

April 16, 2024

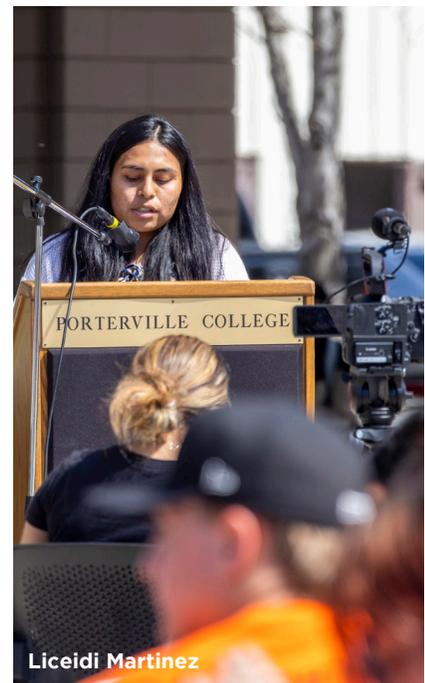


## Celebrating Cesar Chavez

The [PC Cultural and Historical Awareness Program](#) (CHAP) and the PC Dreamers Success Center hosted an event this month to highlight the accomplishments of Cesar Chavez and to celebrate the continuing spirit of his life's work to uplift the lives of Latinos and working families by inspiring and transforming our communities.

Thank you to Porterville native and United Way of Central Eastern California President/CEO [Mari Pérez-Dowling](#) for leading the discussion and sharing her inspirational words with the packed crowd. She shared how her passion for music and broadcasting have not only framed her journey, but given her a voice to fight for progress and change.

Our Dream Center Peer Mentor Liceidi Martinez also did a fantastic job sharing her real life perspective of Chavez's accomplishments and what they have meant to her as she has taken her educational journey from Porterville through Fresno State University as an undocumented student.



Liceidi Martinez

## The "Treasure Chest" is Now Open!



After a long wait **the Treasure Chest** coffee kiosk is finally open 5 days a week in the campus quad! The "Chest" will offer hot and cold coffees along with other drinks, snacks and special surprises. Operating hours are Monday -Thursday from 3:00 pm to 6:30pm and Fridays from 9:00 am to 12:45 pm. Stop and see us the next time you're on campus!

## PC Art Gallery presents a unique exhibition of drawings created using gunpowder.

The PC Art Gallery held its opening reception for THE STORY CHANGES, by artist Robert A. Weibel this March. His art utilizes gunpowder in a way you probably haven't seen before.

In his exhibition, Weibel offers audiences a chance "to witness the transformative power of gunpowder as a medium for creation, reflecting the personal, environmental, and social changes we are currently facing."

Weibel created the images on display inside the gallery by igniting gunpowder on paper, following in the footsteps of Chinese artist Cai Guo-Qiang who is also known for his artistic use of gunpowder.

"I was so impressed by (Cai Guo-Qiang) that I had to try it," Weibel said. "I started

small and did some little explosions, and then I saw its potential and its unique mark-making abilities. It was just fascinating."

Each piece is created by meticulously laying out the design in gunpowder and then compressing the layers of the design with cardboard. The compressed design is then ignited, creating a stunning effect that is really something to behold in person.

As a founding member of ArtHop in Fresno, Weibel is active in the regional art community, including the Printmakers Guild, Gallery 25 and The California Contemporary Art Collective. His works have been displayed in several prestigious galleries in Los Angeles; Portland, Ore.; Montreux, Switzerland; and the United Arab Emirates.



Robert A. Weibel discusses his art with a student



Weibel's work entitled "Who's Afraid (of Ai Wei Wei)?"



Marie Braid

## PC Welcomes New Director of Enrollment Services

Please join us in welcoming the newest addition to the Porterville College team.

Marie Braid is the new **Director of Enrollment Services** at Porterville College.

She holds two Master's degrees in Cyber Forensics & Security and Information Technology and Management.

Prior to joining Porterville College, Marie served as the Associate Director of Transfer Enrollment at the Illinois Institute of Technology. She has worked in higher education for 8 years, embracing the importance of diversity and student success and she is enthusiastic about contributing to the vibrant and inclusive community at Porterville College.

## Celebrating our newest tenured faculty



Jeff Jacobs



Janessia Leggs

We are thrilled to announce and celebrate the achievement of two outstanding faculty members who have recently been awarded tenure: **Jeff Jacobs** and **Janessia Leggs!**

Jeff's dedication to the Administration of Justice program has been instrumental in shaping future law enforcement professionals. Janessia's expertise has been equally essential to the success of our Psychiatric Technician program.

Earning tenure is a testament to Jeff and Janessia's unwavering commitment to teaching excellence, scholarly pursuits, and service to our college community. Their contributions are truly appreciated, and we are incredibly fortunate to have them on our faculty.

Please join me in congratulating Jeff Jacobs and Janessia Leggs on this well-deserved honor!

