

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



**Hello Colleagues!**

April is upon us, and we are in full swing as we return from Spring Break. Fast track courses began this week, and we are seeing healthy enrollments. We are already planning for Summer and Fall terms, thinking deeply about what our students will need to start and continue their journeys.

**Decisions**



### **Student Banner Glow-Up**

Our new campus banners are up, featuring our students and the journeys they represent —*every voice, every journey, every student*—made visible across our campus. Thank you to everyone who helped to make this possible, led by **Ernesto Rivera** and our College and Community Relations team.

### **Basic Needs & Gizmo's Kitchen**

We've now been open in the expanded Gizmo's Kitchen in the former Griffin Grill for two months, and students are engaging in large numbers. Please continue to refer students. Visit [Gizmo's Kitchen and Basic Needs Services](#) for food pantry hours, eligibility requirements, and student support resources.

### **Griffin Grind**

The Griffin Grind is **open!** The new coffee shop's hours are 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday-Thursday, and 8 a.m. to noon on Fridays. We now have several food options on campus, and an email with our schedules goes out on Monday mornings. We will conduct food feedback surveys over the next few weeks as we assess our offerings.

### **Hiring**

We are in the midst of interviews for several important positions for Grossmont College. Thank you to those of you who have served on these committees. Next month we will begin listing the folks who are joining us, and update the strategic hire list.

### **Commencement Program**

Each year, the commencement committee seeks feedback from students, staff, and families regarding the commencement experience. In the last two years, a large number of respondents suggested that the Distinguished Faculty Award be preserved for other campus events, and that the ceremony focus on students and their accomplishments. We have made the decision to continue to celebrate awardees at both Convocation and the College Recognition Ceremony. The awardees will still have the honor of leading the delegation, along with the Academic Senate President, for the Commencement procession and have their award listed in the program.

## **Directions**

### **New funding for Professional Development**

Grossmont College has received an Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative Grant (IEPI) to study and implement a cohesive and effective professional development program

for the college. Congratulations to the writing team led by **Dr Victoria Rodriguez** and the professional development committee for supporting this work. The college will receive \$250,000 to create a multi-prong, equitable, and sustainable structure for professional development. Look for information coming soon on how to be involved.

### **Accreditation**

We have received feedback from our Accreditation Visiting Team, who have made 2 Core Inquiries in preparation for the team's visit in the Fall. The team is asking for evidence and improvements in regular and substantial interaction (RSI) and for non-faculty evaluations. An email has gone out to faculty to review their online courses for RSI, and a plan is in place to ensure evaluations are complete. The team will be requesting a random sample of online courses at the end of May, so all work must be done during the semester to meet both the federal requirement and standard.

### **Facilities Projects and Planning**

We are honing in on the completion of Buildings 51 and 55, with occupancy expected for the Summer and courses beginning in the Fall. We are currently assessing the need for swing space as we look ahead at projects for 52,53 and 54, and for the bond-funded (crossing fingers) 200 spaces.

## **Distinctions**

### **National Recognition for Respiratory Therapy Excellence**

The Grossmont College Respiratory Therapy program is among a select group of programs that will be recognized by the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) to receive the ***Distinguished RRT Credentialing Success Award***. This award is presented as part of the CoARC's continued efforts to value the RRT credential as a standard of professional achievement. From a program effectiveness perspective, the CoARC views the RRT credential as a measure of a program's success in inspiring its graduates to achieve their highest educational and professional aspirations.

In selecting programs for this recognition, the CoARC Board used objective criteria based on key accreditation metrics documented in the 2025 Annual Report of Current Status (RCS). These programs were required to: (1) have three or more years of outcomes data; (2) hold accreditation without a progress report at the end of the year; (3) document RRT credentialing success of 90% or above, and (4) meet or exceed established CoARC thresholds for TMC high cut score and retention.

### **Speech and Debate Team Earn International Recognition in Athens**

Congratulations to the Grossmont College Speech and Debate Team, which had an outstanding showing at the International Forensics Association annual tournament held in Athens, Greece, on March 9–10, 2026. Competing against students from across the globe, our Griffins demonstrated excellence across multiple events.

**Sophia Lepari:** Semi-Finalist, IPDA Debate; 7th Place Speaker Award (out of 63 competitors); Semi-Finalist, Persuasive Speaking

**Edgar Torre:** Semi-Finalist, Dramatic Interpretation; Semi-Finalist, Impromptu Speaking

**William Schares:** Semi-Finalist, Impromptu Speaking

**Jadine Montanez:** Semi-Finalist, Prose Interpretation

Excellent work also by **Amaya Hill**, **Benny Lindall**, and **Tyler Paper**.

Thank you to coaches **Roxanne Tuscany**, **Michael McHan**, and **Andrew Jassick** for their leadership and support of our students.

## **Upcoming Events**



ALA  
American  
Library  
Association

UNITED STATES  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
MUSEUM

PRESENTED BY:  
GROSSMONT  
COLLEGE

# AMERICANS AND THE HOLOCAUST

April 14–May 21, 2026

Grossmont Community  
College Library

## Grossmont College Library to Host “Americans and the Holocaust” Exhibition

Grossmont College Library will host Americans and the Holocaust, a traveling exhibition from April 14 to May 21, 2026. The college is one of 50 libraries nationwide selected to present the exhibition, which is organized by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the American Library Association. Through primary sources and historical analysis, the exhibition explores how Americans responded to the rise of Nazism during the 1930s and '40s. It examines the social, political, and economic factors that shaped public awareness and action, while highlighting the experiences of individuals and groups who made difficult choices during this period.

### Register for the Spring 2026 Planning Forum

You are invited to attend the Spring 2026 Planning Forum. This forum will provide an overview of the new Planning Forum format, a preview of the upcoming Strategic Plan development timeline, and an opportunity to engage in collaborative discussion around KPIs and institutional priorities. We hope you'll join us for a morning of conversation, reflection, and shared planning. [Please register for the forum.](#)

### Save the Date! Grossmont College Campus Forum

Grossmont College will host a Campus Forum on Monday, April 27, from 2 to 3 p.m. in Griffin Gate. Join campus leadership for an in-person and streamed conversation focused on college updates, priorities, and opportunities to connect as a community.

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

### Dr. Pamela T. Luster

Interim President, Grossmont College

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