




ACCE Journal

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Continuing Education

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From the President

by Jarek Janio, Ph.D. – ACCE President

Dear ACCE Community,

It has been a little over a month since the 2016 ACCE Conference, and I would like to once again thank all of the attendees, ACCE Board members, presenters, and sponsors who contributed to such a memorable event. Judging from the evaluations, the content of the presentations addressed the needs and expectations of attendees. Monterey, with its historical and cultural settings embedded in the pristine nature, was a spectacular location for the event. As you might remember, I emailed a survey asking all ACCE members to point us in the right direction for next year's conference location. The Board is discussing the possibilities and will make an announcement shortly.



At the conference, recognitions for Excellence in Program were awarded to Michelle King from Santa Monica College, Community Education Program and Julia Peterson from College of the Redwoods, Noncredit/Continuing Education. This year, the Lifetime Achievement Award went to ACCE Past President, Erica LeBlanc from Santa Monica College.

As we find ourselves in the middle of the spring semester, the ACCE Board finds itself busy participating in a number of state-wide activities. Valentina Purtell, ACCE Past President, has been attending Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) meetings. Thanks to her participation, the recognition and validation of noncredit progress indicators is closer to becoming a reality. The Initiative has expanded its inclusion of noncredit participants at its meetings from one to three persons, which means ACCE will send two

more of its Board members to those meetings. We feel our voices are being heard and our contributions to the state-wide dialogue about noncredit progress indicators are necessary and needed. Also present at the IEPI meetings, Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and specifically John Stanskas, Academic Senate Secretary, has been credited with truly supporting the noncredit cause. I sent a personal email to John on behalf of ACCE expressing our gratitude for his efforts.

Over the years, ACCE has been working to ensure that ongoing communication with Academic Senate becomes a reality. In the context of AEBG legislation, such collaborative efforts are crucial to inform faculty and administrators about the benefits of noncredit instruction. In the middle of April, the State Academic Senate Noncredit Committee held its Northern and Southern California Regional Meetings and ACCE Board members were present at each meeting.

As an advocacy group, ACCE strives to be on the cutting edge of legislation affecting noncredit and community education in California. Most recently, Madelyn Arballo from Mt. San Antonio College testified in Sacramento about the progress of the implementation of the AEBG plans. Also present at the hearing were representatives from adult schools in the state.

Spring is the time when the ACCE Board holds its elections and if you feel you can contribute to the field of community or continuing education at the state level, please don't hesitate to contact ACCE. We can always use help.

Wishing you the best of spring semesters,

Jarek

The Recap: ACCE Conference 2016 Continuing Education Track

By Madelyn Arballo – Continuing Education Co-Council Leader (South)

The noncredit sessions offered at ACCE addressed real-time state and regional happenings. Ashley provided an update on legislation affecting noncredit programs and students. Attendees were also presented the latest news about critical community college initiatives, such as Noncredit SSSP and the California Assessment Initiative (CAI). Jennifer Coleman, CAI Statewide Program Director, offered a thorough overview of the timeline for implementation of the common assessment and how noncredit has been included in the development of the assessment. Debra Ludford and Christine Graillat reviewed with attendees the Noncredit SSSP data elements, which are a must know for those working in noncredit. Randy Brown and Marcela Serrano from Gavilan College explained how they put their SSSP plan in action to serve noncredit students at a variety of venues.

Neil Kelly from the CCCCO and statewide leader for AEBG presented the legislative changes impacting consortia participants. In addition to fiscal agency decisions, Neil answered numerous technical questions. As a natural follow-up to AEBG, attendees heard presentations about innovative practices and processes for implementing CTE courses and programs. Mary Lange, Gita Runkle, and Shelby White described the process for creating vocational courses and certificates for older adults. Jim Lancaster gave a fast-paced breakout covering the industry and occupational analyses needed to start a noncredit vocational program. And, Jesse Crete and Raine Hambly highlighted their action research project on contextualized learning.

If you didn't make it to the ACCE Conference in Monterey, you can catch these and other important topics later this year at the fall drive-in workshops!



What you gain from ACCE membership -

- Representation at the regional, state, and national levels.
- A quarterly newsletter, statewide college and membership directory, discount rates to attend both regional workshops and the annual conference.
- Legislative liaison and analysis.
- Affiliation with other professional organizations.
- Support and mentoring from an experienced network of professionals.

You can inquire about ACCE membership and pay online at: <http://acceonline.org>

Cost for the annual membership is \$60.00 per year per person. For three or more directories, the cost is only \$53.00 per year per person. Annual memberships, regardless of when purchased, run July 1 through June 30 of each year. Join today!

