

# ACCE Journal

Journal of the  
Association of  
Community and  
Continuing Education

Summer 2013

## From the Past President

by Erica LeBlanc – ACCE Past President

Dear ACCE members and colleagues:

Michael Jordan said: “Obstacles don’t have to stop you. If you run into a wall, don’t turn around and give up. Figure out how to climb it, go through it, or work around it.” I am so proud to be associated with this organization, the membership of which comprises individuals who unflinchingly face one obstacle after another, digging deep and finding ways to address, stand up to, or find solutions to a seemingly unending litany of challenges to our programs. In my last message to you as the (now) past-president of ACCE, it has been my extreme pleasure to work with the members of the ACCE Executive Board. I cannot thank these individuals enough for the dedication and commitment they’ve shown to the ACCE membership and the support they’ve provided to me over the course of the last year.

- The board has provided educational opportunities for our members through ACCE’s conferences and workshops.
- The *ACCE Journal* is back and looking better than ever!
- Members of the board have worked collaboratively with the Chancellor’s Office on guidelines and policies and have organized opposition to legislation that proposes to diminish essential aspects of our programs.
- Board members have represented you on various statewide committees to ensure that ACCE members are

informed and aware of changes that affect them.

In sum, I want to express my thanks and commend the efforts of Valentina Purtell, Bob Parker, Donna Burns, Betty Sedor, Liza Becker, Mary Walker, Jarek Janio, and Jacquie Escajeda for their extraordinary efforts on behalf of our community education and noncredit programs. I also want to extend a warm welcome to our new board member, Mia Ruiz, who will be a wonderful resource for our noncredit programs as the second Council Leader for Continuing Education.

Call me a cock-eyed optimist, but I am sensing a turnaround for our programs and am actually looking forward to the year ahead. While the proposed changes are daunting and unsettling to say the least, ACCE will be here to extend a hand, information, guidance, and whatever else is needed to ensure that our programs continue to provide much needed access to lifelong learning opportunities to the citizens of California. Regardless of how we are funded, organized, mandated, or empowered, our programs will continue to deliver vital services and serve as the beacon for those who wish to transform their lives through education.

In closing, I wish Valentina Purtell the very best in her year as ACCE President. She is an extraordinary individual and is ably supported by the rest of the ACCE Executive Board.

On a personal note, I would like to thank the ACCE community for the outpouring of concern and support I received during the horrific and tragic events that unfolded at Santa Monica College in June. Your expressions of consideration were heartwarming and it made me all the more aware that we are a community of caring and dedicated individuals. I am not saying goodbye completely as I will remain on the Board as the past president. I hope that all of you will continue to express your ideas, concerns and questions with your colleagues. Despite our challenges, I am looking forward to the coming year as being the best yet!

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## From the President

*by Valentina Purtell – ACCE President*

Dear ACCE members and colleagues,

I am honored to be serving as the President of ACCE for this year and want to thank Erica LeBlanc for the wonderful job she did as President last year. I am very grateful to all ACCE Board colleagues for their wisdom, guidance and support.

These are exciting times to be in the noncredit field. Recent legislative changes and the Governor's budget proposal placed adult education in the spotlight and certainly brought awareness of the life-changing work we all do. Governor Brown charged the California Department of Education and the California Community College Chancellor's Office with the task of

designing the future of adult education. The next two years will be pivotal in determining the scope of the available educational programs and services, ways of leveraging resources with community partners to better serve adult students, and measures of tracking and reporting adult education outcomes.

ACCE believes in educating the whole student and retaining the flexibility and control in determining which instructional programs will address the unique needs of local communities. We reaffirm the importance of aligned accountability measures without mandating a single performance system. Finally, in order to maintain comprehensive course offerings and to serve all students equally, we are convinced that noncredit must continue to receive enrollment-based, not performance-based funding. We will reiterate this position during the upcoming Adult Education planning work.

As part of the advocacy efforts, ACCE has worked hard to develop strong partnerships with the California Community College Chancellor's Office, the State Academic Senate, and the Community College League of California. We will continue to foster these relationships and we are looking forward to collaborating with our colleagues from the California Department of Education with the goal of building a sustainable and effective Adult Education system.

