

COS

COLLEGE OF THE SEQUOIAS

A COMMUNITY REPORT ON THE
SEQUOIAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
2022-2023



HANFORD

TULARE

VISALIA



Community members, students, faculty, and staff -

The College of the Sequoias is pleased to present our annual community report for the 2022-23 school year. As in previous years, the community report will summarize events of the year, provide data in several key areas related to our 2015–2025 Master Plan goals and 2021-2025 Strategic Plan objectives, and share stories about the students and employees that make the College such a wonderful place to work and attend school.

The District had another amazing year including near-record highs in degrees awarded, certificates awarded, and transfer students. The District was also able to expand and renovate its three campuses in numerous ways including the Educational Support Services building on the Visalia campus; the Career and Technical Education complex on the Tulare campus (opening next fall); and a central quad renovation and solar project on the Hanford campus. On the Visalia campus, the District also opened Sequoias Stadium and the Giant Marketplace to start the 2023-24 school year!

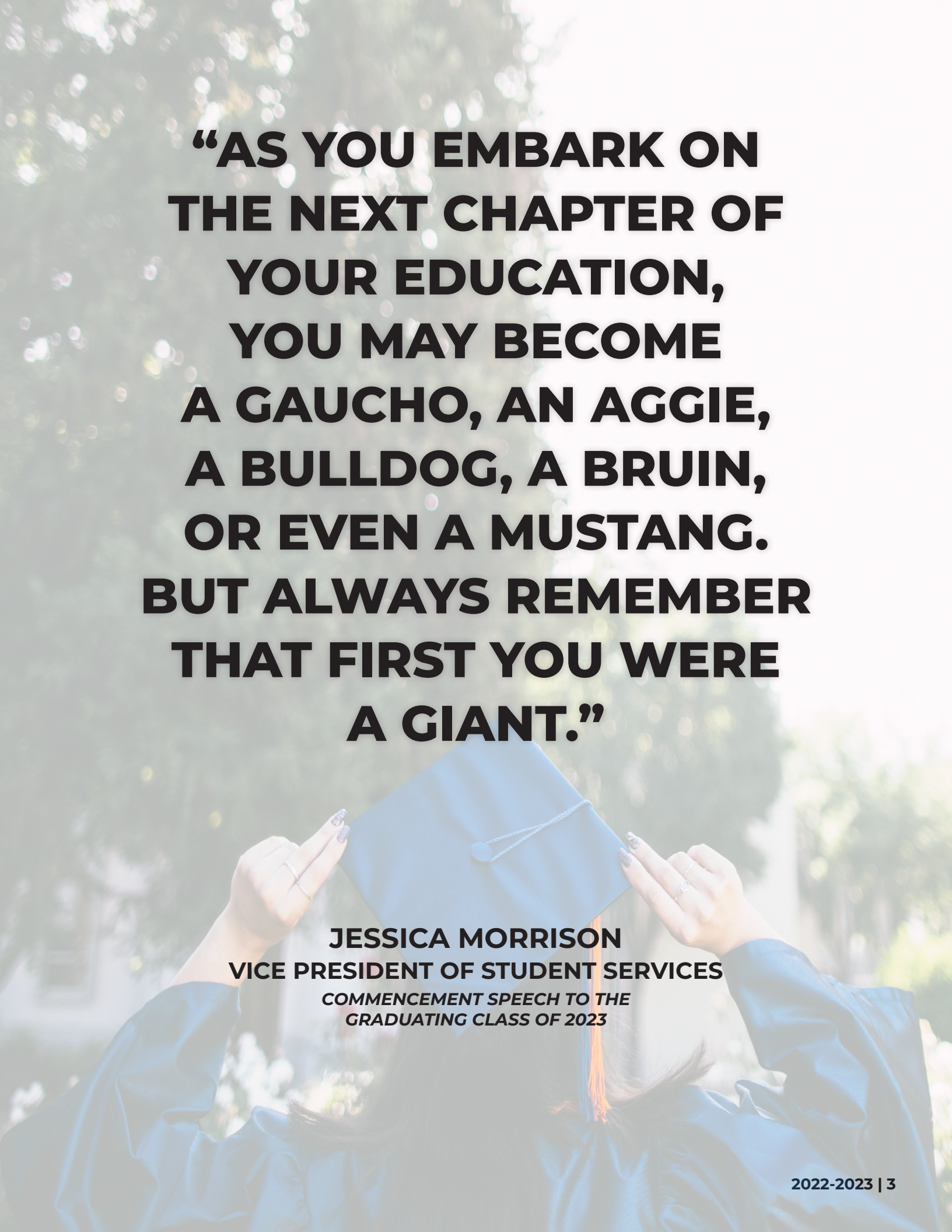
Students were also very active during the year. Both basketball teams won the Central Valley Conference crown (again!) and advanced to the State CCCAA Final Eight. In fact, all 17 intercollegiate sports teams made the postseason and over 400 student athletes combined to record an average GPA of 3.0! And who can forget the wonderful performances by our drama, choir, and band programs including classics, *Taming of the Shrew* and *Jekyll & Hyde*, and choir performances in New York City and locally to help open the St. Charles Borromeo Church.

