Cerro Coso students and Phi Theta Kappa officers Nolan Havig and Hannah Small have been named to the 2016 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team, a state-wide competition co-sponsored by the Community College League of California and Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Building on the success of the national All-USA Team Program, Phi Theta Kappa launched the All-State Academic Team Program to provide recognition at the state level for top community college students. Grades, leadership, and community service determine selection to the All-California first, second, and third teams. The selection for the All-California teams was determined by the scores nominees received from Phi Theta Kappa judges. Nolan and Hannah are among the 76 California students chosen for this year’s awards and represent some of the best of the two million students enrolled in California 112 community colleges. Nolan and Hannah also received 2016 Exemplary Achievement Awards from the Honors Transfer Council of California (HTCC) for their outstanding work in honors. Hannah’s abstract from her 2015 HTCC Undergraduate Honors Research presentation was published in the HTCC anthology Building Bridges, published by UC Irvine. Nolan received the Case Study Challenge Award, 2nd place winner in the NerdNation t-shirt competition and scholarship, and was a semifinalist in the Scholarship Bowl. Congratulations on your outstanding accomplishments Hannah and Nolan!
CTE Dean – Minister of Happiness

Great explorers deserve great stories, and new CTE Dean Michael Kane has many exciting tales to tell. Dr. Seuss’ quote “Why fit in when you were born to stand out,” is exactly what comes to mind when hearing of Kane’s many adventures in life. Whether guiding students down the headwaters of the mighty Amazon, hiking the Appalachian Trail, photographing polar bears in Canada, or swimming with whale sharks in Georgia, one thing is for sure...Kane’s “spirit of adventure” is his continual willingness to meet and be moved by the unexpected, larger forces, and possibilities of life. He grew up in Upstate New York and attended Columbia Greene Community College in Hudson. Kane says he is a “student of life for life” and enjoys educational challenges. A river biologist by profession, Kane has served in many capacities in the education system over the years, starting as a high school biology teacher. He spent 3 years working for a consulting firm managing projects in the developing world funded by the United States Agency for International Development and assisted in developing a black lipped pearl oyster farm in the Cook Islands, a tuna fish project in Tonga, and a red snapper project in Tuvalu. He managed the Math, Engineering, Science, and Achievement (MESA) Program at Hartnell College in Salinas, California, for 3 years, served as the Dean of Science and Engineering at American River College, and spent 8.5 years as the Associate Dean of Science and Math at Sierra College in Rocklin. Danger doesn’t lie in employing routine, but in mistaking it for living. In search of happiness, Kane lives in a way that balances strategic structure with meaningful quests. He took eight months off of work and spent that time walking across Scotland and the hills of Southern Utah, and took a month walking in the Himalayas. It took a year and a half to plan but the execution of that plan created some of the happiest times of his life and led to the creation of his blog, the Ministry of Happiness. When asked what made Cerro Coso appealing to him he said, “the change in scenery and challenge of creating new workforce programs in an area with little or no population growth was intriguing. I love the high desert, surrounded by the mountains and desert terrain. It just felt right.” Kane took 18 months off work before coming to Cerro Coso and hiked over 1,000 miles of the Appalachian Trail and is currently writing a book about the experience called “Appalachian Trail Happiness” to be published soon. It should have come as no surprise when Kane claimed that he had attended Burning Man 7 times and hoped to go again next year. An annual gathering of more than 70,000 people, Burning Man is a temporary community erected in the Black Rock Desert in Nevada known as an experiment in community and art. Kane holds an Associate of Science Degree in Life Science from Columbia Greene Community College, dual Bachelor’s Degrees in Biology and Secondary Education from State University of New York, a Master’s Degree in Applied Ecology from Eastern Kentucky University, and has worked on a Ph.D. (ABD) from the University of Tennessee. He also attended the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, California. We wish you much happiness at Cerro Coso, Michael!

Faculty Service Awards

Cerro Coso takes pleasure in recognizing faculty years of service during flex day activities in the fall. Those being recognized this year include: 5 Years of Service – Vivian Baker, Matt Jones, and Sarah King; 15 Years of Service – Cliff Davis, Tom Heck, Valerie Karnes, Loren Sandvik, and Suzie Ama; and 20 Years of Service – Jon Heaton, Joe Slovacek; 25 Years of Service – Matt Hightower. Thank you all for your loyalty and dedicated service to Cerro Coso.

