

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT/SUPERINTENDENT
PRESIDENT'S CAMPUS UPDATES



October 1, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

iDebate Team from Rwanda Visits Campus

The iDebate Rwanda team visited campus to participate in a friendly debate between our Forensics Speech and Debate team. Both sides engaged in a spirited discussion on the topic: Should Hate Speech be Banned? I had the honor to join the teams for lunch in the Falcon Room. It was a great opportunity to get to know the students personally. For instance, I learned that Kellia Kaneze from the iDebate Rwanda team is still in high school. It is good to know that with young people like Kellia who are preparing to make the world a better place, we have a bright future ahead. I was extremely impressed by her and the members of both teams for their ability to grasp and argue complex issues with so much passion and knowledge. The Rwandan team also visited two classes and participated in a panel discussion about immigration. I want to acknowledge the Forensics Speech and Debate team's co-advisors **April Griffin** and **Nicholas Matthews** for facilitating this wonderful event. The debate was a great opportunity to expose our students to intercultural engagement.



Celebrating Diversity

The month of October is full of national diversity events that we are excited to celebrate. **Latinx Awareness Month** is currently in full swing, featuring presentations and cultural performances highlighting Latin culture. Be sure to check out the [calendar](#) of events. We are also celebrating **LGBTQ+ Awareness Month** to highlight the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community. Visit the [website to find](#) out about more events. I am proud to be part of such an inclusive, diverse, and welcoming campus.

Student Summer Research Presentations

I had the pleasure of attending the Science, Engineering and Math Division's 7th Annual Student Summer Research presentations on September 27. The event showcased STEM-related research projects by current and former students. Seventeen students presented their research with topics ranging from CSULB LB3/Bridges to Baccalaureate Program, CSULB Bridges to the Beach, NASA, National Science Foundation Research Experiences for Undergraduates, USC Solar Energy, and UCI Bridges to Baccalaureate Program. Research topics included ozone and nitrogen dioxide patterns, Alzheimer's disease, and aviation safety, among others. The high quality of these research projects was truly amazing. Thank you to our faculty and staff for supporting our students and facilitating another great showcase.



Supporting Immigrant Families and Undocumented Students

The Board of Trustees unanimously approved a resolution in support of immigrant families at its September 5 meeting. The College has served a number of immigrant and undocumented students that have gone on to lead successful lives. The Board resolution supports the District's mission of diversity and inclusion, and highlights the notion that our country is best served when the contributions of all people are recognized. The resolution also calls for action to develop an efficient immigration system that honors the value and dignity of those seeking a better life for themselves and their families.

Additionally, the College will join statewide efforts to support undocumented students and participate in **Undocumented Student Action Week**, October 15 -20. You can find more information online or contact co-chairs of the UndocuAlly Taskforce **Lynn Wang** and **Rosa Carrillo**.

A Falcon's Guide to Success

I'm thrilled to host the Fall Speaker Series: A Falcon's Guide to Success. The speaker series is aimed to help empower all employees to grow personally and professionally. Our first event titled Growth Mindset was held on Friday, September 28. I am blown away by the overwhelming response we received. Forty employees attended, including faculty, staff, and managers. I'd like to thank my partner in crime **Alfred Rodriguez** for his leadership and inspiration to bring this presentation to campus. I'd like to also thank **Andrea Wittig** and **Cheryl Thury** for helping to coordinate the event. If you would like to attend more events in the speaker series, [please RSVP online](#). Flex credit is also offered to faculty. Please contact [Monica Acuña](#) if you cannot log in.



Thanks,
Jose

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