

## Report on the Eighth Annual Health Professions Conference

May 4, 2014

Mt. SAC welcomed close to 800 students and over 150 speakers to the Health Professions Conference yesterday, and without exception they were impressed and very complimentary about the organization, the facilities, and the event itself. One of the highlights was the return of 16 of our former students, who are now either in professional school, or practicing. They met early in Founder's Hall and reinforced their connection with each other and with Mt SAC. This group of individuals will continue to serve as mentors for our students and their experiences are very valuable to those in similar circumstances trying to enter the health care field.

First and foremost, our Dean, Matt Judd, has been such a great support for this event and for Caduceus Club. He made it possible for us to house some of the supplies in a location closer to the venue and both he and Associate Dean Karelyn Hoover, who was also aided us with live feed issues, came on the day of the event and helped with access to rooms, toured our keynote around the science area, and were generally only a text message away to help with anything we needed.

Vickie Monegan and the Facilities staff were great. They helped us avoid numerous problems because of their foresight, and there was someone with us all the way until the end of the event on Saturday. We were concerned about the weekend date, but they were always within reach when we had a problem and made everything look very professional and organized. Jim met with our fair coordinators and helped them identify locations for water and power, and Adrian stayed till the end and set up our jeopardy game for us, which was a huge hit!

The live feed was fantastic, and it is amazing that this could be accomplished so quickly. Bill Eastham was there in the auditorium and ensured that it all went smoothly.

Kevin Owen and Dahlia were both wonderful. They went out of their way to provide a ticket report that worked well for our event and also handled the on-site registrations which freed up our students and the faculty who helped us, Virginia Pascoe and Chris Briggs, to work on other things.

Our health professions conference planning and staging would not be possible without the help and support of the Biology department. In addition to making the Conference Room and Practicum Room available to us, my colleagues encouraged students to attend and helped advertise and promote the event. A special acknowledgement is due to the Eagle club under the direction of Karen Kakiba-Russel and Craig Peterson. Those students have been with us since the first conference and they are incredible workers! Without their help it would be impossible to get food out to 800 people in 30 minutes!

Peggy Amaro and Jim Carlson in the copy center are incredible and they helped me with all sorts of printing needs including our program, posters, handouts, inserts, name tags, etc. The program is gorgeous, and everyone was impressed with how beautiful it looked. The folks in the copy

center have gone to great lengths to ensure that everything was perfect and we had it in time to make our event successful. So great to have such amazing people working in a critical area that I know I can always rely on.

Publicity is a big job, because we need to reach beyond our campus to make this event work. CB Brown and Sue Hothi have done everything possible to get the word out. CB arranged for a beautiful banner for the front page of our website and a direct link for our ticket sales, and Sue got us up on the marquees and let us know when new publications came out that we could share with our speakers and attendees. Facilities helped us put up our banners all around campus and on the roads leading to and from.

Pat Romero in the Grant's office helped me with our purchases. I honestly don't know how I could have managed without her help navigating through what we can and can't purchase and how to do it. She was amazing, and so was Adrienne Price, who helps us with our grant application every year. Although we didn't get funded for 2015, we are working on donations to make it possible to keep the price down with or without the grant.

We are moving the conference to Friday next year (4/24/15) so that some of the organizations and individuals with Saturday restrictions are able to come, notably Loma Linda and a few of my orthodox physicians. It is our hope that we can alternate between Friday's and Saturday's so that we can capture and serve all of these groups.

Thanks again for all you do, and for your patience with my many demands! We are proud of our students and of what we are able to do here at Mt SAC. On the day of the event, when we see the faces of those students and hear how much it means to them to have direct access to these organizations and providers, when former students who came to us with a 1.5 GPA from a University get a big hug from the director of the American Association of Osteopathic Medical Colleges, it all seems worth it.

Dr. Carmen E. Rexach  
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Mt San Antonio College  
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Dr Rexach,

Great conference. Amazing student team you had. I don't think I ever met a college club with As many friendly and helpful students in my life. Keep it up!

See you at NAAHP next month!

Best wishes,

Joao P. Toste

Director | Atlantis Project

Atlantis-Project.org | Facebook.com/AtlantisProject

Good Morning Carmen,

Your event yesterday was the most impressive I have ever seen on our campus. I don't know what you did to the attendees, but they were the brightest group of students I have encountered. My session was so well received by the students, I can't take full credit. I believe it to be you and your crew that has attracted the cream of the crop and some how stuffed them in my session. I am a community organizer myself with a big regional televised event on May 12th. I am telling you from one organizer to another, you BLEW MY DOORS off yesterday. Kudos to you and your team.

Take Care!

Betty Crocker

Hello Dr. Rexach,

I just wanted to say thank you so much for setting up the health conference yesterday, along with the help of the Caduceus club. Before going, I wasn't sure I would get much out of the event because I want to become a Registered Dietitian. I was so surprised to discover how much I enjoyed talking/interacting with the various speakers during the panel sessions and the focus groups. I went to a few nursing sessions and I feel like I have gained a whole new level of respect for all of the people currently working in the health field.

I want you to know that I'm not sending this email with the intention of just boasting about the conference alone. During the second focus group session my sister texted me and told me that my grandfather had just suffered a heart attack and was en route to the Kaiser hospital in Baldwin Park. Although I wanted to stay, I knew I couldn't let my family or my Nana go to the hospital without me. I left the conference early, and sadly missed the focus group with Betty Crocker who I was most looking forward to speaking to.

However, once I was sitting in the er (in my conference scrub top) I realized that I want nothing more than to work in a health career-be it nutrition or a setting beyond that if I want to pursue

something further. When I went to visit my grandfather in his room, an RN walked in and thought I actually worked for the hospital because of my top, and that made me feel a (false) sense of importance and establishment. I found myself wandering the halls waiting for each of my family members to visit my grandpa, and I stopped at one of the directory boards and read all the different sections of the hospital-oncology, nutrition education, urology, etc. it overwhelmed me because I knew I wanted to be apart of the whole system, and I never felt more sure of it at that moment. A few people had walked out of the elevator and saw me looking at the directory with my scrup top and jeans on and probably thought I was crazy! I didn't care, I was enjoying the moment.

Basically, the events that happened yesterday solidified my feelings of wanting to become a registered dietitian, and possibly more. Your stories during lecture, and the stories I heard from the RN's and physicians yesterday really motivated me and I just want to thank you for that. I hope this email isn't too cheesy but I'm really glad I went to as much of the conference as I could.

On a side note, my grandfather is okay. He's being transferred to the Kaiser in Hollywood and will be receiving an angiogram. He might need a bypass, maybe just a stint, or blood thinners depending on the results-which I'm positive you already know all the procedures I'm talking about for following up with a heart attack, thankfully his was minor.

Anyways, again, I hope this email wasn't too cheesy but I just wanted to thank you and hope that you get to relax a bit after working nonstop for this conference.

Have a goodnight Dr. Rexach!

Abby Mesko