Friday, May 20th is the date for this year’s commencement ceremony, taking place at the Shasta College Memorial Stadium (football field) at 7:00 p.m. Dr. Helen Benjamin, Chancellor of the Contra Costa Community College District, is this year’s commencement speaker. Please join us as we honor all of our graduates and certificate recipients on their outstanding educational achievements.

Some facts about our 2016 Graduates:

- 1075 Total Applicants
- 263 Graduating with honors
- 173 AA-T / AS-T Applicants
- 190 Certificates
- 99 PTK member graduating
- 504 Indicated they’d like to attend
- 39 Out of State students graduating
- 9 International students graduating.

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**CAL WORKS**

55 Degrees and Certificates have been applied for by current or former Cal WORKs students:

- 12 Certificates
- 12 Associate of Arts Degrees
- 27 Associate of Science Degrees
- 2 Associate of Art Degrees for Transfer
- 2 Associate of Science Degrees for Transfer

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**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

- May 9-13—Final Exam Jam (Multiple Locations)
- May 20—Last Day of Spring Semester
- May 20—Commencement (Football Field)
- May 27—National Foster Youth Awareness Day
- May 30—Memorial Day Holiday
- June 13—Summer Classes Begin
---ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS---

Fall and summer semester registration is continuing on and the spring semester is wrapping up.

**Graduation:** The final day of the spring semester is May 20th with the graduation ceremony on that evening. For those students who have not already turned in their spring degree application, it’s not too late to turn it in to the Admissions and Records office. It is too late to get your name printed on the graduation program, but you can still participate in the graduation ceremony; ask for details when turning in your degree application. Congratulations to all of our graduating students!

**End of Semester Transcripts Reminder:** If you are ordering your official transcripts and need to have your final grades and/or your degree posted prior to having it sent off, be sure to indicate this on the “Order Options” page of the online transcript request form in the “Tell us when to release your transcript(s)” box. Failure to indicate these may cause your transcript to be processed without that information.

**Student Success Center:** The Student Success Center is now open! We recently had a grand opening/open house on April 22nd to showcase this new resource for our students. With its relaxing atmosphere and helpful staff the center is quickly becoming a valuable mode of assistance for students. During high-volume registration periods it’s simply not efficient or pleasant to wait in a long line just to get a form or to ask a question. Whether one needs help applying for admission or filling out financial aid paperwork, this is where the Student Success Center comes into play. Students can get more personalized support without the hassle. We are eager to see the impact that this will have on our student service during our busiest times.

**May’s Important Dates - Fall Registration:**

- **May 3** ShastaNorthstate Promise students 3-7pm
- **May 4** ShastaNorthstate Promise students 3-5pm
- **May 10** Matriculated New, Returning & Transfer students
- **May 13** Gateway to College students & College Connection students
- **May 17** Continuing students who have been on probation for 2 consecutive semesters. Continuing students with 100 or more degree applicable units at Shasta College; students without an education plan after completing 15 semester units.

---ACCESS AND EQUITY---

During April, the Office of Access and Equity was pleased to offer several trainings to students, staff, and community members. These included a session on Community Organizing given by Public Health Community Organizers as well as trainings to an ECE class, Supplemental Instructors, Writing Center Facilitators, and Classified Staff on making instructional practices culturally relevant, privilege, micro-aggressions, and having civil conversations. We hosted a Pow Wow organized by Northstate Women's Health Network focused on celebrating life and suicide prevention that was very well-attended and we hosted two film screenings of *The Mask You Live In* on the Tehama campus. In terms of ongoing activities, we have revived the Veterans Advisory Board and initiated a Housing and Food Insecurity Task Force that is initially focusing on expanding food resources for students. If you are interested in participating in either of these, please let us know at equity@shastacollege.edu. Currently, we are gathering proposals from faculty interested in revising their courses to make them more culturally responsive and relevant. Stay tuned for information about upcoming series, conferences, activities, and events we are in the process of planning.

---CLASS OF 2016---

Class of 2016
The Financial Aid Office continues its efforts to streamline every facet of the disbursement process – from application and processing to website content and customer service. This update highlights efforts this past year to support student service and student learning.

