

CAMPUS contact!



A message from the CEO

CEO Margie C. Huerta

We've begun another exciting fall semester, and already things are happening fast.

Please help us welcome Native American artist Amado Peña this month as he returns this week to assist DACC students with scholarships. His efforts have raised a great deal of money for our own students the past two years.

Also this week is the ribbon cutting and open house of Phase II, Digital Imaging and Design at the East Mesa Campus. There are other events planned with the open house. Congratulations to Rebecca Kongs and to everyone who has been a part of making that center a reality.

Keep up the good work and help make this a great semester for our students, faculty and staff.

Peña returns to raise funds for DACC students

For the third consecutive year, renowned Native American artist, Amado M. Peña Jr. will be in Las Cruces to raise scholarship funds for Doña Ana Community College students. The event, the Third Annual "An Evening with Amado Peña," begins at 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21, at the Hotel Encanto, 705 S. Telshor Blvd.

"We are excited to have established this partnership with Mr. Peña because we share the same passion for student learning and student success," said Campus Executive Officer Margie Huerta. "We appreciate his taking time from his very busy schedule to travel to Las Cruces to give of his time and talents to raise money for DACC student scholarships."

Peña, a member of Arizona's Pascua Yaqui Tribe, is based in Santa Fe. His works include colorful Southwestern and Mestizo images and mixed-media works, monotypes, etchings, serigraphs and lithographs. Longtime supporters of community college students, Peña and his wife, J. B., offer assistance to thousands of students not only in New Mexico, but also in Arizona, California, Colorado, Oklahoma and Texas.

The art gala event begins at 6 p.m. with no-host cocktails and an exhibit and sales of Peña's works, as well as the event commemorative poster and tile. Peña donates a percentage of his sales to the scholarship fund. This year, a silent auction will feature donated artwork from local artists. Proceeds will go towards the scholarship fund. The gala dinner, program and entertainment begins at 7 p.m., followed by a celebration dance at 8:30.

Tickets for the Gala are \$60 per person and are available by calling 528-7070. Corporate tables of 10 persons are also available for \$700. Students with valid IDs may purchase tickets for \$35.

During his visit, Peña will speak to students at an assembly in the Commons Room from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 20. Posters and tiles will be available for purchase. He also will participate in the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at Phase II of the East Mesa Campus at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 21. For additional information, please call Erlinda Portillo at 528-7070.



Amado M. Peña Jr. and CEO Margie Huerta

EMC plans ribbon cutting, open house

Phase II, Digital Imaging and Design at the east end of the East Mesa Campus will hold an official opening with a ribbon-cutting event and open house at 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 21.



Musical tours, showcases and presentations will be part of the event, to

which several dignitaries are being invited. Make plans to help students, faculty and staff celebrate the success of the new facility.

Students give DACC high rankings on CCSSE

**By Stephanie Haan-Amato, Research Analyst
 Institutional Effectiveness and Planning Office**

DACC received high marks from students on the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE), which was administered to students in a representative sample of courses from each of the DACC centers and campuses in spring 2007.

Benchmark metrics were calculated from the 38 survey questions in five areas: Active and Collaborative Learning, Student Effort, Academic Challenge, Student-Faculty Interaction, and Support for Learners.

DACC scored higher than average on all of the benchmark metrics on the survey. We received higher scores than the two national consortia to which we were compared on four out of five of the benchmark metrics.

In particular, the results demonstrated that DACC students provided very positive responses to questions about Student-Faculty interaction and Support for Learners.

The college improved in the area of Academic Challenge, which has historically been just a little lower than average. In fact, DACC scored higher in Academic Challenge than the national average and the Achieving the Dream Consortium.

Spotlighting faculty and staff

Lynn Clark



Nursing Instructor Lynn Clark teaches fourth-semester nursing students.

"I took the position initially in January as there was not an instructor," she said. "I have been a nurse for over 23 years and felt the need to take the position. I love teaching and I am glad to be in this new role!"

