Inspirational Thought of the Day

“The best teachers are those who show you where to look, but don’t tell you what to see.”

Alexandra K. Trenfor
Student Support Services Wins New Faculty Expo Table Contest

Each semester, the Office of Faculty Development sponsors an Expo for new faculty. Various departments, disciplines, and groups come to the ASC to show faculty what EPCC has to offer. There is a table decorating contest for Expo participants. This semester, the theme was “A Whole New World.” EPCC Student Success created this year’s winning table and received a trophy. Pictured are from left to right: Joshua Vincent, Frank Ambriz, Marisol DeMoss Lazo, Della Truman Merieme Khamsi, Renzon Magallon, Juan Magallon, and Manuel Marquez. Not pictured are Mayra Contreras and Brian Grajeda. They are all NW Academic Tutors who played a part in the project. Congratulations!
Congratulations to...

Minnie Stevens Piper Award Nominees:
- Fariba Ansari, Physics VV
- Rebekah Bell, Speech TM
- Claudia Cochran, Psychology VV
- Lisa Elliot, Mass Communication VV
- Stephen Kahoe, Social Work Program VV
- Joyce Lieb, Nursing RG
- Mark Norbeck, History RG
- Joanne Peeples, Math TM
- Sylvia Peregrino, Government MdP
- Monica Wong, Library NW

Faculty Achievement Award Nominees:
- Angelina Arellanes-Nunez, English TM
- Carlos Armendariz, Counseling VV
- Michele Biernacki, Physical Therapy RG
- Claudia Cochran, Psychology VV
- Dorothy Ann Currie, Nursing RG
- Argelia Duarte, Counseling RG
- Lisa Elliot, Mass Communications VV
- Patricia Islas, Speech RG
- Steve Kahoe, Social Work VV
- Gabriel Mendoza, Mathematics RG
- Hector Padilla, English RG

Good Luck to Each One of You!
George Holden, Criminal Justice, RG: Earned his Doctorate in Management, D.M., from the University of Phoenix over the summer.

Michael Coulehan, Reading/English Instructor, TM: Was elected the new state wide President of the Texas Faculty Association.

Joshua Villalobos, Geology Instructor, MDP: Was the only instructor from a 2-year college selected to be a member of the Organizing Committee for The Summit on the Future for Undergraduate Geoscience Education.
Ken Gorski, Architecture Discipline Coordinator, VV: Was recently appointed to serve a 4 year term on the City of El Paso MUSEUMS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS ADVISORY BOARD. MCAAB advises the city on matters relating to the Cultural Funding Programs, Museum and Cultural Affairs Department, Public Art programming, makes recommendations to City Council on policies and decisions regarding collection management for each of the City of El Paso Museums.

Adjunct Faculty Political Science Instructor Stanley M. Serwatka was honored at a luncheon attended by members of the Texas Supreme Court in Austin, Texas on August 22nd. Mr. Serwatka had been appointed by the Texas Supreme Court as Chairperson of the Grievance Oversight Committee (GOC) for 2013-2014. The GOC is a nine person committee, six attorneys and three public members, appointed by the Texas Supreme Court to look at all aspects of the lawyer discipline system in Texas and to render a report to the Court biennially on the status of the system making recommendations for changes for improving the grievance process. Mr. Serwatka had served for 6 years on the local Grievance Committee, hearing and adjudicating complaints against local attorneys. He was elected Chairperson of the local Committee his last two years. Mr. Serwatka was then appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas to the Board of Disciplinary Appeals, a quasi-judicial body of 12 lawyers from throughout Texas which heard and decided appeals from attorneys who had been disciplined. He served for 6 years and was elected Vice-Chair his last year.
The Jenna Welch & Laura Bush Community Library at El Paso Community College (EPCC), Northwest Campus offers a wealth of services and resources to the teens in the far west El Paso, Canutillo and Westway in Texas part of New Mexico serving a large agriculture and migrant population, with reading programs, an anime club, learning activities with mobile devices and much more. Now, with a $5,000 award from the Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) and World Wrestling Entertainment, Inc (WWE), the library will be able to offer even more to the community’s teens. The library won the award for a program it held earlier this year that encouraged kids and teens to read by participating in the 2014 WrestleMania Reading Challenge.