# Congratulations to our Phi Theta Kappa All-California College Academic Team Members!



PHI THETA KAPPA  
HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to Porterville College Students, **Alexis Gil** and **Hector Xaciel Munoz Ramirez** for being selected to be a part of the 2024 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-California Academic Team.

Official rankings will be available later this month, but these amazing students were selected as two of only 122 students selected out of the 2 Million community college students enrolled in California schools.

The purpose of the Phi Theta Kappa All-State Academic Team Program is to provide recognition at the state level for our top community college students.

Grades, leadership, and community service determine selection to the All-California Academic Team. The students selected represent some of the best and brightest students enrolled in California's 115 community colleges.

Please join us in congratulating these three fine men for their outstanding academic achievement!

## Art Collection Showcases Brightness Even Under the Dark Clouds of Oppression.



*Narrative by Dr. Elisa Queenan*

In 2021, a dark cloud fell over Afghanistan as the Taliban regained power in the region. That return to power marked political upheaval and had an explosive effect on women's lives under the new regime.

Under this rule, strict interpretations of Islamic law were once again enforced, severely curtailing women's rights and opportunities. Centuries of hard-won freedoms were extinguished in the blink of an eye. The vibrant voices of women were forcibly silenced. Suddenly, women were figuratively, and in some cases literally, shackled, forbidden to move freely, to learn, to work.

The educational system suffered, as the Taliban imposed restrictions on girls' education at a certain age and limited the curriculum to align with their fundamentalist ideology. Co-educational institutions were closed, and female teachers who were once beacons of knowledge and empowerment were suddenly cast aside - facing grave challenges in continuing their profession.

The takeover had a chilling effect on the progress made in women's rights and education in the previous decades, leaving many women and girls with limited access to opportunities and the freedom to shape their destinies. Afghanistan is the only country in the world today to suspend girls' and women's access to education. The loss of education and employment essentially relegates women to paupers who can only survive at the will of men. Their only avenue for survival is abject subservience to these men who now control their every breath. Luckily, many of these women have found solace in the arts as they process their grief over losing their future and hope.

Education holds immense value in providing a voice for society's oppressed and voiceless. Education provides a platform for marginalized groups to amplify their voices, share their stories, and contribute to shaping societal narratives. Within the symphony of human experiences, every voice contributes a unique note, and when certain voices are suppressed, the entire composition loses its richness. When education is taken away from marginalized groups, it is the responsibility of others to fight for a space to elevate those stories and voices. We are here to facilitate that platform. We are here to give space for their stories to be told.

Through the resonance of these diverse voices, we hope to build a world where equity and compassion prevails over injustice and discrimination. History will remember this time. We want to know we fought to protect the vulnerable and provide a platform for the oppressed to advocate for themselves.

This amazing collection of art, created entirely by women under the current Taliban regime in Afghanistan, was presented in the PC Library throughout the month of March.

## Movies for Mental Health brings student films and great discussion to campus!



Movies for Mental Health came to campus this week and with it brought a great understanding of mental health issues. The event used wonderful student created films to explore topics related to mental health. Those topics were then used as the starting point for discussions with students and other attendees about mental health.

Movies for Mental Health is an arts-based mental health workshop that focuses on empowering

young adults, educators, health professionals and community members to gain a better understanding of mental health within their environment.

Through group discussions, the attendees were provided valuable information about what we can all do to help ourselves, and each other cope with issues we face every day. Issues that we sometimes have trouble facing due to the current stigmas in our society and various cultures.

The group also explored all of the help available to students here on campus, starting with our very own wellness counselor, Lisa Prieto! This wonderful event was made possible through a partnership with Art with Impact, the American Psychiatric Association Foundation, and the Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission.

If you or someone you know is facing difficulty, there is help. Call Lisa Prieto, PSY.D, Student Health and Wellness Counselor at 559-791-2329 for support.

## PC Helps H.S. Students GEAR UP for the future



During spring break, PC GEAR UP took 42 high school students on a tour of UC Merced. The students had the opportunity to explore the university campus, and learn about what it could be like to attend a large University. Trips like these provide an opportunity for high school students to be introduced to colleges and universities early in their academic career.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) is a federally funded program designed to elevate the academic achievement, college attendance, and graduation rates of first-generation, low-income, underrepresented, and underserved students.

GEAR UP works in partnership with educational and community institutions to provide students and families with individual and group advising, academic and tutoring support, college and career exploration opportunities, skill-building workshops, enrichment programs, college visits, and educational field trips. If you would like more information about PC GEAR UP, [click here](#).

## Important Upcoming Dates

Dates	Event	Time/Location
April 3	PRIORITY REGISTRATION BEGINS SUMMER/FALL 2024	AC BUILDING, ONLINE
April 17	OPEN REGISTRATION BEGINS SUMMER/FALL 2024	AC BUILDING, ONLINE
April 23	PC GRAD FAIR	1:00 PM – 6:30 PM, PC QUAD
April 24	PC GRAD FAIR	9:30 AM - 1:00 PM, PC QUAD

“April is a reminder that life is a beautiful, ever-renewing cycle.”

**-E.E. Cummings**