



News Release

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May 18, 2009

Cuesta Architecture Students to Display Homeless Center Designs

Fifteen Cuesta College architecture technology students will showcase their designs for a new homeless center on Thursday, May 21, from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter, at 750 Orcutt Road, in San Luis Obispo.

The public is encouraged to stop by and listen to the student architects give presentations about their designs, which will be on display outside the shelter. Students will also have two- by three-foot presentation boards, and their architectural models on display.

Graduating second-year students in Architectural Design Fundamentals “put together design proposals for a new homeless center in San Luis Obispo,” said instructor David Fernandez. “We did some research, did some site visits to the existing facilities and talked to the people who work in those facilities. Then students went off and designed a new campus for the homeless center.”

Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo County Inc. (formerly known as EOC) and the Friends of the Prado Day Center are seeking to upgrade facilities for the area’s homeless, Fernandez said. They operate the existing homeless centers: the Prado Day Center, which offers breakfast and lunch, and Maxine Lewis Memorial Shelter, which provides dinner and 49 beds nightly year-round. Students planned their designs for a vacant lot on South Higuera Street near Prado Road.

“Some of the solutions are one story, some are two, some are three stories,” Fernandez said. “They’ve all looked into natural day lighting techniques and strategies to help minimize energy costs. They are all approaching it differently. Some have counseling centers, placement offices and things like that.”

Cuesta students took on the assignment to also foster a dialog about creating a better homeless center.

“It’s like planting a seed,” Fernandez said. “This is a way to put some designs out there and give it a visual in terms that this project could actually become reality.”

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