As always, community service programs distinguish themselves by being the most innovative, responsive, and creative segments of community college education. They empower students of all ages to experience college in an exploratory way and achieve academic, personal and vocational advancement goals. Stay connected with the ACCE Journal to learn about the promising practices in the community service field and certainly plan to attend the ACCE annual workshops and conferences. Responding to our member needs, we decided to return to offering multi-day conferences. This year's spring conference is scheduled for February 5-7 in San Francisco. Don't miss this exciting learning and networking opportunity!

Finally, I would like to introduce and welcome this year's ACCE Board members: Erica LeBlanc (Past President), Donna Burns (1<sup>st</sup> VP), Jarek Janio (2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Membership), Betty Sedor (Community Service Council), Liza Becker (Continuing Education Council, South), Mia Ruiz (Continuing Education Council, North), and Mary Walker (Historian Secretary). Thank you for your leadership!

As incredible as these Board members are, they cannot do the important work that's ahead of us alone. Despite of your numerous obligations, I am asking you to carve out some space to contribute to ACCE. Whether it is presenting at one of the workshops or the conference, mentoring a new member, submitting an article for the Journal, or participating in our advocacy campaigns, your help is critical.

Looking forward to an amazing year together!

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## SAVE THE DATES!

*by Donna Burns – ACCE First Vice President/President Elect*



This year is bringing new challenges and great opportunities to continuing and community education programs! Be sure to put these dates on your calendar now:

### **Fall Drive-In Workshops**

October 16, 2013 (tentative) – One-day northern workshop, Sacramento (CCCCO)

November 7, 2013 – One-day southern workshop, Anaheim (NOCCCD)

These one-day “drive-in” opportunities will allow you to connect with colleagues and get the latest on upcoming changes and best practices. Of course, you are welcome to attend either or both, but these are intended to be local, lower-cost options.

## Annual Conference – Our multi-day format returns!

February 5-7, 2014, Hilton San Francisco  
Financial District

After several years of surviving with one-day conferences split between north and south, it's long-past time to reunite as a united statewide community college organization. Our February conference will address major changes in how we serve students and communities. All gatherings are open to ACCE members and non-members, but you'll want to join ACCE to get the discount rate.

Make these dates a priority on your calendar – you don't want to miss them.

## ACCE Membership Spotlight

*by Jarek Janio – ACCE 2nd Vice President*



Dear ACCE Members,

As an incoming 2nd ACCE Vice President I would like to thank Donna Burns for her work in this position, her leadership at ACCE and relentless support for the organization, its members and the Board.

By now, all ACCE members should have received the newest and updated membership directory published once a year. Please do not hesitate to let me know if there are any changes in your individual status as an ACCE member or your employment, position or place of work. Best way to contact me is via email: [Janio\\_jarek@sac.edu](mailto:Janio_jarek@sac.edu).

If you still have not renewed the membership for this fiscal year, you may do so at our membership web site: [http://acceonline.org/member\\_join.cfm](http://acceonline.org/member_join.cfm) or by sending me an email with a request for forms. I will gladly forward them to you. Regular cost of ACCE membership stays the same for this fiscal year at \$60 per year. Please keep in mind that membership for three or more people from the same site is only \$53 per person, per year.

I am certainly looking forward to working with you all during this year.

## New at the ACCE Board!

It is our pleasure to introduce Mia Ruiz, who is a Community Education Coordinator from Cuesta College as a new Continuing Education Council Leader for Northern California.

## Restructuring Adult Education

*by Liza Becker, ACCE Continuing Education  
Council Leader*

Hard to believe that it was only last December when the Legislative Analyst's Office (LAO) report came out with some recommendations for the restructuring of adult education that took many of us by surprise. Soon after, the Governor's 2013-14 Budget proposal was posted, initially planning for community colleges to take over all of adult education – by July, 2013! Obviously, that hasn't happened thanks to advocacy efforts of ACCE leadership team, the Chancellor's Office, and many others. The subsequent trailer bill and May revisions reflect input from the field, and the final budget signed by the Governor provides a more reasonable approach to serving the adult learners in our communities through consortia.

