

# HU Highlights

— HUMPHREYS UNIVERSITY STUDENT & ALUMNI NEWSLETTER —

## Dean Becerra Retires

LINDA RAHMOLLER, BUSINESS DEPT. ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

After 43 years of dedicated service to the Humphreys University Community, Cynthia S. Becerra has retired from her position as the Dean of Undergraduate Studies.



Cindy's dedication, skill, and positive spirit have left a lasting impact on all of us. Her presence will be missed in our community. During her tenure, she has written, edited, and revised multiple self-studies for WASCUC and has been instrumental in developing the stand-alone Liberal Studies Department Bachelor's Degree.

She has been a tireless advocate for our students; inspiring them with the beauty and power of words and a passion for literature. Dean Becerra has willingly offered a listening ear and shared her wisdom with all of us in so many ways with her keen insight and meticulous diligence improving our grammar. The community thanks you for the inspiration, guidance, and friendship that you have offered along the way, as well as the continual supply of Reese's Peanut Butter Cups.

We wish her the best as she begins her new journey filled with endless possibilities. May this new phase bring her time to pursue her passions and embrace new adventures. Enjoy your freedom to explore, create, and relax. You have earned every moment.

## MAT Orientation: Key Information for Career Success

JULIE WALKER, DIRECTOR OF ADMISSIONS

The New Student Orientation for the credential program (TCRED and MAT/MSTC) is so vital because there is so much information the students need to know, especially in terms of the requirements of the State of California. That is why Kary Ridenour and Julie Porta join in. Julie Walker usually begins by giving the general information about Humphreys University, its departments and policies. At that point Kary and Julie go over the slideshow which discusses several things: Requirements for admission to the program, the CSET requirement, the TPAs, as well as the other documents students need to provide and keep up-to-date, such as CPR certification. Then, the most important part is discussed: Student Teaching vs. Interning. All students are required by the State to do one or the other to receive their preliminary credential. They are different paths. Those who choose to do Student Teaching are assigned a school (with their consent) and a mentor teacher. They work with that teacher for four months, gradually assuming more and more responsibility in the classroom. This is an unpaid position. The Intern option is different. Students find a position and become the teacher of record in that classroom. They are paid as teachers, with full benefits. This Intern option is the most common choice, for obvious reasons. Plus, most of our students are already working as teachers under emergency credentials, so they already have positions. They do not have a mentor in the classroom with them at all times but are assigned a mentor on the same campus. And of course, they are mentored through our program, so they are not left alone to fend for themselves!

At most orientations, there are many questions from the students. This tends to be a long orientation for that reason. We want to be sure that the new students receive this information from the beginning. One key point that is discussed is the completion of the TPAs (Teacher Performance Assessments). The students complete these state-mandated exams while they are Student Teaching or Interning. One particularly appealing part of our program (among many) is that students receive hands-on guidance on the TPAs. This is not always the case in credential programs. As a result, Humphreys University has a high passage rate.

The credentialing program at Humphreys University has a wonderful reputation. Perhaps that is why so many of our new students are referred by a person who graduated from our program. By offering them a clear picture of how the program works from the very beginning, we are certain to have happy and successful students.

# Humphreys University Featured in San Joaquin County's 175th Anniversary Exhibit

MATT REYNOLDS, PROVOST & DEAN OF LAW

Humphreys University is prominently featured in the San Joaquin County Historical Society and Museum's 175th Anniversary of San Joaquin County exhibit, "175 Years of Growing Greatness." The exhibit, which opened to the public on June 21, 2025, and runs at least through the end of the year, is located at the museum in Micke Grove Regional Park in Lodi. The exhibit celebrates the people, places, and institutions that have shaped San Joaquin County since its founding in 1850, focusing on the region's enduring legacy of innovation, education, and community growth.

A centerpiece of the exhibit, the "Growing Knowledge" section, highlights the history of education in San Joaquin County and proudly recognizes Humphreys University (then known as the Stockton Business College and Normal School or the Stockton Business College, Normal School, and Telegraphic Institute) as the county's first institution of higher education. The exhibit explains that between 1850 and 1853, eight private and religious schools were established in Stockton, including early efforts supported by Charles Weber and philanthropist William P. Hazelton. As the community expanded, education became a defining feature of the county's growth and in 1896 Humphreys University opened its doors, offering higher education courses in business and teacher training. Humphreys University had laid the foundation for advanced education in the region!

Humphreys University's early milestone is part of broader educational growth in the county that came to include other historic institutions of higher learning such as the College of the Pacific (now University of the Pacific), San Joaquin Delta College, and the Stockton campus of California State University, Stanislaus. Collectively, these schools represent over a century and a half of progress in expanding access to education, fostering talent, and empowering generations of students to serve their communities. Humphreys University was first!

