



**CUESTA
COLLEGE**
News Release

**Contact: Jill Ivie
(805) 546-3108
FAX (805) 546-3921**

**Cuesta College Institutional Advancement/
Marketing & Communications
San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8106
Email: jill_ivie@cuesta.edu**

March 19, 2008

Cuesta Features Local Entrepreneurs at Forum

Five local entrepreneurs will be the featured panelists at Cuesta College's Entrepreneurship Forum in Paso Robles on Thursday, April 3.

The forum will include small group discussions and an entrepreneur panel discussion with a question and answer period. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and audience members will be able to talk with panelists, as well as representatives from the Small Business Development Center, SCORE, and the Economic Vitality Corporation.

Panelists will include Connie Gannon, Jonathan Gannon, Ryan Horn, Oddette Howard and Dustin Ryen. Their panel discussion will be moderated by Gary Rubin, Cuesta College's North County Coordinator for Business Education.

The brother-sister duo of Connie, 22, and Jonathan Gannon, 25, opened Red Brick Pizza in Paso Robles in December 2006. In addition to being store owners, they also negotiated the rights to be the Master Franchisors for a six-county area. Both are Templeton High School graduates and both attended Cuesta College business classes.

Horn is a serial entrepreneur who wrote his first business plan at age 24 for The Vintner's Vault (Where the wine industry shops!). He opened his Paso Robles business in September 2003 and has since expanded to include 10,000 square feet of merchandise. He has also written business plans for his winery, Nacimiento Cellars, his crush facility, In Vino Veritas, his fabrication shop, The Vintner Vault Fabrication Shop, and a crush facility he partners, The Crush at Paso.

Howard started her own catering company, Miss Oddette's, after retiring from the California Youth Authority as a program administrator. With the help of her family, Howard specialized in catering southern-style barbeque that fostered a demand for her family's secret barbeque sauce recipe. In February 2004, she expanded her company to produce, bottle and sell the sauce. Her "Special Report" sauce and "No Joke" sauce are now sold in grocery stores across the Central Coast, San Joaquin Valley and Northern California.

Ryen, 23, worked as a tradeshow, sales and marketing consultant before founding NiiTES.com, an advertising platform targeting college students through the use of nightlife photography. A career

highlight occurred when Maria Shriver mentioned Ryen's philanthropy efforts in an article for the San Francisco Chronicle titled "What WE Californians Can Do."

The forum will be held on Thursday, April 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Cuesta College's North County Campus in room N2401. Day care will be provided for children ages 2-7. This service is free of charge but reservations are required to reserve child care.

Cuesta College news releases are available on the Internet at
<http://academic.cuesta.edu/pim/pr/index.htm>

###