

E.F.F.O.R.T. Newsletter

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Are you busing it?

San Diego County residents

Go to

www.sdmts.com/triplanner.asp

to plan your next trip to Grossmont College.



Welcome

E.F.F.O.R.T. is a Grossmont College Foster Youth program that arose out of a state wide initiative designed to assist potential college students who were or are being emancipated out of the foster care system. E.F.F.O.R.T. stands for **E**OPS **F**inancial Aid **F**oster Youth **O**utreach & **R**etention **T**eam. Our mission is to provide this unique student population with the support services they need to not only attain a college education but be successful in the world beyond college. We hope to help students open up a world of opportunity for themselves. You can receive more details from our website at:

www.grossmont.edu/fa/EFFORT.asp

Or

Call the **EFFORT** program at (619) 644-7454 ext. **3711**

Important Dates

- **Last Day to Drop w/o a "W"**
September 4th
- **Last Day to Apply for Tuition Refund**
September 4th
- **Last Day to Exchange Books for Full Refund**
September 4th
- **Labor Day**
September 7
- **Census Day**
September 8
- **Last Day to Apply for P/NP (CR/NC) Semester Length Classes**
September 25

E.F.F.O.R.T. Fall Kickoff Event!

All former foster youth students are welcome!

We will be offering:

- ♦ Pizza
- ♦ Drinks
- ♦ iPod Drawing
- ♦ Giveaways

Friday, September 25th
12:30 pm-2:00 pm
Griffin Gate
(Inside the Student Center)

Don't miss our special guest **Josephine Mojica** from the **SDSU Guardian Scholars Program!**

Learn about the resources that await our E.F.F.O.R.T. students who transfer to SDSU!

Take advantage of this opportunity to connect with our staff, meet new students and have fun!

Disabled Student Programs & Services (DSPS)

The DSPS program at Grossmont College was established to accommodate the academic and support needs of students with disabilities, as mandated by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. DSPS offers eligible students access to a variety of specialized support services and assistive equipment. These services are intended to accommodate students with disabilities in regular college programs and activities.

Grossmont College provides services to students with these disabilities:

- ◆ Acquired Brain Injury
- ◆ Deaf/hearing Impairment
- ◆ Developmental Delay
- ◆ Learning Disability
- ◆ Mobility Limitation
- ◆ Psychological Disability
- ◆ Speech/language Disability
- ◆ Visual Impairment
- ◆ Other Documented Disability

Each disability has different eligibility standards. After consultation with a DSPS Specialist, students may be requested to submit additional documentation that

will assist in clarifying the most appropriate level of service.

DSPS provides students with a wide variety of services and accommodations. These services and accommodations are intended to "level the playing field" for students with disabilities so that they may participate as fully as possible in learning environments. Some of the services and accommodations DSPS provides include the following:

- ◆ Books on CD (Recordings for the Blind and Dyslexic--RFB&D)
- ◆ Disability-Related Counseling
- ◆ Learning Disabilities Assessment
- ◆ Mobility Assistance on Campus
- ◆ Note-Taking Assistance
- ◆ Priority Registration
- ◆ Referrals to Community Agencies
- ◆ Sign Language Interpreters
- ◆ Test Proctoring Accommodations
- ◆ Enlarged Print Materials
- ◆ FM Loop System (for students with hearing impairments)
- ◆ Talking Calculator
- ◆ Tape Recorder Loan
- ◆ TTY and Voice Amplified

Phone Access

- ◆ Other Services and Equipment Based on Individual Needs

DSPS provides services to any enrolled Grossmont College student who has a verified disability which may affect academic and personal success. Students with either permanent or temporary disabilities are eligible.

Decisions regarding the accommodations to be provided are made on an individualized basis by a DSPS Specialist in consultation with the student.

In addition, written documentation of a disability must be on file before students can receive services.

The DSPS Office is located in the northwest corner of the Administration building (Room 110). DSPS is open Monday through Thursday, from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Friday, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM.

To contact the DSPS office please call DSPS Specialist and E.F.F.O.R.T Liaison, **Carl Fielden** directly at (619) 644-7111 or via e-mail at Carl.Fielden@gcccd.edu. Please mention that you are an E.F.F.O.R.T student.