Join us!

The Recap: ACCE Conference 2016 Community Education Track

By Rosie Armstrong – Community Education Co-Council Leader (North)

You could not have asked for a more inspirational backdrop this year as ACCE members met for our 2016 annual conference in historic Monterey at the InterContinental, The Clement Monterey, February 24-26. With the goal of driving our new plans to success, we planned, collaborated, and conquered. Below is a recap of conference highlights:

- **Conference Welcome Kick-Off Plenary**
Speaker: Steinbeck and the “Common Good” Educating America, Dr. Susan Shillinglaw of the National Steinbeck Center - Dr. Shillinglaw spoke on John Steinbeck’s local influences that shaped his many novels including characters, the rich landscape, and more. She also highlighted Steinbeck’s national impact in education, the economy, and in politics.
- **To Partner or Not to Partner? Hot Certificate Programs, Christine Jensen, MiraCosta College** - Christine provided a wealth of information on several career training programs – successful and not so successful programs. She also identified the three key aspects that should be considered when creating a new certificate program, which include popularity, whether the program is turn-key, and whether the program has a state, national or other required certification.
- **Sponsored Presentation** – Intelcom Learning, a non-profit production company, partners with several California community colleges to deliver online content via “rock star” instructors to enhance student learning. If you are looking for new impactful partnership opportunities, check them out at www.intelecom.org or ask a fellow community college partner.
- **Keynote Session: Career Ladders Project, Enjoying the Journey: Integrated Strategies to Remove Barriers for Students, Luis Chavez** - Luis spoke very thoughtfully about the critical work we do in both Community Education and Noncredit and challenged us to evaluate our ‘why factor.’ Letting the ‘why’ lead us as opposed to the and how can dramatically improve our efforts of removing student barriers to success.
- **Facilitated Discussion - Implementing Business Plans and Organizational Planning in Community Service Programs, Dr. Jeff Rhoades, Santa Rosa Jr. College** - We all know how important planning is in Community Education programs, but how many of us have a model for implementation? Answer- all of us now, thanks to Jeff’s presentation! Check out his dynamic presentation by checking out our archives section at www.acceonline.org. Learn about the key steps, including planning, assessment, development, communication, implementation, and evaluation.
- **Lunch, Awards and Business Meeting** - Members enjoyed a wonderful lunch buffet honoring fellow ACCE members for their excellence. Recipients include Michelle King of Santa Monica College, Julia Peterson of College of the Redwoods, and Erica LeBlanc for the prestigious ACCE Lifetime Achievement Award.
- **A Collaborative Discussion on State Chancellor’s Office Guidelines for Community Services/Education Handbook and Mixing of Fee-Based and Credit Courses, Frances DeNisco, Las Positas College; Erica LeBlanc, Santa Monica College; and Rosie Armstrong, Gavilan College** - Members expressed concern about having a work model from the State Chancellor’s Office for enrolling Community Service students in credit classes and being able to pass muster in an audit. While some programs have already been

co-enrolling, others are still looking for the possibility of co-enrollment but under the guidance of the State Chancellor's Office. Also discussed were Community Education programs that have turned into 'incubators' for future career training programs.

- **National Steinbeck Center (NSC) Tour, Rosie Armstrong, Gavilan College and Frances DeNisco, Las Positas College** - ACCE members embarked on a journey to the NSC where they received a group tour and learned more about Steinbeck's personal life and his work. Members were inspired to look at unique civic opportunities available in their areas available for Community Education/Service programs.
- **FREE Monterey Waterfront and Cannery Row Tour** - Members were treated to a unique walking tour of the area and its impact and influence on the history of Cannery Row and the Monterey Bay.
- **The "Wow" Factor – An Alternate Education Pilot Project, Betty Sedor and Jo Moore, El Camino College, and Sydnee Risk, Intelcom** - This group put the 'bravo' factor in their recently piloted Medical Billing program. A true collaborative partnership between an educational provider, and an instructor and online content provider, this will be a model for future community education partnership programs.
- **Who Is Our Student Population and How Do We Get More Students in Community Education, Christine Jensen, MiraCosta College** - Attendees learned about the multiple generations of students we serve and approaches we must incorporate to serve and retain them – proven, tried, and perfected from a Community Education leader.
- **Community Education Roundtable: What's Hot in the Fee-Based World (and What's Not so**

Hot), Community Education Council Leaders and fellow ACCE members - Why recreate the wheel when you can borrow an idea from a fellow ACCE member? This highly popular roundtable was full of ideas, successful strategies, and more, in enrichment, College for Youth, and professional development/career training programs.