The District's budget also remained stable allowing for cost-of-living adjustments to all employee groups while allowing the District to eliminate most long-term debt, maintain and modernize buildings, and purchase land to expand the current Fresno State South Valley Campus. And last fall, voters in the Visalia-Farmersville-Exeter-Woodlake-Orosi region approved Measure C which will fund construction of the new University Center and Student Union to support the partnership with Fresno State!

In all, it was another great year to be a Giant and we are looking forward to the 2023-24 school year.

Thank you for your support!

Brent Calvin, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President



**“AS YOU EMBARK ON
THE NEXT CHAPTER OF
YOUR EDUCATION,
YOU MAY BECOME
A GAUCHO, AN AGGIE,
A BULLDOG, A BRUIN,
OR EVEN A MUSTANG.
BUT ALWAYS REMEMBER
THAT FIRST YOU WERE
A GIANT.”**

JESSICA MORRISON
VICE PRESIDENT OF STUDENT SERVICES
*COMMENCEMENT SPEECH TO THE
GRADUATING CLASS OF 2023*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Greg Sherman
Trustee, Ward 1



Ken Nunes
Clerk, Ward 2



Raymond Macareno
Vice President, Ward 3



Lori Cardoza
Trustee, Ward 4



John Lehn
President, Ward 5



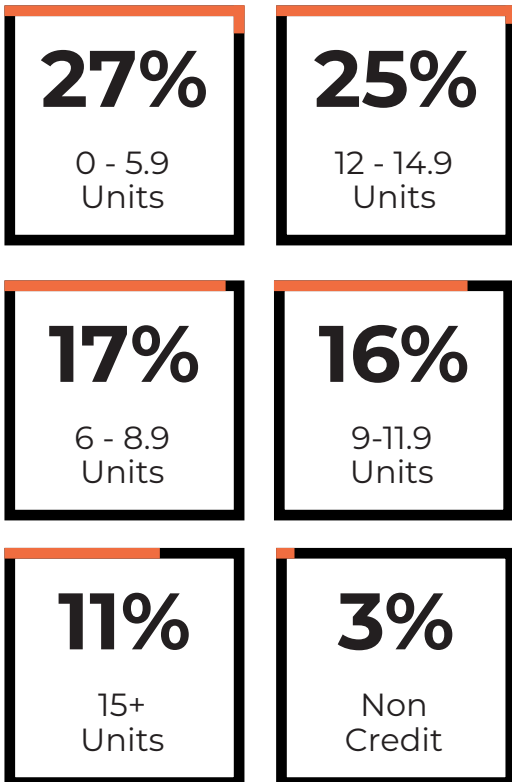
Madison Parker
Student Trustee

GIANT DEMOGRAPHICS

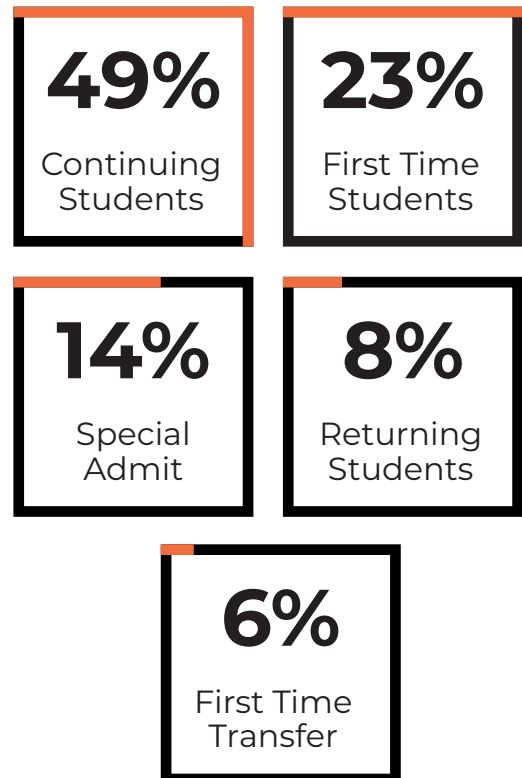
A more technical version of the Annual Report is available for review online at [COS.EDU](https://cos.edu).



UNIT LOAD



ENROLLMENT STATUS



POLICE TORCH RUN

The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) has become a powerful symbol of community support and unity since its inception in 1981. In Tulare County, the COS District Police made the decision to participate because they understood the importance of supporting the Special Olympics and recognized the shared goal of educating and supporting individuals with disabilities.

The LETR brought together a wide range of local agencies in Tulare County, including the Porterville Police Department, Lindsay Police Department, Tulare Police Department, Tulare County Sheriff's Department, California Highway Patrol, Visalia Police Department, Farmersville Police Department, Exeter Police Department, Woodlake Police Department, and Dinuba Police Department. The Torch was also carried through neighboring counties such as Kern, Kings, and Fresno.

The COS District Police, represented by torch runner Sergeant Shane Hettick, wholeheartedly

embraced the opportunity to participate in the Torch Run. Despite not considering himself a runner, Hettick was motivated by the resilience and determination displayed by Special Olympic athletes. Running the torch allowed him to express his unwavering support for all the athletes and the challenges they face.

