



## Academic Senate President's Message

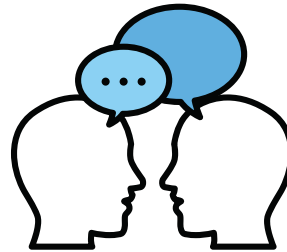
As I begin my second and final term as Academic Senate President, I am reflecting on the work I have done and the work still ahead. I am grateful that I have had this opportunity and hope I am able to make a positive impact on our students and our campus.

During convocation, I shared that I experienced some personal struggles during the summer and that it was through human connection that I was able to get through some very difficult moments. I realized that by being willing to ask for help, I learned that friends and colleagues had similar experiences and this created a connection that was very healing.

As we return to our jobs and interact with colleagues and students, it is important to keep in mind that we do not know what people have endured in their lives. We must approach each other with kindness and compassion.

Sometimes we don't realize that it is through struggle, that we can create the strongest connection.

*Pearl Lopez*



## Joint Retreat

The Academic Senates of Grossmont and Cuyamaca College met in the Griffin Gate at Grossmont to participate in a workshop on conflict management communication skills. The workshop was led by Grossmont Communication faculty members Victoria Curran and Joel Castellaw.

The workshop was well attended and guests learned about different styles of communication and practiced active listening. Feedback was very positive. The workshop was a follow up to the resolution passed by both Senates on communication from an equity lens.

## Highlights

- A participatory governance retreat was held in the summer to discuss the handbook and continue offering suggestions for improvement.
- The Academic Calendar committee met to develop the 24-25 calendar.
- The new MESA program was kicked off by MESA Program coordinator Brodney Fitzgerald. The program is aimed at increasing the success of underrepresented students interested in STEM fields.
- New Interim VP of Academic Affairs, Agustin Albarran, was invited to the Senate meeting to provide an update on enrollment and plans for retention and persistence.
- The Senate Officers committee is updating the bylaws and is identifying goals for the Senate such as professional development, community engagement, equity and student advocacy.



## Distinguished Faculty

Gregg Robinson received the Distinguished Faculty award for the 2023-2024 academic year. Gregg has dedicated 35 years to Grossmont College and recently announced his retirement. Students express how his level of energy and enthusiasm is that of a recently hired faculty member. Endless!

Gregg's contributions have impacted our entire District and local community. In addition to his involvement with our faculty union, he is very passionate about student housing issues. He has received awards from community organizations for his advocacy and contributions.