

GROSSMONT COLLEGE



Decisions, Directions, and Distinctions: November 2025



Greetings, Grossmont College Colleagues,

This is the monthly recap from the President's Office, highlighting **Decisions, Directions, and Distinctions**. Each month, I'll share the choices shaping our work, the directions guiding our future, and the distinctions that make our community shine.

Decisions

Food Services

We have made the difficult decision to discontinue food services through Genuine Foods. As you know, we have had challenges with escalating food prices, demand, and the deficits created in the past few years. We acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of Chef Grace in running our Griffin Grill and Catering, and we will be sorry to see them leave our campus. The last day of service to campus will be December 12.

As we make this transition, we are working on several options simultaneously to provide food service to campus. The first is an opportunity to reopen Java Market through a leased space agreement with a local café that will provide specialty beverages and some take-and-go fresh food. The contracts, hours, and menus are very close to completion, and we should be able to be up and running by January 2026. A small group of constituents are helping to taste test and assess options for fresh vending companies to find locations across campus to provide extended access to fresh food both in location

and time. In addition, we are considering having a variety of food trucks weekly on campus. Finally, as we expand Gizmo's Kitchen, we hope to provide a much larger variety of foods to meet the basic needs of our students. We are hopeful that we can find a company to provide a daily lunch at little or no cost to our students. I want to be clear: it is not one of these options, but all of them, in an effort to provide sufficient sustenance for all.

For those of you who have relied on Genuine Foods for catering, Business Services will be working on creating vendor agreements with vendors that you already use, or new ones that you would like to use. In this way, we will have agreements in place and this should streamline the process for your events.

Gizmo's Kitchen

As you know, we are seeing a significant increase in students who need basic needs support due to ongoing cuts to programs like SNAP. We are moving ahead on the move of Gizmo's to a larger space in the bookstore as Barnes and Noble consolidates its floor space. This will enable the college to consider a larger commitment to food and broader services. If you would like to contribute to this effort, consider a gift through the [GCCCD Foundation](#).

Strategic Hires

Here are the strategic hires approved by the President's Cabinet that will be going to the next College Council meetings. To see all of the hiring decisions for fall thus far, please refer to previous [editions of our newsletter](#).

- Specialty Lab Tech III – Ceramics (IA-00028)
- Specialty Lab Tech IV – AHN (IA-00005)
- Child Development Instructor (IN-00075)
- Instructional Media Services Technician (CL-00419)
- Admissions and Records Specialist (CL-00492)

Directions

Enrollment Growth and Accreditation

We continue to work together to create successful outcomes for our students. Since we are now past census for our mid-start courses, I can happily report that we have reached an unduplicated headcount of 15,177, and 1.8% increase over Fall 2024. Additionally, enrollments have increased by 3.4% and FTES increased by 3.6 %. Districtwide. We are at 96% of our Fall 2025 FTES target. This will mean for spring that we will need to monitor enrollment closely, with the potential for adding sections strategically that have heavy demand, and work hard to fill all courses in the schedule to meet the goal of 5% growth over the total 2025-2026 academic year.

Our Accreditation Institutional Self-Evaluation Report is now with our Board of Trustees and will be submitted to ACCJC by January 2026. Congratulations to the many folks who contributed to the writing, research, and implementation of this report under the able leadership of **Denise Schulmeyer, Joan Ahrens, and Tate Hurvitz**.

Distinctions



Grossmont College's Speech and Debate Team had the first tournament of the semester at Point Loma Nazarene University and earned the **1st Place Community College Sweepstakes Award**. Two competitors, Benny Lindall and Sophia Lepari, were awarded \$3,000 scholarships each as top Community College Debate Speakers in each of their divisions. Several students won awards in their divisions, and we wish them well as they compete this season! Bravo to the team and your great faculty coaches!

The Summit staff won **first place for best print magazine** in the 52nd Annual Excellence in Journalism Awards, hosted by the San Diego Press Club. The judges praised *The Summit* for a strong mix of engaging visuals and well-balanced, topical coverage: "The variety of content was impressive, providing a topical overview of issues, events, elections, tips with a balance of entertaining and serious content. The visuals were a highlight, drawing the reader into the content. The piece on immigration enforcement was especially impressive, as was the look at the closure of a pool and its impact on students. Sports coverage was also well done."

The award was accepted by Oscar Alcon and Sam Pollmann, current editor-in-chief and staff writer, on Oct. 28 at the SDPC's award event. Their attendance was generously sponsored by donations to The Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges. Congratulations Summit staff, and to Summit advisor, Dr. Jeanette Calo.

Grossmont College Athletics is having a successful fall season as we root on all of our teams and look forward to the playoffs for our football program, which has officially been invited to the 2025 Beach Bowl hosted by West Los Angeles College on November 22. The Southern California Football Association and 3C2A announced this year's postseason matchups, with #6 Grossmont (6–4) set to face #5 West LA (7–3). This achievement reflects the dedication of our student-athletes and coaches, and we're proud to see their hard work recognized at the regional level.

Women's Volleyball is also on the road to the playoffs. The Griffins play their final regular-season game this Friday, here at home at 6 p.m. Postseason seeding will be determined this weekend as the team continues its outstanding season.

Go Griffins!

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

Dr. Pamela T. Luster

Interim President, Grossmont College

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