



San Diego Community College District

WE *with excellence*

March 2010

**City College
Mesa College
Miramar College
Continuing
Education**

The Crisis in San Diego Higher Education: What we are telling our political leaders

Nearly everyone can remember the time, just three years ago, when a student could show up for class at any one of the San Diego Community College District's (SDCCD) three colleges and Continuing Education and enroll in the class that was their first or second choice. Those days have passed and it is not certain if, or when, they will return. For the past two years, the District's colleges and Continuing Education have turned away approximately 10,000 students each semester because classes were already full. For some beginning classes in math and English, all the seats were taken a month before the start of the semester.

Story continues on page 3.



September 2009 student rally to protest class and budget cuts at City College.



Chancellor's Message



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor, SDCCCD

All Politics is Local

A former Speaker of the House, Thomas "Tip" O'Neill, once famously said, "all politics is local," suggesting that national political leaders either are or should be significantly affected by the states and communities from which they were elected.

As California moves into yet another year of fiscal crisis and drastic budget cuts, those affected have become much stronger in their protests and advocacy for better decisions and better decision-making. The California community colleges have seen more frequent student rallies for funding improvement, teach-ins for budget equity, marches to Sacramento, governing board resolutions, administrator and faculty legislative visits, and staff protests in a dramatically unfolding advocacy effort involving all stakeholders.

In complement to the statewide efforts, advocacy has also reached the federal level where a new Administration and a new President are attempting to provide the support and funding that community colleges need to fulfill their mission of service to the nation.

Recently, our regional San Diego community college organization was privileged to have as its guest Dr. Martha Kanter, the Under Secretary of Education. Dr. Kanter is also the former chancellor of the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District, and co-chaired with the San Diego CCD the Underfunded Districts' Caucus that successfully led the effort to equalize community college funding within California.

In her remarks at Cuyamaca College, Dr. Kanter outlined the ambitious plans that are on the table for community colleges. We all were inspired and will work to support the following legislative priorities:

- Enactment of the "American Graduation Initiative," which would provide \$12 billion for community colleges to help the nation increase higher education attainment and return to world leadership in this regard.
- Enactment of the "Jobs for Main Street Act" and the "Community College Emergency Stabilization Fund Act," providing over \$20 billion to reduce unemployment.
- Ensuring continuing increases in the Pell Grant for students, which will reach a maximum of \$5,550 next year.
- Passing a number of other initiatives, such as the "DREAM Act," the "Community College Energy Training Act," the "Career Pathways Innovation Fund," and many other initiatives to strengthen higher education and K-12 education.

We have come to a period in our history in which the neighborhoods of political interest are rapidly blending into one. From the standpoint of our advocacy efforts, whether oriented toward Sacramento or Washington, DC, all politics is local.

From left: Chancellor Constance Carroll, Trustee Mary Graham, Trustee Peter Zschiesche, City College President Terrence Burgess, Trustee Rich Grosch, Under Secretary Martha Kanter, Continuing Education President Anthony Beebe, Trustee Bill Schwandt, Student Trustee Franchesca Gade, Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh, Trustee Maria Nieto Senour and Public Information Director Richard Dittbenner.

Continued from page 1.

Members of the SDCCD Board, administration, faculty leaders and others, recently met with our local legislators in Sacramento to explain the impacts of state budget cuts. This has all happened due to a \$20.7 million decrease in state funding during the past two years. When normal increases in operational costs are factored into the mix, the actual reduction in funding available to support students is \$30.05 million. That translates into an elimination of 1,900 classes throughout the city during the past two years.

At \$26 per semester unit, California's community colleges are still the best bargain in higher education. For the 240,000 Californians who could not get a class at one of California's 110 community colleges last year, that bargain has become an illusion.