Cerro Coso Community College will be closed Sept. 5th to observe Labor Day
Campbell Earns Doctorate

Cerro Coso congratulates Eastern Sierra College Center (ESCC) Director Deanna Campbell on the successful completion of her Doctorate in Education with emphasis on K12 and Higher Education Leadership from the University of Southern California (USC) Rossier School of Education. The topic of Dr. Campbell’s dissertation was perspectives of Native American community college students. She chose the topic because there was a gap in research and literature focusing on Native American community college students and on the Bishop campus Native Americans represent approximately 10-18% of the student body depending on the semester. Prior to taking the permanent position of Director of the ESCC in 2003, Dr. Campbell had been an adjunct faculty member at the college teaching international business and accounting.

Fulks Dives Into Teaching

“Community colleges are near and dear to my heart,” says new full-time Administration of Justice instructor Peter Fulks. Both of his parents are community college professors. He grew up in Bakersfield, took classes from both Cerro Coso and Bakersfield colleges, and earned an athletic scholarship for swimming to attend California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. He served as a Police Officer in Costa Mesa and Irvine for seven years and, most recently, worked as an executive for corporate security management for a major retailer. Fulks says he is “following his dreams” in his new position at the college that is a good fit for his extensive background in training and coaching. For fun, Fulks is a member of a technical scuba diving organization for a water quality monitoring project. He owns a video production business that produces deep dive videos for recording data. Underwater filming requires specialized equipment and techniques and offers exciting and rare photographic opportunities. Fulks lives in Bear Valley with his wife Heather and two children Noah (6) and Denver (3). He holds a Bachelor’s of Science in Criminal Justice from California Lutheran University and a Master’s in Public Administration from National University.

Cerro Coso extends a warm WELCOME to Peter!
Welcome Week

The parking lots were packed with cars and campuses were buzzing, as Cerro Coso kicked off its first day of classes on August 22. The Student Government of Cerro Coso (SGCC) and Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members were on hand welcoming students, helping them to locate classes, and feeding them breakfast and lunch at the Ridgecrest campus—a great way to start off the new semester. The Student Activities Office made sure students returning to classes were not only welcomed back with enjoyable and fun activities the week before classes started, but also gave them plenty of information about the college’s clubs, services, and activities. The week kicked off on August 15 with information, support services, and games and closed with a movie screening of Pan on Thursday evening in the Sculpture Garden. Welcome week activities were designed to help students engage on campus and included an orientation, barbecue, tours, music, faculty meet and greet, and more. Whether they were new Coyotes or had been at the college for a few semesters, the SGCC and PTK went all out to give students a warm welcome. Students, the reason we smile today!

Welcome Week

Humble Now
A&R Technician

Former DA II in Financial Aid at the Ridgecrest Campus Jessica Humble is NOW an A & R Technician in the Admissions Office. Humble joined the Cerro Coso staff in the summer of 2015. The Admissions and Records Department is often a student’s first stop when visiting and applying for classes at the college. Jessica will join the team of friendly faces that help students with the application process and enrollment in classes. Congratulations on your new position Jessica!

Signing Day for Heck and Smith

Two Cerro Coso Volleyball players, Metzli Heck and Megan Smith, have signed letters of intent to play for universities this fall. Metzli Heck will play for Northland College in West Frankfort, Illinois. The daughter of Coach Tom Heck and his wife Erica, Metzli was named MVP for the Coyotes in 2015-2016, and will receive scholarships to play for Northland. She loves the small hometown feel of West Frankfort, Illinois. Megan Smith has signed on to play for the State University of New York (SUNY) at Potsdam. Born and raised in Ridgecrest, Megan is a Psychology major and made Honorable Mention in 2014-2015 Foothill Athletic Conference All-Conference. One Team. One Dream. Congratulations Metzli and Megan.

Students (l to r) Khalil Shivers, Matt Bush, Abriam Dickson, Michael Nguyen, Tyrell Coleman enjoy a hot dog on the quad compliments of the SGCC.

(L to r) President Jill Board, Metzli Heck with her father Tom Heck.