See you next year for ACCE's Annual Conference in the South!



Have you checked out the new ACCE [blog](#)? Or, the redesigned ACCE [website](#)? Lots of great changes happening with new information and updates posted to the blog on a regular basis.

Do **YOU** have a great idea or article you want to share with your fellow ACCE members? Contribute to the blog....send your submissions to the ACCE website administrator, Michael Hegglund, at mhegglund@gmail.com

We'd love to hear from you!!

2016 ACCE Recognition Award Recipients

ACCE Lifelong Achievement Award - Erica LeBlanc, Santa Monica College



Erica LeBlanc is a treasure, not only because of her professional dedication and contributions to ACCE and our students, but also because she is the kind of person everyone wants as a friend.

Erica had been active in ACCE events long before she joined the board in 2005. Once on the board, she served as the Journal editor (twice), Second Vice-President, First-Vice President, President, and Past-President. Each of the leadership roles carries specific duties including membership, conference planning, leadership of the organization as a whole, and the nomination/election process. Additionally, each member of the board chips in to help the others do whatever needs doing. Erica has embraced each role as well as the spirit of "all for one and one for all."

In addition to the board roles, Erica has served as an ACCE representative in committees and task groups at the state level. Two of the most significant in recent years have been the System Advisory Committee on Curriculum (SACC) and the original AB86 Work Group for the planning grant to restructure adult education in California.

As a member of SACC, Erica brings a deep understanding of both credit and noncredit curriculum to the table. She *gets* us because she *is* us. She sees implications of potential decisions that may harm or help our students. She speaks up, time and again. She builds bridges to decision makers who may not understand noncredit.

The original AB86 work group consisted of about a dozen members, six drawn from community college noncredit programs and six from K-12 adult education. The work schedule, particularly in the earlier months, was daunting, with twice-monthly trips to Sacramento, all-day meetings with homework in the evenings, and further

assignments between trips. In addition to the tangible work, there was a great need to build trust and relationships. Erica, with her worker-bee spirit and her strong people skills, truly excelled in the work group, volunteering for assignments (including a lot of hands-on writing) while building sincere good will among members.

Erica is fun. If you want a fast walk around Sacramento in the early morning, she's your gal. If you want creative, possibly crazy ideas for a conference or a presentation, she's your gal. If you want someone who will not only help develop a Frankenstein-themed PowerPoint on AB86 for a conference scheduled over Halloween, but will also show up for that presentation wearing a full Bride of Frankenstein costume, she's your gal.

As Dean of Academic Affairs at Santa Monica College, Erica has carried a range of responsibilities including, but not limited to, the noncredit program. For example, she has been the Accreditation Liaison Officer for the college, has led curriculum processes for both credit and noncredit, and was assigned at least one major musical presentation fraught with political connections and artistic drama. Yet she has always kept noncredit as a priority in her work. It speaks well for her work ethic and accomplishments that the college has now established a full-time noncredit dean position while asking Erica to continue fulfilling other significant full-time responsibilities for the college as a whole.

This award does not signal an ending. We know ACCE is deeply rooted in Erica's heart, and we plan to be in her schedule! But the time is right, and the time is now, to recognize her for her ongoing, incredibly awesome contributions to ACCE and our students.

Continuing Education Excellence Award - Julia Peterson, College of the Redwoods

College of the Redwoods new noncredit program started in fall of 2013 and has grown to encompass more than 78 courses and 12 noncredit certificates. The addition of noncredit at CR began more than three years ago when Julia Peterson proposed a noncredit program to Administration at College of the Redwoods. Ms. Peterson worked with faculty, staff and virtually every department within the college to build an integrated noncredit program that would include educational community partnerships as well as college readiness classes that would align with credit classes to create seamless pathways into college credit programs.

Curriculum was developed to serve the community in all 10 noncredit areas, with a focus on college and career preparation. Ms. Peterson worked with the community and the AB86 consortium to identify adult educational needs of the District, and worked with faculty to create curriculum to meet those needs. The community found the classes met their needs and the new noncredit adult education program had over 2,890 Students by the end of its second academic year.

Under Ms. Peterson, CR's Adult Education program partnered with the Humboldt County Office of Education and Humboldt State University to provide ESL classes to the parents of local elementary schools' English Language Learning students. The elementary school based students asked the program to expand and so it grew to include GED classes with support for Spanish speakers.

