

G R O S S M O N T C O L L E G E



Hello Colleagues!

Well, we have arrived in March, and soon the days will be longer, and the light will follow. This is a great metaphor for how our students may be feeling. For those who are finishing up with us, they are awaiting acceptance notices or job offers. For all of us, the work of this year is becoming more visible. As planning translates into action, we continue to assess progress and engage with constituent groups. If you feel a perspective is missing, reach out. Strong outcomes depend on broad engagement and clear responsibility.

Decisions

Basic Needs & Gizmo's Kitchen

We have now opened the expanded Gizmo's Kitchen in the former Griffin Grill, and students are engaging in large numbers. [Find more information on Gizmo's hours and our basic needs services.](#)

Farmer's Fridge, Fresh Vending and coming...Griffin Grind

We now have several food options on campus. Farmer's Fridge fresh vending is available in Building 60 (Griffin Center) and the lower level of Building 34. Food trucks are available on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, and rotate every week.

[See the food truck schedule.](#)

We are very close to reopening Java Market with the new name Griffin Grind. We are excited to invite Lemon Grove Coffee to our campus, which will lease the space. Look for a weekly email beginning this week that will alert the campus to all of your options. We will be conducting surveys in the coming weeks to get feedback.

Strategic Hires

We have approved the following strategic hires in February for Grossmont College. Please look for email requests from your senates to serve on these important search committees.

- General Maintenance Worker Sr.
- Custodian
- CDC Assistant Sr.
- CDC Aide
- Vice President of Student Services
- Dean of Counseling
- Account Clerk, Sr.
- Photography and Digital Imaging Technician
- Dean, ESBS
- Dean, ALC
- Instructional Electronics Technician Sr.
- ESL Instructor

Directions

Accreditation

We are in the heart of the review process for our **2026 Accreditation**. We have met with the leads of our visiting team, and they have begun the process of reviewing our Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER), and this week have made requests for additional evidence. The team will be holding an open forum for Grossmont College on March 10 from 2-3 PM via Zoom. Check your email for the Zoom link to participate.

Facilities Projects and Planning

We are moving ahead with three major projects on our campus.

The **Building 51/55** remodel is progressing on deadline, and we are planning to occupy the new spaces in Fall 2026 as long as we remain on track. **Buildings 52, 53, and 54** were also scheduled to be remodeled, however a recent analysis shows that even with the resources set aside, it would be difficult to attain the building standards that we are gaining in 51/55. We have determined that we will be using a similar footprint to Building 36 (without the end outdoor spaces) and build a new building instead of remodeling. We are aware that classroom capacities are different for programs that will move back into this new space, and we are working with Gafcon, IOPS, and FMO to work through these opportunities. Stay tuned, as we will be working with faculty, staff, and leadership as we determine next steps.

We will also be working on a remodel of our main **gym** to include flooring, bleachers, and air conditioning! We have a short runway to make this happen, and we will work with the folks who use that space to determine priorities.

Last but not least, our colleagues in **the 200s complex** have long been awaiting a remodel, new buildings, etc. We have determined that remodeling any of the spaces currently used for music, theater, dance, and comm studies would not sufficiently improve those spaces. We will be proposing that a new 200 complex be built under the new bond for those areas, and we will be working with the faculty and staff in the areas impacted to begin planning for this new space.

And speaking of a bond...we are in the initial stages of gathering feedback regarding community support for a new bond. For Grossmont College, there are significant infrastructure issues with water, fire/life safety, and buildings that have outlived their purpose. Just some of these areas are our Child Development Center, aquatics facilities, Student Services areas, the college front door, and of course our 200s buildings. There are, of course, places all over campus that need attention, and we will give the highest priority to safety, learning, and service environments.

Enrollment Strategies

We will be meeting over the next few months to strategize on how to continue to build back our enrollment. We as a district are very close to being able to claim growth funds, and it will take everyone's efforts and ideas to continue positive progress. For Fall 2026, we have instituted a **new block schedule** that will create opportunities for

students to plan class schedules without gaps and overlaps in time. It will also help us to use our facilities more efficiently. I am hopeful that this will result in increased enrollment for us. This schedule has been in the works for over a year. We are also tying our completion and retention efforts to enrollment management. We lose almost half of our students from Fall to Fall, even if they haven't completed. We will be looking for data and dialogue to inform new or promising past practices to correct that trend. Please connect with chairs or others who serve on enrollment strategies to lend your expertise.