That is a serious problem for San Diego residents where the unemployment rate has skyrocketed from 4.5 percent in 2008 to 10.1 percent in 2010. In 2007, the average annual salary for a worker in San Diego was \$43,419. It has fallen approximately 1.5 percent each year since that time. Many residents who have lost their jobs or have had their hours reduced are seeking retraining. They are competing for limited seats with applicants from nearby San Diego State University and the University of California who were turned away due to cuts in their state funding.

Thirty students from City, Mesa and Miramar colleges are traveling to Sacramento on March 22, to meet with legislative leaders as part of a statewide student effort to carry the message that their future and that of the state's economy are in jeopardy in the present economic circumstances.

Students who have planned for a public college education for workforce training or obtaining a degree are finding that the doors to those opportunities are becoming more distant. The majority of students attending City, Mesa or Miramar colleges are place-bound. Transferring to an out-of-town college or university is not possible due to financial or family reasons. That is especially the case with the majority of adult students enrolled in Continuing Education, where English as a Second Language and Basic Skills classes are the first step for a student to acquire basic educational preparation necessary for college success.

According to the Public Policy Institute of California, the state will experience a shortfall of workers possessing a baccalaureate degree by 2025. This will have serious consequences for San Diego and the entire state's economy. It is anticipated that only 35 percent of the state's workforce will have a bachelor's degree at a time when 41 percent will need one to keep the state's economy from stagnating. The SDCCD colleges are an important part of the solution because they, along with other community colleges, account for the majority of the graduates of the California State University.

Assembly Member Marty Block is proposing a pilot bachelor's degree program for the San Diego and Grossmont-Cuyamaca community college districts as a way to help meet critical state needs in specific technical fields while addressing the expected statewide shortage of four-year degree graduates.

The challenge for students to get a degree from a public college and university may become more difficult. The most recent recommendation from the California Legislative Analyst's Office is that community college tuition be raised from \$26 to \$40 per credit unit beginning with the Fall 2010 semester. This increase would be in addition to the approximately \$500 per semester many students must pay for their textbooks.

With so many local residents who cannot get classes they need to retrain or prepare to transfer to a baccalaureate degree-granting college, it is no

wonder that countless students and their supporters are mobilizing to educate the governor and members of the legislature about the severe consequences these problems are having for tens of thousands of San Diego residents.

"I couldn't get all of the classes I need to study for a career in the medical field. I want to get through college as fast as I can so I can get a job, but I don't know how long it is going to take me to do that."



Emilio Poblete
Mesa College student

SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY COLLEGES

JOIN MARCH 22 STUDENT RALLY SACRAMENTO CALIFORNIA

SEND A MESSAGE TO OUR LEGISLATORS
NO CLASS CUTS
NO BUDGET CUTS

City Mesa Miramar Continuing Ed



Terrence J. Burgess, Ph.D.
President
San Diego City College

City



Rita M. Cepeda, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Mesa College

Mesa

Early College High School - A Jumpstart to College

Unlike most of her peers, when Daisy Neri graduated high school in June she had already earned 16 units of college credit by participating in the Early College High School (ECHS) Initiative.

The Initiative blends high school and college by compressing the time it takes to earn a high school diploma and complete the first two years of college.

Funded by the Gates Foundation, the ECHS project began eight years ago in three schools and has since expanded to serve more than 42,000 students in over 200 schools nationwide. With City College as their partner, more than 600 students are enrolled in ECHS at San Diego LEADS High School, San Diego Early/Middle College and San Diego High School of Media, Visual and Performing Arts (MVPA).

In 2009, with the support of Jobs for the Future, an education reform organization, and the Foundation for California Community Colleges, City College was granted additional funding to broaden the effort and work collaboratively with faculty, students and administration from the participating high schools to establish a long-term, sustainable partnership focused on preparing students to be successful, independent college students.

Under the direction of Dean Lori Erreca, Business Professor Salley Deaton and Professor June Richards, Visual and Performing Arts co-chair, coordinate the LEADS and MVPA programs. Other participating City faculty include Carlos de la Lama, chair of Mathematics; Misael Camarena, mathematics co-chair; Chris Baron, English Center director; Acting Dean Minou Spradley, History and Political Science Professor Peter Haro, Business Information and Technology Professor Lori Oldham, and counselors Rudy Zamora and Tandy Ward.