Supporting Student Service:
- Disbursed $21,725,840 to 6,699 students. ¹
- Enhanced phone and window service. 92% of the students surveyed² indicated that their customer service experience was positive when they either called or visited the Financial Aid Department.
- Implemented Auto-Packaging. More than half of the financial aid awards packaged by the end of April were auto-packaged. This process has dramatically improved turnaround time and student convenience.
- Created a Financial Aid Advisory Group to elicit community feedback regarding departmental policies and procedures.
- Implemented “Professional Judgement” criteria which assisted 22 students who experienced financial hardship or loss.
- Approved 194 out of 231 financial aid appeals (84%).
- Provided direct student assistance. With the opening of the Student Success Center, the Department now offers “Financial Aid Friday’s” – an effort to provide students with hands-on assistance in filling out their FAFSA and BOG Fee Waivers. More workshops – such as Financial Literacy and Smart Borrowing – will be scheduled.
- Implemented “Full Time Student Success Grant.” This grant provides an additional $600 annually for all students who have received a Cal B Grant and who are enrolled full time.
- Partnered with ECMC. Beginning in December, 2015 Shasta College partnered with ECMC as a best practice and a proactive approach to managing cohort default rates.
- Implemented a Loss of BOG Fee Waiver Appeal Process. The Department has worked collaboratively with Admissions and Records, the Dean of Enrollment, and the Information Technology Departments to manage this new regulation and streamline the appeal process for students.
- Streamlined the scholarship application process. As a result of an automated process, students have submitted 332 more scholarship applications than in the previous year. ³

Supporting Student Learning:
- ACE Program: Two Financial Aid Technicians have been assigned to support the disbursement of financial aid to students in the newly created ACE (Accelerated College Education) program.
- BS-HIM: The Financial Aid Department has been working closely with the US Department of Education to secure approval to administer financial assistance for students in upper division courses.
- OEI Online Consortium Agreement: As one of 8 pilot community colleges in the state, the financial aid department is poised to assist consortium students with a seamless award process.

Handling Student Loans:
- We cannot deny a student a federal loan if they qualify and meet all of the eligibility criteria, but we can if they are deemed a high risk borrower.
- The following are considered high risk borrowers:
  - High Loan Debt ($20,000 or more)
  - Has a Bachelor’s Degree
  - Previous Default
  - Permanent Discharge
- Students that meet one of the above criteria have to appeal and are counseled to determine if a loan is necessary. We strive to encourage students to utilize a loan as the last resort.
- We also plan to increase our financial literacy efforts campus wide as well as offer in person loan workshops starting in Fall 2016.

Financial Aid Department’s Annual Area Plan Initiatives for 2016/17:
1. Financial Aid Remodel
2. Veteran Services Center Relocation/Upgrade
3. Text Alert Capability
4. Continue Cohort Default Rate Management Partnership
5. Document Imaging / Automated Workflow process

² Spring 2016, n = 150
³ 2098 applications in 2015-16 compared to 1766 in the previous year.
Seven SCI*FI students attended a field trip to Butte College and Chico State in April. One of the members, Caitlin, is transferring to Chico in the fall. She is one of four SCI*FI students who are graduating this semester!

—EOPS—

EOPS held the 17th annual academic recognition ceremony in the Shasta College Theater on April 22. Henry Hickman was chosen as the EOPS Student of the Year, and Martha Dixon, an EOPS Peer Advisor at the Tehama Campus, was chosen as the CARE Student of the Year. In all, 287 students were recognized for a GPA of 3.0 or higher as a full time student last year. Since the ceremony was held on campus later in the day, many students were able to bring their children with them to celebrate. That’s how you get kids ready for college!

—ENROLLMENT SERVICES—

Student Success Center: On April 22, the college celebrated the grand opening of the Student Success Center. The Center is available to prospective and current students who need assistance navigating and completing the enrollment and financial aid processes. The Center also serves to connect students with campus support services to better support their success.

Tenure Recognition: On April 14, Brian Spillane (Counseling), Kate Ashbey (Early Childhood Education), Cheryl Cruse (Library), Trena Kimler-Richards (Agriculture) and Rachelle Sugimoto (Math) were recognized for earning tenure. Enrollment Services faculty and staff wish to extend congratulations to all.

Expedited Waitlist Process: During its April meeting, the Academic Senate recommended that waitlist codes for all regular start classes will remain active up to the end of the Friday of the second week of each primary term.

Enrollment Management: Registration for summer and fall classes is well underway. Summer classes begin June 13. Counselors will be available the evenings of May 3 and May 4 to assist Shasta and North State Promise students with fall registration.

—WELCOME TO STUDENT SERVICES—

Kathleen Goltz-Elliott—Senior Staff Secretary (TRiO Talent Search)
Alexandra Hancock—Student Services Coordinator (Student Life)
Thomas Simpson—Paraprofessional for Learning Services (DSPS)