“These services and accommodations are intended to "level the playing field" for students with disabilities...”

Updating Your Contact Information

The valuable services that the EFFORT program offers can only be extended if we are able to keep in contact with our students.

Our student population has constantly changing living and financial situations which make it difficult to keep current contact information on file. It is important to always make sure that the Admissions and Records office, EOPS, Financial Aid and any other on-campus office always has your

most recent contact information anytime you change addresses, phone numbers or e-mail addresses.

Updating your information is a simple but vital way to ensure that you are kept in the loop when it comes to notices, deadlines and events pertaining to foster youth services and campus life in general. Your instructors may also send important information before and during class throughout the semester

which you may not receive if accurate information is not available.

By doing this simple task, all of the support services offered by Grossmont College can more easily assist you and make your experiences here more enjoyable.

To update your contact information please call or stop by the Admissions and records office and let their front staff know that you would like to update your information.

Just in Time

One of the goals of the E.F.F.O.R.T. program is to provide our students with community resources that can further assist them beyond what we may be able to provide. One such resource is a San Diego organization called Just in Time. Their mission statement is straightforward: "Just in Time (JIT) helps transitioning foster youth become productive members of society by providing crucial resources, guidance and hope, thereby breaking the cycle of child abuse, homelessness, and crime among this underserved population."

JIT is extremely unique and valuable because, as of now, they are the only organization in San Diego to provide the services and support that they do. JIT offers students emergency financial aid for when you find yourself in a difficult situation financially as well as support to attain higher education, improve skills for the workplace, and become independent and self sufficient. One of this

organization's requirements is that students who seek their services are working towards being self-sufficient through holding full-time jobs or attending college/vocational school.

Just in Time assists their large and diverse student population through a series of five major programs including Emergency/Basic Needs, My First Home, Educational, Vocational, and Long-term Sponsorship/Mentoring Program. The Emergency/Basic Needs Program provides immediate financial support in emergency situations that may include rent money, bus passes, gas cards, interview clothing, and vehicle repair. JIT can also provide youth with a grocery gift card for immediate food relief. My First Home Program provides gently used and new furnishings for a youth's first home as well as assistance with setup of these furnishings. The Educational Program offers youth computers, printers, essential school supplies, and basic

furnishings for their dormitory rooms or college apartments. They also offer information for creating a college budget at their College Bound award ceremony. The Vocational Program provides former foster youth with up to \$500 of vocational and education tools. The Long-term Sponsorship/Mentoring Program provides a board member or volunteer to work one-on-one with a Just in Time youth to identify his/her needs, give life guidance, and connect the youth with all of Just in Time's program resources. This assistance can be maintained throughout a four to five year period.

Throughout the 2008 fiscal year, Just in Time assisted more than 600 former San Diego foster youth ranging from ages 18-26 through these programs with a dedicated team comprised of almost exclusively volunteers. For more information about this program and what they can do for you, please visit the Just in Time web page at www.jitfosteryouth.org.

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Grossmont College Literary Events

As college students, you have the unique opportunity to expose yourself to a multitude of different educational topics and areas of interest. These experiences contribute to your growth as an individual as well as shape your ideas and your ability to relate to the many situations that you will come across in life. The following article highlights an opportunity to experience something new.

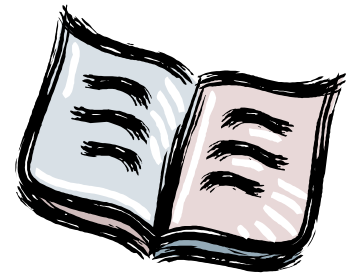
Last spring, the Literary Arts Festival featuring Jimmy Santiago Baca, attracted more than 500 people to experience his invigorating performance. This year, Grossmont College is featuring an impressive line-up of authors eager to share their work and experiences with

our students.