To facilitate this process, the State budget has allocated \$25 million for a planning grant which will be developed jointly by CDE and the Chancellor's Office. The goal will be for community college and K-12 districts to establish partnerships and implementation plans that help adult learners progress toward postsecondary and the workforce. ACCE's role throughout this process has been to provide timely information in the form of legislative visits, testimonials during hearings, and letters of support directed to Senate and Assembly committees as well as to the Governor's Office. We will continue to keep you

posted on developments through our listserve communication and conferences updates.

Meanwhile, ACCE continues its efforts to oppose SB173 (Liu), a bill that would stabilize and rebuild the K-12 adult education at the risk of diminishing community college adult education programs in terms of accountability and access. Elements of the bill that ACCE opposes include the reduction of program areas and a mandated system of accountability which emphasizes performance-based funding. SB173 is moving through the legislature, with the next hearing scheduled in mid-August in front of the Higher Education Committee. If it passes through to the floor hearing, we anticipate the bill to reach the Governor's desk by mid-October. Whatever the outcome, it is clear that we have some strategic planning and a busy couple of years ahead. ACCE will make every effort to facilitate the process through information sharing, advocacy, and support.

I would like to extend a special thanks to ACCE leadership team –Valentina Purtell (President), Erica LaBlanc (Past President), and Donna Burns (President Elect) – for representing all noncredit programs equitably and eloquently throughout this advocacy process.

Stay tuned!

## From the Field

### Give Me 20 (Minutes)

#### A Reading Program

By Margaret Teske, Mt. San Antonio College



Mt. San Antonio College offers a library reading program during the winter and summer intersessions called *Give Me 20* (minutes) to encourage ESL students' reading habits outside of the classroom. Interested students sign up and complete a pre-survey. They begin by checking out one book to read. They have access to one of our library teachers throughout the six-weeks for advice and discussion of their book report, a required outcome of the program. During the fifth or sixth week, students complete a post-survey. Pre and post surveys are compared to ascertain student's attitudes towards reading and length of time spent reading. After students complete three book reports and both surveys, they receive a certificate of achievement awarded in class.

There are numerous successes since we started this program. The surveys consistently show marked improvement by

those who have finished the Give Me 20 program:

	Pre-survey	Post-survey
I read something in English everyday	45%	78%
I can read a page of English in 5 minutes	48%	71%
Number of minutes I read per day	80% read 5 – 10 min./day	71% read 20 – 60 min./day

As a result of this program, more of our students use our ESL library through the regular 16-week semester. Also, many of our teachers now assign book reading as a supplemental activity in classes.

In addition, we have recently conducted a research study. Our research question was: Is there a difference in CASAS reading test scores (November 2012 to March 2013) between the students who participate in the Give Me 20 reading program and those students who do not, given that both groups attend classes during the same time periods?

Successful participants in the Give Me 20 program during the winter session of 2013 were measured against other ESL learners in the same classes who did not participate in the Give Me 20 reading program. Using an independent samples t-test, we found that there is a significant (positive) difference between the CASAS reading test

scores for the students who participate in the Give Me 20 reading program and the scores for the students who do not participate in the Give Me 20 reading program, while both groups attend class during the same time period. There is very little probability (0.005%) that the difference between the groups is due to chance.

We highly recommend extensive reading programs such as ours to other ESL programs. We have further information on our wiki site:

<http://giveme20.pbworks.com>.

## Santa Ana College – Student Leadership Institute Graduation

*Robin Storti, SAC SCE Student Development Coordinator, Santa Ana College*



Santa Ana College, Centennial Education Center: First Student Leadership Institute Graduates: From left to right: Aldo Reyes, Genoveva Garcia, Gabriel Martinez, Sadot Reyes, and Josephina Herrera. These students completed the Student Leadership Institute courses with Santa Ana College

students. This was arranged by the Dean Nilo Lipiz and encouraged by the Student Development Coordinator, Advisor to the ASB, Robin Storti. They graduated with their leadership certificates at California State University Fullerton on May 6th 2013. As their advisor, the students were telling me how proud they were of themselves for completing this course, many of them had to work at night and get to the Leadership course first thing in the morning. Even though they were not getting a lot of sleep it did not curb their enthusiasm for this first time opportunity. We do hope this will open the door for many more CEC students to attend in the future.