The "175 Years of Growing Greatness" exhibit spans multiple galleries at the San Joaquin County Historical Museum, highlighting key aspects of local life, including agriculture, transportation, commerce, and innovation. Artifacts (such as the original Humphreys University sign!), historic photographs, and interpretive displays trace the county's transformation from its early agricultural roots to a thriving center of culture and industry.

I encourage you to check it out! The Museum even has San Joaquin County trading cards available for free, while supplies last. I took a complete set.



# Spotlight on Careers in Criminal Justice: Information Security Analysts and Intelligence Analysts

DUANE MCLAUGHLIN , CRIMINAL JUSTICE/LEGAL STUDIES CHAIR



The criminal justice field is rapidly changing. Two popular new career options are Information Security Analysts and Intelligence Analysts. These jobs combine old-school detective skills with modern technology and data analysis. Both careers offer exciting opportunities for new graduates who are ready for today’s challenges.

### Information Security Analyst: Keeping Data Safe

As cyber threats grow, Information Security Analysts are essential for protecting sensitive information for companies, government agencies, and law enforcement. They protect an organization’s computer system and data from cyber threats such as hacking, malware, and data breaches. Information Security Analysts monitor networks for suspicious activity, investigate and respond to incidents, and design security measures like firewalls and encryption to prevent attacks. I guess you could say, they are the first line of defense in keeping digital information safe.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, this job is expected to grow by 30% over the next ten years, making it one of the fastest-growing jobs. If you happen to have criminal justice experience, this job uses your skills in investigating, making ethical decisions and understanding laws about privacy and cybercrime. Obtaining certifications in cybersecurity and digital forensics will also help with obtaining a job in this field.

### Intelligence Analyst: Using Information to Take Action

Working behind the scenes, Intelligence Analysts gather and analyze information to help law enforcement and security agencies stop threats before they happen. They track criminal groups, analyze digital communications and look for patterns in financial or behavioral data. Intelligence Analysts may specialize in areas like cybercrime, counterterrorism, and organized crime. Their work supports decision-making at local, state, and national levels.

Intelligence Analyst is a great career for those who enjoy research, strategic thinking, and connecting different pieces of information. They work for agencies like the FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and state and local criminal justice agencies. There are also more jobs available in the private sector as more companies seek to assess risks and threats.

### Why These Jobs are Important

Both jobs show how criminal justice has moved beyond just courtrooms and police patrols. Today there is a greater need to focus on preventing problems, protecting people, and responding proactively rather than reactively. Graduates with criminal justice backgrounds are well-suited for these roles. As digital and global threats become more complex, professionals who understand law, technology, and analysis will be in high demand.

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# Understanding the One Big Beautiful Bill Act:

RITA FRANCO, DIRECTOR OF FINANCIAL AID

## What It Means for Humphreys University Students

### A New Era in Federal Student Aid

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA), signed into law on July 4, 2025, introduces major changes to federal student aid programs, particularly for graduate and professional students. Most provisions take effect beginning July 1, 2026, pending final federal guidance from the U.S. Department of Education.

### What's Changing?

#### New Loan Limits

- Grad PLUS Loans Phased Out: No longer available for new borrowing after July 1, 2026.
- Master's Programs: Annual limit: \$20,500; Lifetime cap: \$100,000
- Professional Programs: Annual limit: \$50,000; Lifetime cap: \$200,000
- Overall Federal Loan Cap: \$257,500 (includes undergraduate and graduate borrowing)

Note: These figures reflect provisions outlined in the Act as of November 2025. Federal guidance may further clarify or adjust these limits before implementation.



### Important Reminder for Current Borrowers

Students who have already received Graduate PLUS (Grad PLUS) Loans before July 1, 2026, may continue borrowing under the existing program for up to three additional academic years, or until they complete their current degree program—whichever occurs first. Grad PLUS Loans do not have annual limits and are not subject to federal aggregate caps that apply to Direct Subsidized or Unsubsidized Loans.

### How This Affects You at Humphreys University

Humphreys University offers graduate and professional programs that will be directly impacted:

Master's in Education and Teaching---Students in master's programs will have lower borrowing limits starting July 1, 2026. Careful budgeting and financial planning will be essential.

Juris Doctor (JD)---Law students may no longer be able to fully cover their Cost of Attendance (COA) with federal loans alone. Alternative financing, such as private loans, scholarships, or employer tuition assistance may be required.