The Laura Bush and Jenna Welch Library’s program *SmackDown Reading Challenge: Get ready to rumble!* purpose was to establish a Saturday reading club focused on strengthening 21st century skills by teaching students how to download eBooks on to reading electronic devices, such as iPads, Kindles, and laptops.

The focus is to incorporate teamwork, fraternity, friendship and collaboration to strengthen the teen’s peer learning. It is intended that during reading time the teens participate in reading aloud to one another. Moreover, parents are involved and interactive with their teens discussing their favorite WWE superstar and event. Throughout the program participants will be gathering information on their favorite superstar to create a poster, which enhances their writing, information searching, creativity and public speaking skills. The participants are expected to meet regularly and also during their meetings they will have the opportunity to share their WWE related books, readers, other books and their WWE action figures.

According to Lorely Ambriñ, a Librarian at the Jenna Welch & Laura Bush Community Library, the library offers teens a wealth of reading resources, a safe place to go after school, on weekends and Summers, and a wealth of learning activities to help teens pursue their interests or gain skills that will help them in school and beyond. Moreover, this program will benefit teens participating in the Early College’s High School Initiative. This initiative is designed to allow students to simultaneously earn a high school diploma and an Associate Degree in four years.
Our library is a unique academic library partnered with the city public library to serve a diverse population at the border and it’s the only community library that provide a year round children programming and the only one serving far west El Paso, Canutillo, WestWay, in Texas part of New Mexico serving a large agriculture and migrant population. Therefore, this grant funding has help the library to enhance teen literacy programs, to purchase over 170 books, eBooks, and 5 mini iPads to enhance our teen’s collection.

The NW Library offers every Thursday 4:00 –7:00 p.m. a Teen Hangout with movies, games and refreshments.

**About YALSA**

YALSA is a subdivision of the American Library Association (ALA). For more than 50 years, YALSA has worked to build the capacity of libraries and librarians to engage, serve and empower teens. For more information about YALSA or to access national guidelines and other resources go to [www.ala.org/yalsa](http://www.ala.org/yalsa), or contact the YALSA office by phone, 800-545-2433, ext. 4390; or e-mail: yalsa@ala.org or [http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/09/yalsa-wwe-announce-wrestlemania-reading-challenge-grant-program-recipients](http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2014/09/yalsa-wwe-announce-wrestlemania-reading-challenge-grant-program-recipients).

**About WWE’S Corporate Social Responsibility**

WWE’s global community outreach programs address important social issues, including education, diversity and inclusion, military support and fulfilling wishes and dreams. WWE and its Superstars and Divas support a wide range of programs, partners and initiatives that strive to positively impact children and families worldwide, including the “Be a STAR” anti-bullying campaign, WrestleMania Reading Challenge, Susan G. Komen for the Cure, Make-A-Wish, WWE Tribute to the Troops and many more. For more information log onto [www.WWECommunity.com](http://www.WWECommunity.com)

**For more information please contact:** Lorely Ambriz, Librarian, Jenna Welch & Laura Bush Community Library at El Paso Community College – Northwest Campus lambriz@epcc.edu (915) 831-8886

*Submitted by: Lorely Ambriz*
On February 19, 2014, I sent a memo to President Serrata recommending that we include eight week courses in the fall and spring semesters. There are a number of reasons for the recommendation that would apply to both academic and technical courses. However, there seems to be confusion and concern, and, at this time I would like to clarify my reasoning. I think part of the reason for the confusion may be due to the title of my memo to the President and also articles that appeared in the Tejano Tribune that seem to imply that all courses would be under an 8 week format. That was not my intention; this is not a one-size-fits-all recommendation. Basically, I am recommending that we offer more 8 week (mini-mester) courses during the morning and evening hours when the majority of students attend in the fall and spring semesters.

At this point, I must emphasize any decisions to offer eight week courses would have to be a discipline/division decision. It is understandable that a number of courses may be better suited under a 16 week period or that faculty in a division may decide to keep their courses under the 16 week semester format.

Offering more eight week courses would simply be another option, especially for those non-traditional students with other responsibilities. This type of scheduling may be more conducive for our non-traditional students who may not be able to register for the traditional 12 hour/16 week semester. This option may assist them in completing more of their required and/or prerequisite coursework.