They work in collaboration with San Diego City Schools Principals Elizabeth Larkin (Early Middle College), Consuelo Manriquez (MVPA) and Elizabeth Weiss (LEADS).

ECHS is designed for low-income youth, first-generation college-goers, English language learners, students of color and other underrepresented youth.

Since its inception, the Initiative has grown nearly tenfold. "Faculty have driven this initiative," Richards said. "I cannot praise them enough for their dedication, time, compassion and commitment. We've been able to provide insight into the expectations of a college class and the mentorship between high school and college faculty," Richards said.

"Before the grant, our success rate in enrolling high school students in college courses was, at best, challenging."

Through ECHS, enrollment is streamlined by identifying classes appropriate for upper division high school students to begin their college experience.

Dean Erreca noted, "ECHS programs provide the perfect higher education pathway for our neighboring San Diego High Complex students. It is a rare situation where high school students can just walk across the street to attend classes on a college campus."

Daisy, who was MVPA's 2009 valedictorian, is a psychology major at SDSU, while 99 percent of her 78 fellow graduates have enrolled at two- and four-year institutions. ♦



Early College High School Initiative participant Daisy Neri.

Now Playing



Education...On Demand

Professor Dwayne Gergens

Weekly Podcast of All Things Chemistry



2 of 19

Missed that chemistry lecture on the Bronsted Lowry Acid Base Theory? No problem. Just catch the podcast, when and where you want it. Weekly podcasts of all things chemistry – from proton transfer to drawing organic structures to how batteries work – can be found on the iTunes website of Professor Dwayne Gergens.

There are close to 316 mini-lecture postings by the Mesa College chemistry professor on iTunes. The SDCCD pioneer is using social media to supplement instruction creates and posts weekly podcasts to recap experiments and explain theories and concepts.

Students listen and learn at coffee shops, waiting for the dentist, in line at the ATM machine or just about anywhere else. "Podcasting offers a wonderful opportunity to reach students when they want to reach you," Professor Gergens said. The two-to-three-minute per topic format gives today's student content on demand, plus the ability to view it as many times as they want.

And that, according to the Center for Community College Student Engagement (CCCSE), is exactly what students want and need. In a report released in November, the organization suggests that by incorporating new technology into both classroom learning and promoting extracurricular activities, community colleges may be better able to reach the new generations of students. The study also found that students who use social networking tools

for schoolwork tend to score higher on student engagement benchmarks.

Gergens' own analysis found that when students watched at least one podcast prior to an assessment, the overall class score improved by ten percent. In addition to portable access, Gergens also says podcasting assists visual learners and non-native English speakers. "It enables students to learn in new ways," he adds.

Dr. Andrea Henne, SDCCD Dean of Online and Distributed Learning, notes that social networking and the new Web 2.0 technologies help faculty address multiple learning styles and effectively engage students in their learning, critical factors for student retention and success. "Students and faculty come together as a community of learners," adds Henne.

Students agree. A recent posting thanked Professor Gergens for the podcasts, calling it a "convenient way to learn and review." Another called it a "classroom...On Demand."

Podcasting is just one method of social media that Professor Gergens uses. The chemistry instructor has been managing his own web pages since 1996, and learned podcasting at a 2006 summer institute held at City College. Most recently, he began syndicating content through Really Simple Syndication (RSS) Feeds, a new trend that allows subscribers to regularly receive updated content from their favorite sites as they are posted.