Sample COA Scenario: JD Student

Let's look at a hypothetical JD student attending Humphreys University:

- Tuition & Fees: \$36,000/year
- Living Expenses: \$24,000/year
- Books & Supplies: \$2,000/year
- Total COA: \$62,000/year

Under the new borrowing limits, a JD student could borrow up to \$50,000 in Direct Loans per year, leaving a \$12,000 funding gap to be covered through other resources.

### Questions and Answers

Q: Can current students continue borrowing under the Grad PLUS Loan program?

A: Students who received at least one Grad PLUS Loan disbursement prior to July 1, 2026, may continue borrowing under the existing Grad PLUS program for up to three additional academic years, or until completion of their current degree program whichever occurs first.

Q: Will Grad PLUS Loans count toward the new \$257,500 federal aggregate loan limit?

A: No. Grad PLUS Loans are not included in the new federal aggregate loan limit. Unlike Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Loans, Grad PLUS Loans have never had annual or lifetime borrowing caps, and this characteristic will remain unchanged under the new rules. The new aggregate limit applies only to Direct Subsidized and Direct Unsubsidized Loans.

Q: What options are available if a student's Cost of Attendance exceeds the new federal loan limits?

A: Students whose educational costs exceed federal borrowing limits may explore alternative funding options such as institutional scholarships, private education loans, payment plans, or employer tuition assistance. Financial Aid counselors are available to provide guidance on available options.

Q: How can students verify their cumulative federal borrowing history?

A: Students may review their complete federal loan record by logging into the Federal Student Aid website at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov). This portal provides detailed information on all federal loans disbursed, including amounts, lenders, and remaining eligibility.

Information in this section is based on provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act as of November 2025 and is subject to further federal guidance.

### What Humphreys University Is Doing

The Student Services Office is actively participating in professional development and compliance training activities to ensure staff are fully prepared to communicate and implement the federal student aid regulations accurately and effectively.

**Humphreys University is committed to:** Providing clear and accurate financial aid counseling, updating catalog content, advising materials, and internal procedures, and communicating policy changes to students in a timely and transparent manner

We understand these changes may raise questions for current and prospective students. The Student Services Office remains available to provide guidance and individualized assistance. For questions or additional information, students may contact: Student Services Office 209-478-0800



## Adjunct Faculty Interview: Merilyn Vaughn

### HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT HUMPHREYS UNIVERSITY?

Late in the summer of 1999, I answered a want ad in the Stockton Record for a reader for court reporting classes at Humphreys College. I began winter quarter of 2000. And the rest, as they say, is history.

### WHAT DO YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT YOUR JOB IN THE COURT REPORTING DEPARTMENT?

I love seeing the students progress in speed and transcript production. I enjoy giving them feedback on their transcripts and formatting and seeing them incorporate what I tell them into their work. I especially love seeing them take proofreading seriously.

### WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR NEW COURT REPORTING STUDENTS?

Understand that the number of hours we require for practice and production is a minimum. The more time you spend on the assignments, the more hours you practice, the more transcripts you produce, the faster you will progress.

### CAN YOU NAME A MEMORABLE MOMENT FOR YOU AT HUMPHREYS UNIVERSITY?

I remember fondly when my daughter worked at Humphreys for two years as the faculty aide and also taught a court reporting class or so. We were able to share some of the work at times, having the same type of classes at different speeds. We could use the same vocabulary words and the same straight copy assignments and sometimes we shared our required transcript assignments. It was a fun time of collaboration.

### DESCRIBE YOURSELF IN THREE WORDS

Cat-lover, word game addict, and singer.

### WHAT IS SOMETHING THAT PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

I have read the Bible aloud several times. Did you know you can read the New Testament aloud in about 18 hours? I have organized Bible Reading Marathons at church where we do that 6:00 AM to midnight, usually the day before Pentecost. What a day!

### DO YOU HAVE ANY HOBBIES?

I love to hike in the mountains and read.

### WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE QUOTE OR MOTTO?

You are not hanging in there; you are upheld by God.

### DO YOU PLAY A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT?

In elementary school I played the flute and continued playing in band or orchestra through high school. In high school I also sang in choirs and choral singing became my favorite. I kept up the choral singing in college and eventually became a music major, getting my bachelor's degree in vocal performance. I have been a professional member of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus since 1986. And, of course, I sing in my church choir.

## October was Cybersecurity Awareness Month: Stay Smart, Stay Secure!

HUMPHREYS UNIVERSITY IT DEPARTMENT

Each October, universities across the nation come together to promote Cybersecurity Awareness Month, a time to reflect on how we can all protect our digital lives. At Humphreys University, we're joining the national effort to keep our campus community safe online — whether you're a student attending virtual classes, a faculty member managing research data, or a staff member handling university systems.