## Recognition for Pasadena City College

*By Elaine Chapman, Director PCC Extension and Contract Education, Pasadena City College*

In the June 2013 UGotClass Newsletter, PCC Extension, the Community Services and Contract Education department of Pasadena City College, was recognized as having a model for marketing online courses and programs. UGotClass, provided through the Learning Resources Network (LERN), makes available numerous offerings including courses in Social Media, e-Marketing, Business Plan Development, Online Teaching Certificates, and Customer Service. UGotClass recognized PCC Extension as, “one of our top partners in 2013.” A full page was devoted to passing

along what UGotClass considers to be a model for print brochure marketing used by PCC Extension. The Five Tips displayed include use of the term “Professional Development,” highlighting the awarding of certificates, noting a special appeal offset in a red box, using an image – speaking a thousand words, and the URL link making access to the website and online registration quick and easy. PCC Extension has seen marked increases in registrations of online courses comprised of new and returning customers. Opening the UGotClass Newsletter and seeing our program recognized was an unexpected honor. “Working with UGotClass is seamless and rewarding” commented Elaine Chapman, PCC Extension Director.

## Student Success Conference Santa Ana College

April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*By Karen Dennis, ESL Coordinator, Santa Ana College*



A panel of seven faculty members from credit and noncredit spoke to the

Santa Ana College School of Continuing Education ABE, ASE and ESL students about college expectations in different fields. Having this session at night on the Santa Ana College (SAC) main campus took quite a bit of planning and ensuring commitments from all attending parties. Marhaly Ramirez, a former continuing education student, gave a touching account of her transition from noncredit to credit. Marhaly, who started in the ESL program at Centennial Education Center, received a continuing education scholarship at the beginning of her credit educational career. On the night of the Student Success Conference, she learned that she was a recipient of the Santa Ana College Human Development Scholarship for the next academic year. Marhaly, accompanied by her daughter at the event, plans to attend California State University, Fullerton, to pursue her bachelor and master degrees. Congratulations to SAC faculty members Susan Gaer, Julia Vercelli, and Melanie Mowrer for organizing the successful conference as part of the basic skills initiative (BSI) ongoing emphasis on transition.

Santa Ana College,  
Centennial Education Center,  
Student Testimonies:

My name is Josefina Herrera, I'm a student at CEC in Santa Ana. I'm 48 yrs. old and a mother of four children. I also have two granddaughters. I'm currently enrolled in high school subjects class. I'm also a part of Student Government. I just finished a one year term as a Public Relations Officer and I was just elected for Treasurer. I got involved with Student Government after learning about it in a leadership class that was offered to the students at CEC by Robin Storti, She has been a great mentor to me and many of my classmates.

Being a part of Student Government has helped me to grow mentally and has taught me to overcome my fear of public speaking. I have participated in many events like the Leadership banquet, Fiestas Partias, measure Q, and different events that we have had here at CEC.

I have had the honor to serve at the graduation class of 2012 by serving cake to them and their families, I will be looking forward to do the same this year for the class of 2013, but next year will be my year to eat cake for the class of 2014.

Being a part of Student Government gave me the opportunity to attend a 2 day Student Leadership Institute class at Santa Ana College. We heard from many different speakers. I learned that we have to be

social able, not to be afraid to meet new people. We are different and see things differently. I also learned that everyone is entitled to their own opinion and that we must respect each other's opinions and learn to work together as a team. I learned that as a leader we must be willing to serve others, we must be loyal and have integrity, be respectful and honest to the people we serve and work with It was an awesome experience. I recommend this class to everyone who sees themselves as a leader and my thanks goes out to the leaders of SLI who took their time to serve us.

I'm so grateful that CEC has made it so easy to attend classes. Sometimes we have to face many distractions in our lives that we have to overcome and when we do CEC is always here to encourage us to continue our education and to never quit trying. I thank God for my school and the teachers and administrators who always encourage us to be better. Thank You CEC for always having your doors opened.

