

## **President's Monthly Report**

### **August 2022**



Dear Trustees,

August brought much activity to Pacific Oaks College & Children's School as our summer term for both entities drew to a close. As we prepare for a new academic year, the PO community has built great excitement.

Below is an update on our progress over the past month:

#### **Fall Enrollment**

Fall 2022 is much more promising compared to Fall 2021. At the start of the term, Monday, August 29, the College enrolled 247 new students (on a budget of 241). Nearly 70% of our new students enrolled in online programs this year. The programs seeing the highest number of new students are MA Elementary Education, BA Early Childhood Education, and MFT Trauma Studies. While the College continues to admit a few new students during the first week, we expect some will drop out (aka "melt") as we move closer to the census, which is two weeks after the first day of school. With the possible melt, we may see that the total number of new students at the census is closer to what we budgeted.

Continuing student headcount is also closer to the budget. As of August 31, the College enrolled 827 continuing students, one student less than the budget. A few more students will be added to this number as we are helping them to clear registration holds.

The average number of credits enrolled this year is slightly lower than last year's. The administrator team has identified a few actions to help encourage students to take additional classes.

The admissions team was able to attend three off-site recruiting events with Volunteers of America LA. In addition, meetings with LA Southwest College were held to complete the final steps in our partnership agreement. We are on track to finalize the partnership agreement details, and we anticipate starting our next cohort there in Spring 2023.

## Student Support

The Student Services team worked to strengthen student support in all locations and modalities and continue to offer synchronous zoom events to meet students where they are and provide developmental support and engagement.

The month of July ended with a wonderful in-person Career Fair on Saturday, July 30, sponsored by the CARE Office. The 26 employers were overwhelmingly happy with the event and asked our team for additional future dates before the fair had even concluded. Within two weeks of the event, participating employers reported 24 interviews with prospective candidates and five offers of employment, with additional interviews planned for the coming weeks.



The month of August focused on preparing our new and continuing students for a successful start of the 2022/2023 Academic Year. This fall, our newest community members have received a stronger-than-ever onboarding experience with a combination of the Online New Student Orientation in Canvas, virtual new student workshops with topics on Financial Aid and Navigating the Student Portal, and a choice of a virtual or in-person New Student Welcome events. We know that retention starts before students begin class. Student Services provided the newest class of students with a warm welcome and resource orientation and set each student up for a successful journey.

The Intentional Student Retention model continues to prove itself successful. The model calls for reaching out to all active undergraduate students in a proactive approach to inform them of the services offered by POC to support their academic journey.

X-Grade report outreach has also proven successful for student retention. The report is used to contact all undergraduate students at risk of failing a course or dropping out of a program. The “customized approach” looks at the student’s profile and offers a few alternatives to get them back on their academic track.

### **Community Involvement**

Pacific Oaks Center for Community & Social Impact will continue working with Pasadena Unified School District, supporting Title I schools and identified community schools. Programming includes a continuation of the Student Success Collaborative and Family Success Collaborative, which utilizes the StrengthsFinder assessment and is grounded in strengths-based culturally responsive approaches. Additional work includes Collaborate PASadena serving as the lead facilitator for the California Community Schools Program implementation grant; expanded workshops under the CHAMP program at Norma Coombs Elementary; and a parent and family curriculum that addresses chronic absenteeism across the district. The PUSD School Board approved CCSI’s scope of work for the 2022-2023 school year and included \$216K+ in funding.

Pacific Oaks employees made enormous strides towards meeting the goal to complete 2,022 hours of community service during this calendar year. Over 1,800 hours have already been completed across more than 21 non-profit organizations, and we are confident we will meet or surpass our goal.

### **Academic Excellence**

Pacific Oaks College is using the changes made during the pandemic to launch a new modality called HyFlex. HyFlex = Hybrid + Flexible, a more recent higher education modality that incorporates asynchronous (online), synchronous (live online), and on-ground. Programs using the HyFlex modality starting this fall will be BS BA, MA OLM, and all general education courses. Drs. Rommero and Cook presented this new modality, which allows students to choose how they want to attend class each week, to the Pacific Oaks community and created a video on this new modality. Learn more about this innovative modality by watching [HyFlex = Hybrid + Flexible](#) here.