Check out Prof. Gergens' website (<http://homework.sdmesa.edu/dgergens>), where you will find communication tools and tutorials, course syllabi, and podcast links. After doing just that, this writer finally learned to understand how to prepare and make a battery work in less than two minutes – and on demand. How cool is that? ♦

ALUMNI Reunite

PORTRAY RADIO/TV/FILM PROGRAM AS PIONEERING, PRACTICAL, PRICELESS



Alumni Whitney Southwick and Lena Nozizwe

KNSD-TV weatherman Whitney Southwick and former *America's Most Wanted* correspondent Lena Nozizwe reminisced about their days together as students producing a weekly City College television news broadcast.

Video camera designer Mick Strebby told former classmates that he had recently purchased a television station in Temecula. Fox5 TV master control operator Andrew Edwards said after release from prison he enrolled in City's TV production courses that same year.

They were among 250 that attended the college's first-ever Radio/TV/Video/Film Department (RTVF) alumni reunion. Held in January in the campus TV production studio, an estimated 150 alumni turned out while students, and current and former faculty also participated.

Oscar-winning filmmaker Cameron Crowe was among several who were virtually present. In a video, the writer/director of *Almost Famous*, *Jerry Maguire* and *Fast Times at Ridgmont High* stated, "City is a powerful

place. It pointed me in the right direction. That's why I'm waving the flag for City...It was one of the first community colleges to develop a film department."

Graduates also sending video greetings were former San Diego, Los Angeles and New York television anchor/reporter Bree Walker, former KGTV-10 anchor Lisa Lake, who began teaching TV journalism this semester at City, and KUSI-TV reporter Shamroc Peterson, who turned to City for practical experience after earning a bachelor's degree.

Asked what she came away with from the reunion, independent television producer and international journalist Gail Strickland replied, "I realized the importance of staying connected. City alumni are part of one big family. We take care of each other..."

"I also know how important it is to give back. With state budget cuts it is more important now than ever to give back to a college that has given us so very much." Strickland has been featured on CNN, NBC and The Travel Channel.

During his City College days in the 1970s, Southwick said that "the great thing about City was that it was all brand new. We were doing things that very few community colleges anywhere were able to do."

Nozizwe noted that she was "very grateful" to the college's RTVF faculty. "They taught me how to produce a television news program." Before joining the nationally televised *America's Most Wanted*, Nozizwe was a KFMB-TV 8 reporter.

Seeking a new challenge, veteran video camera designer/software programmer Mick Strebby went back to college, City College, to learn how to produce a video. To his surprise, the computer science and engineering



Filmmaker Cameron Crowe

University of Alaska graduate became passionate about TV news which spawned a second career. About three years after completing news production studies at City, Strebby began producing morning news shows for a Temecula-based station, became the station general manager and purchased it about 12 months ago.

Edwards, who served 11 months at a minimum security prison, said Oprah Winfrey and later City College turned his life around. While imprisoned, Edwards corresponded with Oprah and shared his career aspirations – to work in television production. "She told me to keep reaching for my dreams." Shortly after Edwards was released from prison, he enrolled in the RTVF program, which included an internship at Fox5 TV. Upon completion, Fox hired him, and he is now a master control operator.

Regarding the reunion, Edwards said the event "was a good place to network – even for younger people trying to break into the business – and made me realize that I should continue to stay in touch."

Professor Laura Castañeda, a television documentary producer, organized the reunion.

Asked if this reunion event should be regarded as a District model, Castañeda replied, "Other departments should look at our event as, 'Yes it's possible, and if they pulled it off we can do it, too.'"

"However, I warn, be sure to have some ideas about how to do follow up and continue outreach."

At the event, she announced the establishment of a RTVF Alumni Association. On the day after the reunion, Castañeda "immediately began receiving e-mails and Facebook comments thanking me. Many said it was valuable for networking and just catching up with old faces, friends and folks in the business." ♦



City College Professor Laura Castañeda.



