



College of
Adaptive Arts
Inclusive Collegiate Partnerships

FACT SHEET

Mission : College of Adaptive Arts (CAA) provides a lifelong collegiate experience to adults with special needs who historically have not had access to college education.

Vision: To empower the student body to transform perception of individuals with disabilities

- The organization was founded in 2009 by DeAnna Pursai and Dr. Pamela Lindsay and has grown operationally by 1608% since its inception.
- The college began with 12 adult students in a single musical theatre class and as of the Winter Quarter 2021, student enrollment has climbed to 140+ adult students taking over 75+ course offerings in 10 Schools of Instruction.
- Students ages 18+ can take an individual class for a 3-unit certificate or can enroll in a particular course of study and complete a 60-unit undergraduate, 120-unit graduate, and 240-unit post-graduate articulated curriculum.
- In July of 2020 the West Valley Mission Community College District Board of Trustees voted unanimously to bring College of Adaptive Arts onto the beautiful campus of West Valley to be a Living Learning Lab/Leadership Training/Work Study program for its host campus students, while allowing College of Adaptive Arts adult students to continue to learn and grow on an authentic college campus. The vision is to show the world how this model can be replicated on any and every campus of higher learning across the world.
- College of Adaptive Arts is an institution of lifelong learners, so once the undergraduate course of study is completed, students are welcomed and encouraged to return to enroll in a graduate program designed to get them more engaged and partnered in the community.
- CAA is the first model of its kind in the country. Unlike typical therapeutic recreational programs that offer a smorgasbord of services, the College of Adaptive Arts provides a curriculum that coherently builds upon each course, allowing the adult learner to grow in the particular area of their choice and interest.
- This educational model leads to continued developmental growth, long after the traditional system has determined they are no longer capable of growth and learning. This includes emotional growth as well as intellectual growth, which often transfers to areas outside of the educational setting.
- CAA's goal is to grow its program and expand its services to community colleges, universities and community centers around the country. It is continually looking for new partnerships.
- **For more information on the College of Adaptive Arts, visit <https://www.collegeofadaptivearts.org/>**