On October 15th, Rae Armantrout will be featured at Grossmont College. Armantrout is the author of ten poetry books as well as a professor of writing in the literature department at UCSD. Armantrout has been published in many anthologies such as *The Oxford Book of Poetry* and magazines including *The New Yorker*, *American Poetry Review*, and the *Los Angeles Times Book Review*. If you would like the opportunity to experience a unique style of poetry, please stop by the Griffin Gate on October 15th at 7 PM.

The 14th Annual Literary Arts Festival takes place April 19-29. This year's festival will feature quite a few talented writers including Matt De La Peña,

Marilyn Chin, Sarah Shun-lien Bynum, and Ella deCastro Baron. Stay tuned for more information about this upcoming event in a future edition of the E.F.F.O.R.T. Newsletter.



California College Pathways

Celebrating Stories of Success

The California College Pathways is a partnership between the John Foundation and the CSU Office of the Chancellor. This initiative is funded by the Stuart Foundation and the Walter S. Johnson Foundation.

The goal of the California College Pathways is to increase the number of foster youth in California who enter higher education and achieve an academic outcome by expanding access to campus support programs, such as the Guardian Scholars Program, the Renaissance Scholars Program and other successful approaches to supporting former foster youth on campus.

It is well known that participation in campus support programs can mean the difference between success and failure in a college environment. In the California College Pathways Summer 2009 Newsletter, the success stories of graduates of many different programs across California were highlighted in hopes of encouraging and inspiring former foster youth who are heading down the same path of success. It is no secret that, during your college experience and your career beyond higher education, you will come across trying times and difficult situations. Sometimes, inspirational stories of people who started out just like you are all that is needed to get through life's hardships.

The following are a couple of success stories that we hope will help keep you motivated to reach your goals.

Sy Mobley
Fullerton College, AA Theatre Arts

Growing up, Sy heard messages that he would never succeed in life and college was not an option. Sy refused to accept these negative messages and enrolled at Fullerton College with a goal of earning an associate's degree in theater arts. Fullerton College offered Sy the stability of a positive learning environment with other students who had similar goals and aspirations. Sy made lifelong friends and learned about great programs such as EOPS and the Guardian Scholars program. Sy met advisor, Dolores Cornejo, who worked tirelessly to ensure that Sy not only graduate but transfer to a college of his choosing. Over the next two years, he pursued his passion in theater arts and was offered a full scholarship to Chapman University in dance. Sy candidly shared that the challenges he faced during his transition from foster care to independence have played a vital role in his development. Sy says, "I take nothing for granted. I have learned that working hard academically will put me closer to my goal of being the first person in my family to earn a college degree." His dream is to open up a school for disadvantage students to gain a deeper appreciation for the arts. Sy Mobley embodies the saying, "Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve."

Iris Hernandez
CSU Stanislaus, BA Sociology

Iris found a way to escape from the chaos of her home life through school, where she excelled. She left an abusive home at age 13 and was placed into foster care. By age 14, Iris dropped out of middle school and was a chronic runaway. By the time she was 23, she was a single parent of two children and attending Valley College in Los Angeles. Despite all of the challenges Iris faced in her life, she never gave up and managed to transfer to CSU Stanislaus where she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology. Iris believes she would not have made it if it had not been for the support and mentoring she received through the Promise Scholars Program. Iris has been accepted into the graduate program at CSUS in public administration and will continue her studies this fall. As a former foster youth and single parent, Iris wants others in similar situations to know, "It may seem hard, yet nothing is impossible. You can accomplish whatever you set your mind on doing."



Our program is committed to offering our EFFORT students a special kind of service and dedication. We pride ourselves on being able to offer our students the kind of support that they desperately need. Unfortunately, this may not always extend everywhere else they go. Although our team members work very hard to bring you the best services we can, our program wouldn't be what it is today without you, the student. That is why we value your opinion when it comes to how we can better assist you. If you have any questions, comments or concerns about what we do please feel free to contact us with your opinion. Maybe you have a suggestion about something you would like to see us offer, a story that you would like to see included in our newsletter or even just to show appreciation or to encourage your fellow classmates; we always look forward to hearing from you.

You may contact us by e-mailing your questions, comments or concerns to
EFFORT Student Liaison Nathaniel Martinez at:
nathaniel_martinez@gcccd.edu