



February 28, 2008

from the office of Superintendent Robert Collins

Grossmont Adult School Shines on Academy Awards Night

While the world was at home Sunday evening watching the Academy Awards, the Adult School Staff led by their director, Colette Fleming, was hosting the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) accreditation team at the Foothills Adult Center. What first got everyone's attention was the excellent turn-out of teachers and administrators to meet the visiting team and share their program. Unlike most opening events with WASC teams that tend to be social, the Adult School and visiting team went directly into focus groups to begin the accreditation process.



El Cajon Adult Center Principal Phyllis Ruth and ESL teachers Lovanne Avina and Sybil Cartwright enjoy good food with Visiting Committee members



Colette Fleming, Director, Grossmont Adult and Visiting WASC Chairperson Dr. Judith Endeman



Dianne Schmidt, UCSD Medical Center, Marlene Ruiz, Kaiser Permanente, and Ann Vroom, Health Occupations Center

Grossmont Adult School – A “Recognized” Model Program for the State

Grossmont Adult School is a model program for the State of California. That was one of the comments from the Visiting Committee. Another WASC member was excited to visit, “because of the reputation of Grossmont Adult School as the premier program in the State.” Serving over 39,000 students, we should all take notice of this school, its teachers, and its leadership.

The Adult School curriculum is strong with over 500 classes scheduled each term. Before I left Sunday evening, Ms. Fleming was figuring out how she could have the visiting committee see each program. The Adult School has a strong focus on Career Technical Education, English as a Second Language (ESL), high school subjects/GED, parent education, home economics, health and safety and addressing the needs of adults with disabilities. **The Parent Education program has been designated as a State Program of Excellence** for almost a decade. The Health Occupations program is strong and has excellent support from Kaiser Permanente and UCSD. The Adult School also has two apprenticeship programs as well as both fee-based and online classes.

The Adult School has grown significantly (25% increase in students) over the past six years. That growth is, in part, due to a strong marketing effort by the Adult School team. Construction has renovated and added new facilities, while the Correctional Education program has expanded to include inmates in all seven detention facilities in San Diego County.

The Expected School Wide Learning Results (ESLRs), developed by the staff are short and concise. Grossmont Adult students will: (1) Master skills identified in course outlines; (2) communicate respectfully and demonstrate acceptance of diversity and (3) seek resources and opportunities for lifelong learning. Achievement of the ESLRs however, is the responsibility of the leadership team and teachers. Colette Fleming has provided the leadership that makes these goals a reality. She encourages teachers to develop new course ideas and decisions regarding course offerings are collaborative. Teachers are provided the autonomy to develop their own courses, outlines and materials. **The leadership team then combines this effort with commitment, participation and shared accountability.**

Most importantly, under Colette Fleming's leadership, the school environment is characterized by respect for differences, trust, caring, professionalism, support and high expectations for each student. This is one statement in a very long progress report, but it sums up the spirit of this School, its staff and teachers. On Sunday night a lot of Oscars were handed out in Hollywood, but the real winner was in Grossmont – the Grossmont Adult School program.