

AWD NEWSLETTER

Spring 2022



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Welcome Back!

AWD Students

The Adults with Disability Faculty and Continuing Education Staff are extremely proud of every one of our AWD Students! Spring 2022 has provided our students new opportunities to grow in their advocacy and employability skills with in-person and online learning.

SPRING 22

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

Welcome Back ON CAMPUS

Spring 2022 has brought us many opportunities, and one of those is the return of in-person classes for our Adults with Disabilities students at the North County Campus. After 2 years of online learning, our Cuesta Cougars have returned to campus to participate in the AWD Course, Transition Readiness Preparation. During this course, our students work to target academic and social skill development to help them in learning, employability, and collaborative environments. Through a shared cultural investment in empowerment, advocacy and collaboration, our students have developed a sense of campus community, culture and Cuesta Pride!

Thanks to our amazing partners, Ride On, our students travel from the NCI Linne site to the North County campus two days a week. During their time at the campus, our students are invited to eat their lunch, share in community, and develop connections with their peers and mentors. We have received many compliments on their presence on campus now that the doors have opened.

Cuesta College recognizes our students and ensures they receive the great resources available to students during the Spring Semester. Students have received their Cuesta ID cards, weekly meal gift cards from the Student Services desk, and applying for Emergency Covid Relief aid with their instructor and department counselor, our students recognize the importance of their participation at Cuesta College and look forward to continuing to advance in their lessons and studies for many years to come.

Welcome back, Cuesta Cougars, we have missed you.



Must Be the Money!

MONEY MANAGEMENT

Oh boy! Money conversation can always be difficult. Especially in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, discussions on federal aid, community services, and loans have been on a societal rise. It can be incredibly draining for the mind and spirit. However, for our Cuesta Cougars enrolled in our Adults with Disabilities course, Transition Readiness Preparation, money is no longer a source or anxiety, but a rooted conversation of responsibility and accountability.

For many enrolled in this transitions-center course, their desire to master money transactions and daily money knowledge stems from their goals to work in the retail industry. "I like making jewelry and keychains," says Vanessa Partida. "If I can know how money works, I can sell my pieces."

"I like the NCI Thrift Store, but the register is hard," says Audrey Millan. "This Cuesta class can help me use money and learn more about it so I can be better at my job."

From studying the origins of financial systems to engaging in collaborative learning exercises, such as Money Management 101, Wits & Wagers, and Monopoly, our Cuesta Cougars can engage in guided learning activities that challenge one another to work together for the best-case scenario. Bravo Cuesta Cougars!



The Process of Understanding Employability as Experienced by our Cuesta Cougars

The desire to work is an objective that is universally shared among our Cuesta Cougars in our AWD program. While all our Cuesta Cougars have different goals and objectives, it is essential that they understand that there are four potential pathways of employability. Those four pathways are as follows: volunteerism, internship, part-time and full-time work. Through collaborative class discussions, our students revealed that most of them would love the opportunity to volunteer or have full-time employment among the four pathways. "I already worked, now I want to do something I'd like to do," says Mark Elmore, who used to be a long-standing employee of Target before coming to Cuesta.

During their enrollment in the course, our Cuesta Cougars also work in developing their own mock resumes and cover letters for their job portfolio. "They can't be more than a page max because managers don't have time to read more!" says Torrey Grapentine. Look out world, these cougars are ready to work!



Best Karaoke Jams

As Voted by Cuesta Cougars

Hakuna Matata - The Lion King

Rocky Raccoon - The Beatles

Coma la Flor - Selena

Global Impact & Connection



CODA Wins!

After witnessing the success of film analysis activities in the Spring 2021 semester, new opportunities were presented to our AWD students. Taking a page from Cuesta College's Film, Television, and Media department, our students in the Employability and Transition Readiness Preparation Courses participated in film analysis exercises to develop collegiate level connections to modern films and apply those lessons to their learning. Our Cuesta Cougars took the special opportunity to embrace this opportunity this Spring 2022 semester through a unique engagement with the award-winning film, CODA, which happened to be running through award season during our viewership.

In an amazing turn of events, our Cuesta Cougars were analyzing the film during award season. Through the collaborative metacognitive process of analysis, our students took regular pauses though the film to answer questions, make predictions and share their thoughts and feelings throughout the process. When their participation was shared on Instagram, an unexpected event took place that changed the impact of our engagement.

With the sharing on Instagram, our post had over 2000 likes and several comments and questions from other disability organizations across the United States. Not only did people want to know what our Cuesta Cougars thought, but they also wanted to share in the film's success as CODA went to win Best Picture at the Oscars! From our course activity to global impact, our ideas were shared across the world. Congratulations again, CODA! We are so happy for your success!

Cuesta Cougars Scavenger Hunt



What better way to learn and love your North County Campus than participate in a fun scavenger hunt across the campus! For our Cuesta Cougars, their desire to explore and learn their campus came to a competitive head through a campus wide scavenger hunt. Job coaches from NCI held the clues for our Cuesta Cougars as they ventured across the North County campus responding to Instructor created riddles that sent them across buildings and landmarks.

For our Cuesta Cougars, their favorite locations included the Dean's Office and cafeteria. "We love the Dean!" shared Alison Reisig, proud Cuesta Cougar. "She is always nice to us and wants us to come back! Talk to us anytime!" The sentiment is well heard, Ms. Reisig. We are so lucky to have such a beautiful North County Campus that offers endless services, including monthly food bank, student services and campus police.