

Two CCA members, both part-time faculty, have received the Gerald C. Hayward Award for Excellence in Education by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

Anjeanette Oberg, an associate psychology professor at MiraCosta College and Melinda Kashuba, a geography professor at Shasta College received the awards in a ceremony in Sacramento. Each winner received a commemorative plaque and \$1,250. Oberg is a member of the MiraCosta College Teachers Association and Kashuba is a member of the Shasta College Faculty Association. Oberg, a one-time high school drop-out, teen mom and first-generation college student has a deep connection to community colleges and the EOPS students with whom she works to prepare them with leadership, job skills and interviewing training.

“Our students are the most incredible in the world. They have overcome tremendous adversity to be in college and have had to balance life struggles and jobs to be here,” she said. “I walked in their shoes and I wanted to teach because I am a community college graduate.”

With a degree in developmental psychology from California State University, San Bernardino, Oberg has taught at both MiraCosta and Mount San Jacinto Colleges since 2011. She has worked to raise awareness and support for the LGBTQIA community, and led the charge on a regional grant aimed at creating intercollegiate Gender Equality and Sexual Assault Awareness events.

“I’m excited to be involved with students who are developing a sense of power... When you see students improving their lives and working to help others, it’s an incredible feeling,” she said.

Kashuba, who has a Ph.D in geography from UCLA, teaches at Shasta College in Redding. Kashuba works to show students how globally connected they are in today’s society, both in the classroom and in her online courses. She is somewhat aghast as to the low knowledge level Americans have of both physical, cultural and social geography.

“I try to show them how they can make better decisions if they understand geography. Geography may help them decide where to build a house or start a business,” she said.

Like Oberg, Kashuba marvels at the variety of students she teaches – high school graduates, war veterans, older adults, different ethnic groups, and workers returning to college for more training.

“Community college teaching is one of the hardest teaching jobs you can do. You have to meet people at a variety of different levels and with varied reading and writing skills,” she said.

Kashuba also puts her knowledge to use in the community, where she volunteers with the County Office of Education’s Whiskeytown Environmental School, which offers elementary students outdoor education. She is also involved in the Whiskeytown BioBlitz, a local festival where elementary and high school students from local schools help count local species – among other activities.

Environmental education “helps inform them in life, and builds social awareness and emotional maturity. That’s our goal,” Kashuba said.

Geography also plays a part in Kashuba's other interest – helping others to trace their genealogy. During the summer, she lectures all over the country teaching people how to use maps to help find their ancestry. She is currently working on a revised edition of her book, *Walking with Your Ancestors*.