The following are other reasons for the recommendations to the EPCC community:

- To increase enrollment. With increased competition from other colleges, universities, and technical schools, it is time we look at new and innovative ways to attract students.
• To complete sequenced courses, developmental, prerequisite courses in a semester. This type of scheduling is being done successfully in the summer.
• To accelerate graduations, retention, and program completion. Research conducted by the Institutional Research Office indicates that students had higher completion rates in the 5 and 8 week terms.
• To further accommodate working students, parents with small children, border commuters, late start students, students concurrently enrolled at other universities/colleges, and students on academic suspension.
• To assist military students or their dependents in accumulating more credits given their time constraints. This type of scheduling may even lead to more graduations or near completion of a degree.
• To accelerate student ranking in the Allied Health Programs.
• To reduce the request for students trying to get into a closed course, avoid late drop fees, any Financial Aid penalties, and petitions for refunds.
• To do away with late start scheduling.

As an academic counselor and professor, I have witnessed a change in students over the years I have been working. One of the changes is that students want or need to complete their education at a faster pace. Thus, this may be another way we offer courses.

One concern I have been made aware of is that the 8 weeks format would “water down” courses. Courses should be meeting the same objectives as if they were being taught in a 16 week semester. If the courses are core courses, they still have to meet the core objectives as mandated by the state.

I am suggesting that each discipline/division give offering more morning and evening 8 week courses serious consideration and discussion as this may be one way of helping our students to reach their educational goals.
Attention Faculty!

We hope that you are having a great fall semester! The Career Services Department would like to invite your students to attend Transfer Fair 2014. It is crucial that students learn about the transferring process.

Transfer Fair 2014

Wednesday, October 22, 2014

10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Valle Verde Campus-Cafeteria Annex

There will be over 25 respectable university representatives. Students will learn and become familiar with the admissions process, financial aid, scholarships, and programs of study. Planning the transfer process early is the best way to assist our students to ensure that they can graduate on time.

As we promote this event, and we reach out to as many students as possible, we are asking for your support to promote this event among your students. We would like to encourage you to visit the Transfer Fair as a class and/or allow your students to attend in lieu of class as a class assignment. Please let us know if you have any questions and we will be happy to meet with you to provide you with more details. You can contact us via email at careerservices@epcc.edu or call us at (915) 831-2636.

Have an awesome fall semester!
The Hike

A film by Fred and Kate Keyser

A family on an outing finds themselves stalked by a mysterious killer. This short horror film will take place in the El Paso area using local actors. We are planning an Indiegogo campaign to raise funds for the production. The completed short film will be submitted to several film festivals around the country. A one minute trailer can be seen on YOUTUBE on the Keyserproductions channel

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lV8NEyLz5pQ

We have written over 50 plays and have seen them performed throughout the United States. Fred is now interested in film and has written 10 short films and 4 features. We need to raise funds to buy a camera and equipment before we can attempt a feature; however, we have been able to film a few short movies. This is the third short film Keyserproductions is working on and we hope for many more.

*KATE KEYSER IS AN ADJUNCT INSTRUCTOR IN DRAMA AT TM.*
Yasmin Ramirez, English Instructor, VV, is active in the literary community and writes And Then, a weekly blog. Her work has appeared in various publications and is forthcoming in HUIZACHE and PushPen Press. She is completing her first book, a memoir tentatively titled, “Por Un Amor.” She will be having the following publications events shown below.

**Short Stories**

- “Dimming Lights,” Push Pen Press, Fall 2014 forthcoming
- “Coral Hearts,” Push Pen Press, Fall 2014 forthcoming
- “Tastes Like God,” HUIZACHE, October 2014 forthcoming

**Stories in Anthologies**

- “La Trenza”, La Palabra – The Word is a Woman Anthology, Mothers & Daughters, September 2014 forthcoming

**Editor**

- Memorias del Silencio (El Paso; BorderSenses, 2014) Contributing Editor

**Readings**

- HUIZACHE Release at Mexican American Cultural Center, Austin, TX, October 2014

- La Palabra Anthology Release at The Center for Peace and Justice, Albuquerque, NM September 20, 2014

**Honors**

- Nominated for El Paso’s What’s Up Best of the Best for “Best Local Blogger” (2014)

For more information about Yasmin’s publications and bio, please visit: www.yasminramirez.com
EPCC Leadership Academy

Apply to participate in Class of 2015 January-December

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For more info contact Linda Brown, Ph.D. 831.5841
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