Dr. Cook continues to lead the College through WSCUC Accreditation preparation and the writing of our institutional report due next year. The College has established a steering committee that meets weekly to ensure we remain on track and focused. The preparation timeline for the spring 2024 WSCUC reaffirmation visit is as follows:

- December 9, 2022: Rough Draft Activity Due
- March 17, 2023: Final Draft Due to Steering Committee
- April 14, 2023: Draft Institutional Report (IR) due to Dr. Paduntin
- April 28, 2023: Final Draft IR due to Editor/Marketing
- June 23, 2023: Institutional Report Due to WSCUC (tentative)
- September 1, 2023 (fall): Off-site review (date not yet confirmed)
- Spring 2024: Accreditation Visit

Core Faculty member Yolanda Carlos has been appointed to the Lewis Center for Educational Research Board. You can listen to Professor Carlos talk about our ECE programs at Pacific Oaks. [Click here.](#)

### **Brand & Image**

The Alumni Council held its bimonthly meeting and discussed the upcoming homecoming event. Entitled "Homecoming: A Seat at the Table," the reunion is scheduled for October 15, will feature alumni recognition, and will serve as a vehicle to raise funds for the endowment as outlined in the Title V Hispanic-Serving Institution federal grant. Other discussion topics at the meeting included the student-alumni mentorship program and the development of a doctorate in early childhood education.

With the support of Wilks Communication Group, our work with Pasadena Unified School District and the CHAMP (Community Health Action Mental Perseverance) program was featured on PBS SoCal. Drs. Gio, Huggins, and Peel were featured in the article, "[Parent Mental Health Tips from Experts Who Led Local Workshops.](#)"

The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC) convention, attended by Pacific Oaks College, was held in August and was a successful effort to further awareness of the Educational Partnership between POC and CHCC.

As of January 2023, Pacific Oaks College will partner with Bright Horizons EdAssist, exposing POC to 250 corporations and organizations throughout the United States. The partnership will offer the opportunity to build connections with companies that provide direct bill tuition assistance for their employees, allowing them to earn a degree at no or minimal cost. POC can still partner to offer the special partnership tuition rate for companies that do not have a direct bill tuition assistance program.

Recruitment has begun for a Spring 2023 onsite cohort at the Pretend City Children's Museum in Irvine. The cohort will offer either a BA or MA in Early Childhood Education. A virtual information session has been scheduled for Tuesday, August 30.

Recruitment has also begun for a Spring 2023 onsite cohort at the ONEgeneration site in Van Nuys (San Fernando Valley). A BA in Human Development with a concentration in Early Childhood Education and Development degree will be offered. The site is a central location in the San Fernando Valley which will serve anyone interested in the cohort.

### **Children's School**

The Summer 2022 session ended in mid-August, and after a short break, the teachers are now in full swing, preparing classrooms and yards for the Fall 2022 session. We anticipate full enrollment allowable for the School based upon licensing requirements and have reintroduced our popular Spanish Immersion Program in the afternoons.



The 2022-2025 Children's School Strategic Plan was completed, thanks to the contributions of an advisory board comprised of staff, teachers, parents, and alumni parents. The Plan will be the compass for progress in the next three years at the Children's School.

In early August, Children's School Executive Director Dr. Judy Krause authored an essay entitled "[Pacific Oaks Children's School: Nearly 80 Years of Pasadena History](#)", which was published in the August 1 edition of Pasadena Now. It is a beautiful walk down memory lane that reminds us of our roots and why we do what we do.

On August 6, the Children's School was proud to honor the late Olin Barrett (Board member for 42 years) and his wife Ann by renaming our California House the "Barrett House." Ann Barrett and her two daughters attended the event along with former trustees, Pacific Oaks College & Children's School presidents, early education icon Louise Derman-Sparks, and CS school alumnae.

Built-in 1910, the Barrett House was the second house built on campus and is the hub of the Children's School. Our Administrative Offices are housed there. The president's office remains in the same room as it was used initially by PO's first president, Evangeline Burgess, in 1958 when the College first opened. New Barrett House signage has been hung along with a memorial plaque honoring the occasion.



Pacific Oaks Children's School is well on its way to returning to an official lab school. Listen to Executive Director Judy Krause, School of Human Development Dean Jerell Hill, and the Lab School team discuss progress to date [click here](#) .

The Conditional Use Permit (CUP) hearing was held on Wednesday evening, August 3. After listening to over 3 hours of community and Pacific Oaks comments and feedback, a final decision was postponed pending the results of upcoming light and sound level tests. The tests are being scheduled, and results will be shared when available.

*The annual "Best of Pasadena" polls are open again, sponsored by the publication Pasadena Weekly. This is your chance to help recognize the Children's School as Pasadena's Best for the fourth year. **Click to vote [here](#)** (the preschool vote is question #7)!*

The future of our new academic year 2022-2023 is bright as Pacific Oaks continues to serve our students through innovation and dedication to our core values.

Sincerely,

Jack Paduntin  
President