Cypress College ‘Opening Day’ Meeting Includes ‘State of the College’

The pre-semester meeting covered enrollment, budget, safety, SLOs, educational equity and outcomes, and student demographics.

Cypress College faculty, staff, and administrators gathered on Friday morning for the semi-annual “Opening Day” meeting. The morning’s agenda included a “State of the College” presentation by President Bob Simpson. Also discussed were the enrollment picture, budget, safety and preparedness, Student Learning Outcomes, educational equity and outcomes, and student demographics.

Dr. Simpson shared with attendees that following the passage of Prop. 30, Cypress College added more than 1,000 additional spots in class, and the equivalent of 64 additional courses. The college’s interim Executive Vice President, Dr. Steve Donley, reported that enrollment is up more than 700 students as of yesterday.

Touching on the budget, Karen Cant, the college’s Vice President of Administrative Services, said that — for the first time in five years — the state will not be reducing Cypress College’s budget. She also reported that resident students will not be subjected to increased enrollment fees (these fees are established by the state Legislature).

Cant also discussed the college’s upcoming emergency preparation drill. The drill scenario, an active shooter, was planned a year ago, but has taken on additional significance in the wake of recent events — including the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in December. Both the Cypress Police Department and the Orange County Fire Authority will participate in the drill. The drill is an exercise, but not a simulation (meaning there will be no role playing). You can expect to hear more about the drill as the February 21 date approaches.

Dr. Santanu Bandyopadhyay, the Director of Institutional Research and Planning, and Nancy Deutsch, a faculty member with additional responsibilities as the SLO coordinator, discussed the current status of the college’s Student Learning Outcomes. SLOs are a state accountability requirement. Our status report is due in March.

Paul de Dios, the Dean of Counseling and Student Development, then kicked off a Dialogue on Equity and Outcomes. He was joined by Dr. Rick Rams, Dean of Student Support Services, and Dr. Gil Contreras, the EOPS Manager. Dr. Simpson then furthered the conversation, sharing student performance data that was very thought provoking. Because this topic is key to our Strategic Plan, we’ll definitely be sharing more information on an ongoing basis.

Continued on page 2

@Cypress is published each week. If you would like to have items included, please contact Marc Posner in the Public Information Office at ext. 47006 or mposner@cypresscollege.edu.

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BUDGET CENTRAL: What is ‘FTES’ Anyway?

The mnemonic FTES stands for Full-Time Equivalent Student and refers to the number of hours that a full-time student would attend classes. This equates to approximately 525 hours of attendance. For example, a group of students attending a total of 525 hours among them would translate to one (1) FTES.

Each year, the district sets an FTES budgeting process and takes into account the district’s “cap.” The “cap” refers to a ceiling of FTES the district will be funded for. Any course offerings that generate FTES beyond this target are unfunded which means that the District will not receive any funds to offset these additional expenses.

Learn more at www.nocccd.edu/BudgetNews.htm.
Deadline Extended for Spring Graduation and Vocational Certificates

The Admissions and Records Office has extended the deadlines for Cypress College students to apply for spring 2013 graduation and spring 2013 vocational certificates.

The revised information is:
• The deadline to apply for spring 2013 graduation at Cypress College has been extended to Monday, February 25, 2013, at 6 p.m.
• The deadline to apply for spring 2013 vocational certificates at Cypress College has been extended to Monday, February 25, 2013, at 6 p.m.

Please share this information with students. It is also being shared with them in MyGateway and on the college’s social media sites.

CONTINUED: Opening Day Meeting Includes ‘State of the College’

Continued from page 1

Dr. Simpson closed the campus-wide meeting with a look at the demographics and psychographics of the generation of “Digitals” who are now enrolling in college. It was an interesting juxtaposition comparing and contrasting students with employees. The presentation was based in part on the book “Generation on a Tightrope” by Arthur Levine and Diane Dean.