My name is Aldo Reyes. I'm 20 years old. I'm currently enrolled in high school subjects. Also, I'm part of the Associated Student Government (ASG) body at Centennial Education Center (CEC). I held an office position for a year. I was the school treasurer during 2012-2013. Now I'm a representative. I got involved in ASG after I took my first Leadership class directed by Robin Storti which I want to thank for being supportive and motivating. I saw the ASG as an opportunity to put my leadership skills into action. Volunteering was a way for me

to show the leader I am. I'm so thankful for having decided to join the ASG and make a difference in my school. Besides, ASG opened the doors for me to experience new projects like Student Leadership Institute (SLI).

My experience in SLI was like a train ride, full of knowledge. Every seminar we took was like a train stop in a different paradise. I learned a lot from these workshops. There were many things I didn't know I was doing wrong like the hand-shaking, the eye contact, and the way I was introducing myself to other people. After I took the SLI seminar I felt more confident about myself. I had more initiative to be proactive at work, school, and home. SLI helped to overcome most of my fears. This is definitively an experience that no one has to miss out. It's an experience that I highly recommend everyone to take.

My name is Gabriel Martinez. I'm a student at CEC, currently enrolled in High School Subjects and Student Government. For the first time in History, SAC invited students from CEC to attend the Student Leadership Institute (SLI) program. It was an amazing experience. I met many people, each with a different and unique perspective. Also, I really gained a lot of information and knowledge. Moreover, Student Leadership Institute (SLI) program motivated me to the extreme that I decided to run for President at CEC and I won the election! Last but not least, this is only the beginning into having a great and successful life...

## Lessons Learned:

### Launching a New Program

*By Alisha Serrano, Coordinator of Community Education and Career Technical Education Grants at Chaffey College.*

We have all likely been there. You are seeking a new program to expand your services to the community. You know it is going to require a tremendous amount of communication and follow through, and it can be challenging to commit to seeing the endeavor through. Chaffey College's Community Education made such a commitment in fall 2012 and implemented a new Personal Fitness Trainer Certification Program through World Instructor Training Schools (WITS). The following highlights key experiences and outcomes of this effort.

Pursuing the Personal Fitness Trainer Certification Program made sense for our community for two main reasons. First, numerous neighborhood gyms are popping up every few miles, and the west area of the Inland Empire is also home to many hotels and recreation facilities well suited for prospective personal fitness trainers. Second and largely the key criteria for a launch in this direction were interest, support, and commitment to collaboration from the College's Dean of Physical Education/Athletics and the Physical Education Department, which had an interest in offering programs of this nature in the past, and Community Education was well-poised to carry this interest forward.

The program is offered over nine weeks at the Chaffey College Rancho Cucamonga Campus where students access the college's fitness lab to complete practical training. Community Education and the Physical Education Department worked closely to agree on terms of using the space and covering the costs of typical wear and tear on equipment.

A key value of membership in ACCE is connecting with colleagues and learning which experiences are worth replicating and which are worth avoiding. Actions that worked best in launching the new program successfully with twelve students include:

Communicating with local gyms to determine their anticipated hiring needs 3 – 6 months after the close of the program.

Ensuring that your program serves as a mechanism for the college's related credit programs to see their interest and efforts realized for the community.

Maintaining communication every few weeks with all parties involved from start (communication of an idea) to finish (students participating in the program).

Communicating with people who have been there and are doing well there. Thank you to Cyndi Pardee at Riverside Community College District, Rhonda Dixon and Lupe Jimenez from Mt. San Jacinto College, and Tania Hooper from WITS. Their willingness to share their knowledge and experience is priceless.

Requiring interested students to register for and attend an information session two weeks in advance of the program start date.

Arranging for the information session to be delivered by a WITS trainer

In the future, we will benefit from identifying the appropriate team member and committing the time necessary to execute at least three of WITS helpful and practical marketing strategies. Overall, the key element that contributed to this program launching successfully was communication . . . and more communication.

### Rancho Santiago Community College District: ACCE Awardees recognized by the Rancho Santiago Community College District's Board of Trustees



After having being recognized for their work in the area of student transition from noncredit to credit, a group of twelve faculty, counselors, administrative and classified staff have been recognized during the RSCCD Board meeting on May 6, 2013.

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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.

Membership information: <http://acceonline.org/membership.cfm>

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