Through various means such as anonymous donations, Torch Run T-shirt sales, and commemorative coin sales, COS District Police were able to raise a total of \$1,380. The funds raised will directly contribute to supporting the Special Olympics and their programs, making a tangible difference in the lives of athletes with intellectual disabilities.

The Law Enforcement Torch Run continues to unite communities and bridge the gap between law enforcement and the public they serve.



STEPPING UP SUCCESS

In the heart of Tulare, California, determined athlete Richard Torres has been capturing the attention of sports enthusiasts and community members alike. Torres, an Olympic medalist boxer (Tokyo, 2021) with an unyielding passion for his craft, recently found himself in the spotlight when ESPN delved into his daily life, shedding light not only on his rigorous training routine but also on the unconventional influence that dance has on his boxing prowess.

The ESPN feature aimed to uncover the essence of Richard Torres beyond his boxing gloves, exploring the factors that define his character and commitment. The interviews with Torres, his family, and those in his inner circle painted a portrait of resilience, hard work, and the spirit of continuous learning.

One of the most intriguing aspects of Torres' story is his incorporation of dance into his training regimen. Through dance, he discovered the value of cross-training and the surprising athletic benefits it offers. The support and camaraderie he found within the dance community created a nurturing environment where mistakes were seen as steps to improvement.

While Torres acknowledges the knowledge gaps he possesses, his thirst for learning from those around him fuels his journey. He embraces the wisdom that comes from diverse perspectives, living by the motto, "Live as if you were to die today, learning as if you were to live forever."

Through ESPN's lens, Richard Torres' story stands as a testament to the power of passion, diversity, and unyielding determination. His journey not only showcases his evolution as an athlete but also highlights the significance of embracing unconventional influences to carve a unique path to success. In Tulare, California, and far beyond, Richard Torres' story continues to inspire others to strive for greatness while staying open to the lessons that life and unexpected experiences offer.





GIANT MARKETPLACE

In 2014, College of the Sequoias (COS) recognized a crucial obstacle hindering student success—food insecurity. To tackle this issue, the College established a small food pantry within the Student Health Center. It was evident that students who faced hunger or uncertain meal availability were more likely to encounter difficulties in realizing their academic potential. Since its inception, this pantry has been providing enrolled students with essential non-perishable groceries.

The emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 magnified the need for comprehensive assistance. Beyond food insecurity, students grappled with broader financial hardships. Responding to this challenge, COS conducted surveys among both new and returning students in Fall 2020. The results showed that students required financial assistance for various reasons with technology, supplies, and food topping the list.

Recognizing the statewide necessity for an integrated approach to student success, COS embarked on creating the Giant Marketplace in 2021. This innovative space aimed to serve as a centralized location for students' fundamental needs, going beyond offering only non-perishable food, but creating an environment where students could access refrigerated and frozen items, resembling a full-service grocery store.

The Giant Marketplace transcends the food pantry's limits. It encompasses a wider range of support services, including housing, hygiene, childcare, mental health, and technology. The aim is to provide comprehensive assistance to empower students to excel academically.

Through collaboration with Tulare County Health & Human Services, a Self-Sufficiency Counselor aids students in applying for Cal-Fresh benefits and other public assistance. Moreover, community organizations gather here to offer resources in financial literacy, emergency housing, and mental health support.

Between 2014-2023, the Basic Needs program has evolved and grown to have a remarkable impact, serving around 300 students monthly at all three campus locations: Hanford, Tulare, and Visalia. By the Spring of 2023, the number of students served surged to 521 per month.

Registered students can contact the Giant Marketplace at:

559-737-3710

giantmarketplace@cos.edu

COS.EDU/Giantmarketplace



AG & TRADES JOB FAIR

Recognizing the demand for skilled workers in the Agricultural and Industrial Trades, the College of the Sequoias organized an event to bridge the gap between opportunity and talent - The Ag and Trades Job Fair.

Industry partners were reaching out, seeking competent individuals in fields like maintenance, automotive tech, and construction. The College was keen to raise awareness about the new trades complex that is currently being built at the COS Tulare Campus. It seemed like a perfect fit – connect eager employers with qualified students while spotlighting the myriad of opportunities the Tulare Campus offers.

Organizing the event was not the only task at hand. College of the Sequoias Career Technical Education staff and faculty along with Career Services prepared students to seize the opportunities the job fair presented. Resume workshops and interview prep opportunities were offered ahead of the event to ensure participants had the best chance of success. In partnership with the professional clothing closet, Giant Threads, arrangements were made so students could look their best for prospective employers.

Despite windy and rainy weather, 61 employers attended, and over 200 students made their way to the event. A post-event survey highlighted the positive impact the event had on employers, with 45.5% saying they found qualified candidates, and all were either very likely or extremely likely to return the next year.

However, the job fair served a purpose beyond just connecting students and employers. The College is expanding with a new complex that will include Industrial Maintenance, Industrial Automation, Electrician Training, Construction, Automotive, and HVACR. These programs will be moving to the Tulare Campus, raising awareness of these upcoming changes, and fostering connections with industry partners is integral.

The Ag and Trades Job Fair was an impactful step towards highlighting the College of the Sequoias' dedication to the community, commitment to its students, and partnership with industry. The event not only opened doors for students and employers alike but also laid the groundwork for the cultivation of skilled taxpayers, contributing positively to the economy.

50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Cadet Andrew Hinojosa, Class 155, will become the third generation to serve and protect his community.

The COS Tulare/Kings Counties Basic Peace Officer Academy honored the Hinojosa family during the Spring 2023 graduation ceremony. With a combined 50 years of service, Cadet Andrew Hinojosa, who graduated with Class 155, will become the third generation to continue to serve and protect his community.

Sergeant Eddie Hinojosa is the father of Andrew Hinojosa, who graduated from the Fresno City College Police Academy in 2000. He wore a Tulare County Sheriff's uniform for a short time before donning a Tulare Police Department badge. Hinojosa has over 22 years of sworn service and is currently assigned to the narcotics and gang unit as a Sergeant.

When asked his thoughts on his son becoming a police officer he shared, "I know my son has a big heart and a good head on his shoulders. I know he will always do the right thing and in turn will be respected by the community he serves as well as the officers around him. I'm excited to watch him excel in his chosen career."

Astrolavio, who goes by Astro, is the grandfather to Andrew and father to Eddie, better known as Sergeant Hinojosa, graduated from Tulare-Kings Police Academy in Class 32. He worked as a Kingsburg officer for a short time before donning the Fresno County Sheriff's uniform. After realizing the grass was not always greener on the county side, he returned to the City of Kingsburg where he completed 28 years of noble service to the community. When asked his thoughts on his son and grandson he stated, "I am very proud of their hard work and accomplishments."