She holds an Associate Degree in Nursing from Rochester Community College in Minn., and a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix. Clark currently is enrolled in the Master's of Nursing Program at NMSU.

She was an emergency hire last semester while still working full-time at Mountainview Regional Medical Center as the Clinical Nurse Leader on the Pediatric Unit, and now works in Memorial Medical Center's pediatric unit when she can.

She and her husband, Dan, moved here almost three years ago from San Diego. Dan, in the U.S. Navy, is stationed at White Sands Missile Range.

"Yes, there are NAVY people here, and we love it here and plan to stay!" she said.

The couple has one dog, Max, a basset hound. Clark and Max try to walk two miles each morning. She's the walk coach for Team in Training and has walked six marathons, most recently in January in Phoenix where it was a balmy 29 degrees at the start of the race! Her favorite thing, though, is to be at home all day relaxing in her PJs.

Michelle Cisneros



Scholarship Coordinator Michelle Cisneros is in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships in Student Services.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in biology from NMSU.

Most recently, Cisneros was a stay-at-home mom with her two beautiful daughters, 7-year-old Raquel and 1-year-old Ariana. Raquel recently was named the Southern New Mexico State Fair Pee Wee Princess.

Cisneros formerly was recruiting supervisor with Enterprise Rent a Car.

The Las Cruces native has been here all of her life! She and husband Luis went to high school together, but didn't meet until Physics 212 in college. Luis, a specialty engineer II with Harris Corporation, holds three degrees from NMSU — bachelor's degrees in Business Computer Systems and Electrical Engineering Technology, and a master's in Computer Information Systems.

Cisneros came to work at DACC because she wanted to be part of higher education and to help students achieve their dreams of completing degrees.

Cisneros' mother, Esther Weatherley, was DACC's Tutor Center coordinator for seven years and left in the mid-90s. Esther is now busy being a full-time grandmother. She recently retired from the pharmaceutical industry.

Cisneros likes to spend time with family. They have a cocker spaniel, Pebbles, and a turtle named Slider.

Tammie Nelson



First Year Clinical Coordinator Tammie Nelson, Dental Hygiene, was excited when she heard about DACC's new program and she knew she wanted to be a part of it, and to work with Dental Hygiene Director Evelyn Hobbs.

"I know that this is going to be an excellent program with Evelyn Hobbs as the director, and that

dentists will seek out individuals who have graduated from this program," she said.

Hobbs had been a professor of hers at Northern Arizona University, from which Nelson earned a B.S. in Dental Hygiene. Although extremely young looking, Nelson has worked in Arizona, Louisiana, Texas and New Mexico for the past 10 years.

She worked for a dentist in El Paso and even traveled to the Phoenix area to "temp" for many dentists there.

The Mesa, Ariz., native now lives in Santa Teresa with husband Ryan, a UTEP professor of speech pathology. They have two sons — 8-year-old Payton and 4-year-old Jack.

Although her job and her husband and two sons keep her very busy, Nelson says she also teaches Jazzercise.

Becky Rodríguez



Becky Rodríguez, records specialist in Academic Advising, last worked as an audit budget technician for NMSU Athletics for six months.

"I've worked for NMSU for 14 years. I started working at NMSU for the Registrar's Office as a records technician for six years; from there I went to the College of Education Advising Office as a records specialist for seven years," she said.

Rodríguez, who has lived here all her life, chose to join DACC because she wanted the opportunity to work with students again and be a part of the community college. She says that assisting students is the best part of her position and, although she enjoyed the accounting experience, it feels good to be back with students.

Rodríguez has been married for 27 years to Ronnie, who was a gas inspector for the City of Las Cruces for 25 years. Retired from that, Ronnie now works with Premier Distributing. The couple has a daughter, 25-year-old Sabrina, a DACC Dental Assisting graduate; a son, RonLarry, 17; a son-in-law Anthony; a 3-year-old grandson, Dominick; and a granddaughter due any day. She enjoys spending time with family and friends. Camping and traveling are favorite activities.