Another partnership included the development of a noncredit CalFire Wildland Fire Academy. In this rural part of

northern California wildland fire suppression is a rapidly growing and much needed career option. The Wildland Fire Academy, developed and held in partnership with CalFire and the US Forest Service, graduated its first class of 27 new firefighters this spring, just in time for the graduates to apply for this year's fire season positions. The community was so supportive of the new program that the graduation ceremony was attended by many firefighters from local fire districts. The local Cal Fire Unit Chief was among the dignitaries to address the graduates, and, of course, family and friends of the graduates joined everyone in celebration.

In October 2015, College of the Redwoods Adult Education program began the first face-to-face college classes in Pelican Bay State Prison, a level 4 supermax prison, with the introduction of noncredit Adult Education "College Bootcamp" classes to prepare inmates for college credit classes planned to follow. Since that start, the first credit class has started within Pelican Bay State Prison, and the College Bootcamp classes continue to prepare inmates for the rigor of credit classes.

Ms. Peterson identified a need with CR's credit students when the Dean of Athletics mentioned that nearly 30% percent of his football team was disqualified in fall of 2013 due to academic ineligibility. Ms. Peterson worked with the Dean, the head Football Coach, and the Counselor for Athletics to develop a "Cap & Gown" program that added noncredit basic skills classes to the already full schedule of the football team. By fall 2014, the problem of losing football players to academic eligibility had been virtually eliminated and the Cap & Gown program was declared so successful at supporting student athletes that it was expanded to include all sports. In fall of 2015 CR's Athletics department had an unprecedented 41% of its athletes with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Academic ineligibility has changed from being a formidable issue to a negligible factor, and CR's student athletes are showing how successful they can be in the classroom as well as on the field.

College of the Redwoods noncredit program continues to expand and grow from the roots started by Julia Peterson. The isolated, rural district with a history of logging and fishing has a great need and appreciation for the new adult education programs being offered by their community college and we expect them to continue to support the program by attending classes throughout the district.

Community Education Excellence Award - Michelle King, SMC Extension



Santa Monica College's Community Education Department has launched a new professional development catalog - **SMC Extension**. The catalog will serve as the main platform for promoting all workforce development focused continuing education courses and programs. An integral function of the SMC Extension catalog is to expand and promote the core concept of life-long-learning while supporting the College's over-arching goal of creating career pathways and training opportunities for students at all levels.

The **SMC Extension** catalog is intended to provide a highly visible platform for disseminating information to reach the SMC Alumni community; perspective students for the College's non-credit AEBG funded "Workforce Education and Training Programs, and Not-for-credit students seeking career training through the ETPL. This allows the catalog to function in a very unique space, as it is the one College marketing tool that offers outreach to a full spectrum of students and speaks to a cross-section of the local community.

SMC Extension is working to collaborate with other workforce development agencies and the catalog is providing the appropriate outreach vehicle. The need for more collaborative activities between the College and other workforce development agencies is expected to increase as workforce development funding agencies seek to align career training with educational institutions that can provide short-term employment training with life-long-learning and career pathways opportunities. Working towards this effort, the **SMC Extension** catalog is being utilized to promote several employment and pathways programs.

The 2016 Spring/Summer **SMC Extension** catalog is serving as the central point for recruiting students to the BankWorks training program. BankWorks is a JVS (Jewish Vocational Services) training program that has placed over 1,000 individuals into entry level-jobs in the banking industry. The program attracts both experienced and inexperienced individuals seeking a network for entry into a career in banking. Additionally the BanksWorks training history of success is built on the program's close working relationship with employers within the banking industry. **SMC Extension** collaborating in this program effectively supports the strategy to disseminate the message that Santa Monica College is interested in collaborating with local industry to develop relevant employment training programs. Also, the BankWorks program will help to bring attention to the broader offering of the College's continuing education department, thus communicating to industry that community colleges' continuing education departments are desirable partners.

Other programs that are currently being promoted through the **SMC Extension** catalog include the "Preferred Partner Program" and the Cisco Networking Academy. Both are being viewed as opportunities for creating innovative training and outreach strategies. **SMC Extension** is helping to reach the broader community and broadening the College's potential for delivering non-credit and credit programming through partnerships and collaboration with industry, thereby removing one of higher education's more traditional hurdles of keeping pace with industry in developing and delivering relevant and current curriculum.

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ACCE is dedicated to develop and promote desirable policies, practices, and support for the educational constituencies within the Association and to promote professional growth of the membership.

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