Astro's connection to College of the Sequoias started about 32 years ago when Thomas Wilson began his career at the City of Kingsburg. At that time, Astro probably did not realize the training he provided to Wilson would take him through many ranks until he became the Chief of Investigations at the California DMV Investigations Office. Wilson is now the Director of the Tulare/Kings Counties Police Academy with College of the Sequoias who trained his grandson, Andrew Hinojosa, Class 155.



GIANT EXPANSIONS



Educational Support Services

Opened August 2023

The new 21,145 square foot single-story Educational Support Services replaces one of the three original buildings constructed in 1938.

While introducing a new modern architectural style to the COS Visalia campus, this facility will provide a new home for Tutorial Services, ESL/Language Lab, and the Access and Ability Lab.

COS Tulare Phase II (CTE Expansion)

Construction Timeline
Feb 2023 – July 2024

Applied Technology and Trades Complex is partially funded by SFID-3 Measure J, with three new single-story instructional lab buildings (40,000 square foot) to be constructed immediately south of the existing 12,652 square foot welding lab building. This development will create a state-of-the-art CTE complex hosting programs such as Automotive Technology, Ag Mechanics, Industrial Maintenance, Industrial Automation, Electrician Training, Construction Technology, and Environmental Controls, all of which are currently hosted at the COS Visalia campus and COS Tulare Downtown Annex locations.



The groundbreaking event for the COS Tulare Campus Applied Technology and Trades Building happened in February 2023 and was a momentous occasion. Over 100 attendees gathered to celebrate the beginning of a new chapter in vocational education. The event featured speeches from community leaders and educators, including Superintendent/President Dr. Brent Calvin and Tulare Campus Provost, Dr. Louann Waldner, who highlighted the collaborative efforts that would shape the future of applied technology training in the region.



Sequoias Stadium

Opens September 2023

Sequoias Stadium project entails the new construction of an entry plaza, concessions and restrooms building, fixed bleacher seating for over 3,000 spectators, elevated press box, 608 square foot video scoreboard, perimeter fencing, resurfaced track and tennis courts.



“AL BRANCO HAS BEEN A FIXTURE AT COLLEGE OF THE SEQUIOIAS FOR OVER FIVE DECADES. SO LET IT BE HENCEFORTH KNOWN, THAT THE FIELD AT SEQUIOIAS STADIUM, WILL NOW BE KNOWN AS BRANCO FIELD!”

**-PRESIDENT BRENT CALVIN
ON THE DEDICATION OF BRANCO FIELD**



WOMEN WHO BUILD



The College of the Sequoias is breaking down barriers with the “Women Who Build” workshops.

The overwhelming response of over 80 applicants led to the workshop being extended to more students and any woman eager to gain proficiency in practical construction skills. Though initially starting small with only seven participants, the workshop quickly gained momentum and has since hosted two workshops with more than 25 participants.

These workshops are hands-on and interactive. They are held in Cedar Building's dedicated construction lab at the Visalia campus, led by COS's full-time instructor, Brian Unruh.

Participants navigate through a variety of stations, learning skills like drywall patching, basic plumbing, and even how to install doorknobs. It's a practical space where participants can freely ask questions and gain insights into their home projects, fostering a sense of independence and self-reliance.

Additionally, the workshop intends to familiarize more women with the programs offered by the College of the Sequoias, with a hopeful eye towards increasing female enrollment. It is also a fantastic opportunity for the participants to get to know about the 45 different Career Technical Education programs available at the college.

This initiative is not only about building walls, pipes, and doors; it's about building confidence, self-reliance, and awareness. The "Women Who Build" workshops are showing women that they, too, can take on the traditionally male-dominated field of construction, one brick at a time.

For more information contact Lisette Conway at lissettem@cos.edu or 559-668-3041.



These workshops are led by COS's full-time Construction Technology instructor, Brian Unruh.

A SECOND CHANCE AT EDUCATION

Stacey Fritz's Inspiring Journey at College of the Sequoias.