### Why Cybersecurity Matters

In our increasingly connected world, cyber threats like phishing, identity theft, and ransomware are growing more sophisticated. A single click on a malicious link or sharing your password can compromise not only your data but the entire university network. Awareness and prevention are our strongest defenses.

### This Year's Theme: "Secure Our World"

The Department of Homeland Security encourages everyone to "Secure Our World" by focusing on four key actions:

1. Use Strong Passwords and a Password Manager – Create unique, complex passwords and store them safely.
2. Turn on Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) – Add an extra layer of protection to your accounts.
3. Recognize and Report Phishing – Be cautious of suspicious emails, attachments, or links.
4. Update Your Software – Regular updates fix security vulnerabilities before attackers exploit them.

### Cyber Safety at Humphreys

Our IT Department works year-round to safeguard university systems, but security starts with you. Here are a few ways to stay cyber smart on campus:

- Never share your Humphreys login credentials.
- Back up important documents to approved cloud storage.
- Lock your devices when unattended, even for short breaks.
- Report suspicious emails immediately to [techsupport@humphreys.edu](mailto:techsupport@humphreys.edu).

Cybersecurity isn't just an IT issue — it's a community responsibility. By taking simple steps and staying informed, each of us contributes to a safer, stronger digital environment at Humphreys University.

**Let's Secure Our World — together!**

# ECE Advocacy Discussion

DR. DONNA ROBERTS, ECE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

The ECE department hosted an ECE Panel Discussion on Advocacy in Early Childhood Education on Tuesday, November 4, 2025, from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. via Zoom. This panel was open to everyone and included students, alumni, parents, faculty, and community representatives from Stockton Unified School District, Lodi Unified School District, and Child Abuse Prevention Council.

The ECE Panel discussion topics on Advocacy in Early Childhood Education included:

- Needing Training and Resources
- Effectively Supporting Special Needs in ECE/Preparedness Issues
- Getting Parents/Families on Board
- Getting Administrators on Board
- Accountability
- Other

Everyone was welcome to attend the Zoom session and share their thoughts or just listen to a variety of perspectives! This was a nice professional development for ECE and Education majors.

The ECE Department was pleased with the turnout.

# BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

JASON WOLINS, BUSINESS DEPARTMENT CHAIR

On October 29, 2025, Business Department chair Jason Wolins attended the annual California Society of Certified Public Accountants (CalCPA) (San Joaquin chapter) ABC Night networking event held in Lodi.

The event was targeted towards Attorneys, Bankers, CPAs, and Financial Planners. A large group attended. The department chair met a number of people and spread the word about Humphreys.

Proceeds from the event benefit the CalCPA San Joaquin Scholarship Fund, which helps the next generation of financial professionals.



JASON WOLINS WITH CALCPA SAN JOAQUIN VOLUNTEER AND OPERATIONS MANAGER RACHAEL FLEMING



Let's help those in need this holiday season.

## Join Us in The Spirit of Giving



**Sock Drive for St. Mary's Interfaith**

We are collecting new socks to benefit those at St. Mary's Interfaith Dining Room and Community Services in downtown Stockton.

Socks, often referred to as "white gold" by those on the streets, are a basic necessity that can bring warmth and comfort to those who need it most.

**Donations Deadline: Monday, December 15, 2025**



**Toy Drive for Stockton Police Department**

In partnership with the Stockton Police Department, we are collecting unwrapped toys to benefit children unfairly affected in Stockton.

For over 24 years, Stockton Police Youth Activities & Arroyo's Cafe host an Annual Toy Drive. Toys collected are delivered to children on Christmas Eve morning.

**Donations Deadline: Monday, December 15, 2025**

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## Humphreys University

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### OUR MISSION

To prepare students for meaningful careers and professions through an accessible, guided, supportive, and high-quality educational experience and directed to the specific and changing needs of students from diverse ethnic, cultural, economic, and educational backgrounds.

### OUR VISION

To be the community-recognized institution of choice, known for providing quality, student-focused, career-oriented, and affordable higher education that improves the lives of students and develops informed citizens.

### OUR CORE VALUES

- We are an opportunity school that accepts, teaches, and elevates anyone with a desire and motivation to learn and improve.
- We excel at delivering a personalized, affordable, and accessible educational experience.
- We provide career-oriented education, aligned with career and skill demands, integrated into the professional community, and delivered by dedicated practitioner-educators.
- We exhibit a culture of adaptability and innovation to meet the demands of the future in the service of our students.