Distinctions

A big thank you to everyone who contributed to our **Black History Month** celebrations and learning opportunities: **Nicole Chung, James Canady, Niko Crumpton, Michelle Rowe-Odom, Ojore Bushfan, Patrice Braswell, Rukiya Akua, Jason Allen, Makini Cambridge Ragan, Sharon Sampson, Dianne Abdullah Smith, Emmanuel Corrales, Mason Mitchell, Natalye Harpin, Sam Rigby, Chanika Marsh, Anisa Flowers, Derek Cannon, Brodney Fitzgerald, Teya Searles, Meya Alomar, Matthew Ford, Radella Cruz, and Ava Gill.**

Congratulations to **Renee** Nasori, who has been elected as President of the San Diego Chapter of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC). Her term begins in 2026.

Maura Mehrian recently led the coordination of the WestEd Program for Infant Toddler Care (PITC) filming at the Grossmont College Child Development Center. This showcases Grossmont College as a model site for early childhood education best practices and provides statewide training visibility for the program and its students.

A shoutout to our colleagues who are supporting our student athletes, Counselor Athletics Counselor, **Lina Kern**. Lina has been tirelessly working with 300 student-athletes who must have their Academic Education Plans to be eligible to compete. Despite not having Academic Advisor support, Lina has still completed all of our spring sports student-athletes' education plans well before the March 15th deadline. Kudos, Lina, and let's get that academic advisor position filled! Also, a shoutout to **Lisa Lungren** in Admissions and Records. Each academic year, she helps manually provide permissions to our student-athletes to join our learning communities, as well as immediately helps any of our students who have conflicts when trying to register for their classes. Thank you, Lisa!

Congratulations to our spring Speech and Debate students who competed at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association's (PSCFA) Spring Champs Tournament held at Moorpark College:

- Jadine Montanez, 1st Place in Dramatic Interpretation
- Ivonne Cruz, 3rd Place in Program Oral Interpretation
- Edgar Torre, 5th Place in Impromptu Speaking
- Jadine Montanez, 6th Place in Prose Interpretation
- Amaya Hill, 7th Place in Program Oral Interpretation
- Edgar Torre, 7th Place in Dramatic Interpretation
- Tyler Paper, Semi-Finalist in Impromptu Speaking

Students who had at least a 3.75 GPA in the fall and competed in at least three tournaments: Ivonne Cruz, Rocco Fazio, Sophia Lepari, Jadine Montanez, Edgar Torre.

Congratulations to our Theatre Arts standouts at the Craig Noel Awards! Jocorey Mitchell (current student) won for Outstanding Featured Performance in a Play for *The Hot Wing King* at Cygnet Theatre, directed by Grossmont College alumnus Kian Kline-Chilton. Sammy Webster (adjunct faculty) won for Outstanding Lighting Design for *The Strangers* at Chalk Circle Collective, the cast of which included another Grossmont College alumnus, Michael Amira Temple.

Karolia Macias, Rafael Ayala, Marcelo Nieto, and Danya Sanchez were invited by the State Chancellor's Office to present on the work they led to redesign and align Grossmont's student services data collection, evaluation, goal setting, and strategic planning work with the new "Vision Aligned Reporting" elements across the state. Their

innovative and comprehensive approach was the featured presentation at the Vision Aligned Reporting General Convening in Sacramento. It will be featured again at the Long Beach Convening later in March.

Gregory Pace and the Grossmont College Veterans Services team have made significant progress in just a few months, improving systems and accelerating support for military-connected students. As of Feb. 27, 2026, military and veteran enrollment is up 27% compared to fall 2025. Of 661 enrolled students, 505 are using education benefits, and 467 of those students (93%) have already been certified. The team's average certification time is seven days from receipt of a student's intent form, ensuring timely access to benefits and uninterrupted enrollment.



Spring sports are underway! The big launch of our inaugural Women's Flag Football Team is here! We are excited to root for Coach Eboni Chambers and our first team as they start to compete as a club team this year. [Check out the Grossmont Athletics schedule.](#)

Go Griffins!

Look for the **Griffin Monthly** soon for even more campus news.

Dr. Pamela T. Luster
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