm working background (agricultural), assist first-time freshman students during their first-year in college to successfully complete their freshman year at Reedley College.



## CELEBRATING A CHAMPIONSHIP

Our Mule Packing Team got together with staff and supporters of the program June 20 to celebrate their championship in the Packing Division at Mule Days in Bishop. Members of the team received custom made belts, while each organization that supported the team was recognized with a championship plaque. "Competing at Mule Days is always such an amazing experience," said Team Captain Jessie Miles. "It's unbelievably stressful and nerve-wracking, but walking into that arena, seeing and hearing the crowd, trying to keep yourself calm so your stock stays calm, and then when that buzzer goes off, you tone everything out and just start packing as fast and smooth as you can. It's an experience that will give you chills." Everyone in attendance enjoyed a tri-tip dinner. The Tigers are already looking forward to defending the title.



## FARMER'S MARKET RETURNING



The popular Reedley College Farmer's Market will return on August 17. The weekly event will be held on Thursday evenings until October 19. It is sponsored by Sierra Kings Health Care District and Fresno Street Eats.

## CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

Work on the brand new Center for Early Childhood and Development is complete! Staff have started to move into the new facility, while crews have been busy inside installing office furniture, technology and classroom storage units. A ribbon cutting ceremony for the building is scheduled for August 4 at 9am. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting and historic day for our campus!

