



Watsonville/Aptos Adult Education News and Views

"If you have come here to help me, then you are wasting your time...But if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together."—Lila Watson, Australian aboriginal educator



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The Cupid's Dart Issue

Feb. 10, 2006

Community Advisory Council Hears Report on Career Technical Education

Student Persistence: Strategies that Work



CTE Chair Kim Iwasko presents to over 50 in attendance at the Community Advisory Council meeting

On Wednesday, Feb. 8, Kim Iwako and several students from our career and technical education classes spoke with great impact to a broadly representative group of our community friends. In addition to reviewing our current offerings, the students shared what it meant to have choices and opportunities about their careers. They praised teachers like Kim who helped them orient themselves to concrete next steps in their career paths. They spoke about the importance of short term training, with specific goals. The meeting ended in an open discussion about what we can do, as an adult education program, better to meet job training needs, and to address the barriers some of our students might have beyond just basic skills and English language development. It was a very useful meeting.

We've had a large influx of new students to many of our classes in the last month. What are we doing, in this year when we are focusing on persistence, to keep them or help them reach their goals? Remember we've identified some basic principles that seem to have an impact. Here are a few more from research and practice::

The students need to feel part of a group, to feel in an environment that is culturally responsive to them, and in a setting where they feel valued.

Students want clear goals, short term and reachable. They want feedback on their progress. In recent student council meetings students wondered why teachers didn't give them monthly tests on what had been studied so the students could know how they were doing, and what they needed to study.

Plans for 150th Anniversary Celebration

Saturday, March 11, 11:00am - 4:00pm, Green Valley

Plans move ahead for what promises to be a great day for our school. There will be dancers, music (among others, our own Juan Carlos Pozo and also Kevin Kraft), demonstrations, and food. Plans are for the day to end in a dance with a DJ. We've tried to identify many alumni and interested friends to invite them, but please help us. Tell all of our students and if there are people that should be formally invited please let Cathy Jo or Natalie know.



WAAE Calendar



*Community Advisory Council
Wednesday, February 8,
10:30 a.m. - noon*

Career and Technical Education at WAAE, County Job Market Outlook

*School Council
Wednesday, February 8
4:00-6:00, Porter*

**Safety
Drills**

Thursday, February 9 - Lockdown drill

Wednesday, March 8 - Fire drill

Wednesday, April 5 - Earthquake drill

*All drills will take place for Porter at 10:00 am and 7:30 pm
and at GV at 10:30 am and 7:30 pm*

*School Holidays (no school),
Presidents Days*

Monday, February 13

Monday, February 20

*150th Anniversary of California Public Adult Education
WAAE Celebration*

Saturday, March 11, 8:00-noon, Green Valley

Adult School Students Succeed Dinner

Sacramento, Hyatt

Sunday, March 12

CCAE Legislation Day

State Capitol

Monday, March 13

Spring Break

April 14 - 22