A number of people already have requested the slides from the Opening Day presentation, so we’re making those available in a 3.5 mb PDF file.

Mandatory Spring Emergency-Preparation Drill Scheduled for Morning and Evening of February 21

This semester’s emergency-preparation drill tests our response to an active shooter on campus. While we planned this scenario a year ago, events this month on a number of campuses across the country, and December’s tragedy at Sandy Hook Elementary School, are poignant reminders of why we are compelled to take the matter of preparedness seriously.

On February 21, we will conduct an active shooter drill in the morning and will repeat the scenario for evening classes. While no amount of planning, practice, or training can ensure a successful outcome in an emergency situation, not taking these steps almost certainly guarantees failure.

PARTICIPATION IN THE DRILLS IS MANDATORY. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE.

While the thought of someone opening fire on campus is perhaps the most frightening act of violence we can conceive, it is important to place the threat in context. Colleges are very safe environments.

Since we first conducted an active shooter drill in 2009, a number of safety-related changes have been made at the college. These include installation of a speaker system covering the full exterior of the campus, and initiation of the One Call Now text and phone notification system for all employees. We are also exploring physical changes to the campus, including the installation of interior broadcast systems (which are being tested in Humanities) and interior door locks.

Another significant step we have taken is the creation of a Threat Assessment Team. The group is currently in training for their role to serve both as a body available for consultation and as a single repository for threat evaluation. The team will be operational by the end of the spring semester.

What’s most unsettling about a shooting threat on campus is that the active situation could be over in under a minute. That’s insufficient time for mass messaging, or even a response from Campus Safety or the police department. The first line of defense will be individual faculty, staff members, and students.

As part of the drill, we will be broadcasting an international video addressing this issue.

It is important for all employees to consider what they would do in their specific situations. What are the configurations of your various classrooms, work areas, office spaces, etc.? What are your escape options, hide out options?

In addition to individual planning, it is likewise critical that we as a campus community talk about the threat repeatedly. This holds especially true in regards to faculty interaction with their students. They need to hear it from their instructors.

Finally, it is incumbent upon all of us to be aware, to report things that are out of the ordinary, that appear suspicious, or involve inappropriate behavior.

Attached is information on the drill scenario, talking points, and instructions for viewing the video broadcast.
Present

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10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Anaheim Campus Board Room

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Cypress College Nursing Students Work on Rose Parade Nurses Float

The entire senior class of nursing students and nine faculty spent an entire day working on the nurses float entry in this year's Rose Parade. Carol Harvey, who shared this photo with @Cypress, credited colleague Janet Winckler for coordinating the experience. "It was a great day!!" Harvey said.
SPRING 2013 EMERGENCY RESPONSE WORKSHOP

Cypress College will be hosting a workshop offered by the Cypress Police Department on Tuesday, February 19, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in Complex #414.

Workshop Title: Active Shooter on Campus (Police and Fire Authority Response)

Description: The instructors will discuss the general emergency response priorities during and after an active shooter incident. This course will provide suggestions to participants on how to minimize the chaos after the incident. The instructors will discuss the most critical factors for first responders during an active shooter incident; real-time communications for first responders; general deployment guidelines for the police and their working relationship with fire personnel; establishing a command post to coordinate the events and the apprehension of the suspect(s).

At the end of this course, participants will have a better understanding of the general response guidelines for police and fire departments to an active shooter call for service, protocol for establishing a command post during an active shooter incident, and the communication process after a shooting incident on campus.

Instructors: Cypress Police Department and Orange County Fire Authority representatives

Registration for the workshop is available via MyGateway.
Alumnus Trevor Hoffman is Americana Man of the Year

“Cypress College alumnus Trevor Hoffman — who retired from the San Diego Padres as Major League Baseball's all-time saves leader — is being honored by the Cypress College Foundation as the Man of the Year at the 38th Annual Americana Awards. The awards will be held on Saturday, February 23, 2013, at the Disneyland Hotel. Recorded on 1/14/2013.”