(L to r) Coach Kim Young, Megan Smith, and Coach Stephanie Phillips.
Advising Students Rewarding for Huckaba

The desert is unfamiliar landscape for new Educational Advisor Diane Huckaba, who grew up and spent most of her life around the beaches on the East Coast. She moved to Ridgecrest almost two years ago from Georgia where her husband Randy served as Command Master Chief for a Naval Submarine Base. This is her husband’s last duty station before he retires after 32 years of service to our country. As a Navy wife Huckaba knows very well how to adapt to new communities. “Everywhere you go there are new events and opportunities and new people to meet that give you that sense of belonging,” she said. Huckaba started attending Chamber luncheons and said, “It’s a great way of finding out what is going in the community,” she also volunteers for the Navy/Marine Core Relief Society teaching a class in “Budgets for Babies”, and became a member of the High Desert Quilt Guild. Volunteers provide critical resources in every community, and Huckaba knows it’s a great way to learn more about local services and opportunities, make friends, and professional contacts. She says she knew early on she wanted to work at the college and took a part-time job as an Academic Advisor for National University waiting for the perfect job to open up. Prior to that she served as an Academic Advisor for Valdosta State University in Georgia. She enjoys her work at Cerro Coso and reminds us that there is much we can learn from one another. Be fearless. Be bold. Explore and try new things. Enjoy yourself and enjoy life. Learn something new every day. Give selflessly. Love unconditionally. Truly be happy. And, be fully present. The Huckaba’s have six children living all over the world including Guam, Sweden, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, and Florida, four grandchildren and two more on the way. In her spare time she enjoys her new hobby of quilting and traveling out of town. Huckaba holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Workforce Education and Training from Valdosta State University in Georgia. Cerro Coso WELCOMES Diane to the team!

Students Stay on Track with GradGuru

Students that download the FREE GradGuru App and complete a short survey will be entered into a contest to win great prizes. GradGuru gives students the deadlines, tips, and personal guidance they need to finish community college faster. Winners will be announced on Fridays beginning August 26th. Students are busy with work and family. And navigating community college can be complicated, especially for the 40 percent of students who are the first in their families to go to college. GradGuru will fill a big part of the information gap, making it easier for students to keep track of deadlines, learn tips and tricks to stay in school, and finish faster. GradGuru is available for FREE on iTunes and Google Plan. Prizes compliments of GradGuru and the CCCC Foundation. Success, Nothing less!

Team Grad Guru (front l to r) Betty Mintz-Jones, and Rachel Barksdale. (Back l to r) Wendy Coward, Cheryl Fitzsimmons, Jessica Hiatt, and Alicia Woolsey.
Patin President Elect

Cerro Coso Community College (CCCC) Foundation Board Director Deidre Patin will serve as President-Elect for 2016-2017 academic year. Since joining the board in 2014, Patin has shown great enthusiasm for the students and work of the college. “I want to give back to the college and the community to help create the same kind of opportunities they afforded me,” she said. A valley resident since the age of 4, Patin attended Burroughs High School and married her high school sweetheart Jason, who served on the Foundation Board for many years. The two moved to Santa Clarita for a period of time and returned to Ridgecrest in 2003. Since that time both have volunteered in many capacities for the betterment of the community. “Giving back is most rewarding when you are connecting to something that is close to you,” said Patin. “I believe strongly in the value of education and its importance for people to be able to better themselves and their families”. She got her first exposure to Cerro Coso in high school working in the Financial Aid Office several hours a week as an ROP student. She went on to attend Cerro Coso and transferred to earn a Bachelor’s of Science in Business Administration. While in college Patin says she met so many people who have had an impact on her future and she has a special heart for the alumni. She will be instrumental in helping the Alumni Association connect with lost alumni through a “Great Alumni Hunt” next spring, linking former and current students to create a pipeline of support for giving, volunteering, and advocacy that is vital to the growth of the college. Patin, a Public Affairs Specialist and Community Liaison on base, says she loves collaboration between organizations because coordinated efforts can accomplish so much more than the efforts of one or a few separately. Patin and her husband Jason are parents to: Christian (25), Bradley (21), Elise (6), and Charlee (4), and are proudly awaiting the birth of their first granddaughter this December. The partnership between the CCCC Foundation and its donors has remained true to the vision of creating quality higher education that enriches the academic, economic, and cultural life of the communities it serves. If you are interested in learning more about the work of the CCCC Foundation contact the College Development Office at 760-384-6260.