Stacey Fritz's journey at the College of the Sequoias (COS) in Visalia, California, exemplifies the transformative potential of education for adults returning to college. Inspired by her desire to complete her education, Stacey's connection to COS, where her sons also studied, provided the ideal environment for her academic pursuit. Opting for social work, her chosen path aligned with her passion for societal betterment, and COS's tailored courses enhanced her learning experience.

Stacey's integration into college life was eased by her familial ties, granting her a support system to navigate academic challenges. Despite initial concerns about age disparities, her interactions with younger peers created a sense of belonging. Challenges arose when she encountered underperforming students, strengthening her commitment to inspire and guide others.

COS services, notably counseling, bolstered Stacey's success, highlighting the institution's dedication to student growth. Balancing studies with a job underscored the significance of time management and perseverance, setting an example for adult learners. Stacey urges struggling students to seek assistance and advocate for themselves, emphasizing that determination and support breed success.

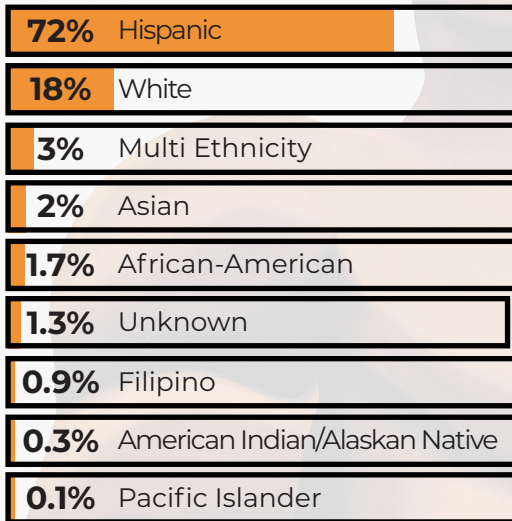
Stacey's influence extended to her son Patrick, who also chose COS. She lauds the institution's convenience and academic quality, confident in its preparation for his transition to Fresno State. Stacey's COS experience represents courage, perseverance, and communal support. As she pursued a social work degree, she inspired peers and left an enduring impact. Her endorsement of COS encourages others to seize its resources. Prospective students are encouraged to follow her lead and embark on their educational journey at the College of the Sequoias.



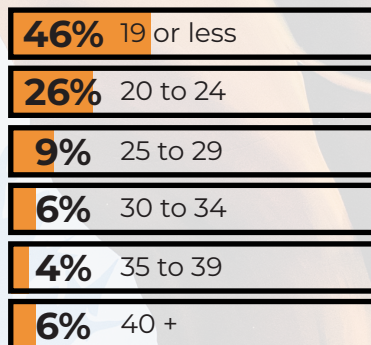
STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

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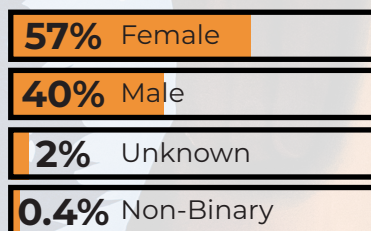
RACE/ETHNICITY DISTRIBUTION



AGE DISTRIBUTION



GENDER DISTRIBUTION



96TH COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



Includes Graduates from Fall 2022 - Summer 2023

Number of Graduates: 1,532

Youngest Graduate: 15

Oldest Graduate: 70

Average Age of Graduates: 26

Average GPA: 3.21

Honor Students (3.5+ GPA): 661

Honor Graduates (4.0 GPA): 74

Participating in the Ceremony: 776



1,741

Degrees Awarded

939

Certificates Awarded



UNIVERSITY CENTER

BRINGING A FOUR-YEAR UNIVERSITY CENTER
TO THE SOUTH VALLEY



The College of the Sequoias University Center construction will begin at the end of 2025 and the beginning of 2026. Located off Mooney Blvd., in Visalia, the complex will sit between Meadow Ave. and Tulare Ave., including an impressive circle drive entrance. College of the Sequoias is looking forward to expanding its partnership with Fresno State in the South Valley providing local access for students to transfer and complete four-year degrees closer to home.



COLLEGE
OF THE
SEQUOIAS
GIANTS

COS



**READY TO RECONNECT?
COS.EDU/ALUMNI**