1. alumnus Mick Strebby 2. alumnus Bob Gardener 3. alumni Gail Strickland, Tony Sanchez and Araceli Catalan 4. alumni Mike Saucedo and Bob Dilly 5. guests Pepe Alvarez and Luis Bohorquez 6. alumni Zack Hernandez and Andrew Edwards 7. alumni Chris Acedo and Tim Wilson 8. guest Kimberlee Strebby 9. Ruth Castillo-Eggett 10. students Charlie Kenneweg and Katie Anceravage 11. Prof. Emeritus Kerry Teeple 12. Dean Minou Spradley and Prof. John Hildebrand 13. alumnus Trevor Ludlam 14. Alumnus Phil Luque, students Gary Brown and Larah McKay 15. alumnus Wayne Brubaker 16. alumni Matt Bowler and Susana Franco 17. alumnus Tom Heffernan



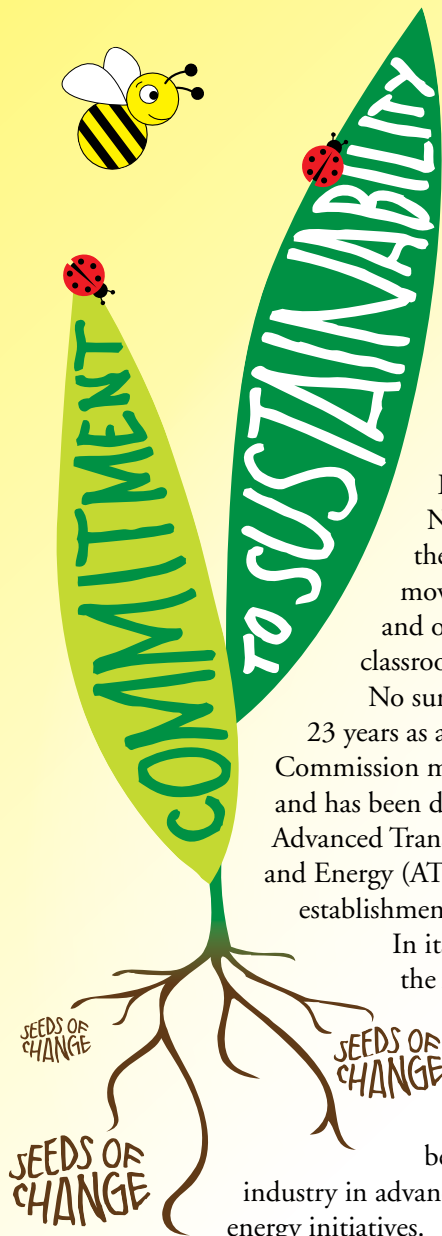
Patricia Hsieh, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Miramar College

Miramar



Anthony E. Beebe, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Continuing Education

Continuing Ed



From green buildings to the greening of curriculum and campus life to the college's *Mission, Vision and Values*, Miramar's commitment to sustainability runs deep.

Advanced Transportation, Technology and Energy Dean Greg Newhouse is spearheading the campuswide green movement taking place inside and outside Miramar College classrooms.

No surprise. Newhouse served 23 years as a California Energy Commission manager and technician, and has been directing the college's Advanced Transportation, Technology and Energy (ATTE) program since its establishment in 2000.

In its ten years of operation, the ATTE program has received countless awards for curriculum development and fostering collaborations between educators and industry in advanced transportation and energy initiatives.

Most recently, the non-profit Interstate Renewable Energy Council, dedicated to clean and renewable energy resources, honored the college's Photovoltaic, Solar Thermal and Energy Efficiency Faculty Professional Development Program with an *IREC Innovation Award*.

Last spring, the college joined the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG), San Diego Clean Fuels Coalition, Center for Sustainable Energy, American Lung Association, Electric Transportation Engineering Corporation and San Diego Gas & Electric in an \$8 million federally-funded project to deploy 2,550 charging stations in the San Diego region.

Newhouse is hopeful that Miramar will house a charging station. While gas consumption averages 10 cents per mile, he said an electric car plugged in overnight during off-peak electricity demand may recharge for an average of only three cents a mile.

Currently, Newhouse is collaborating with the Miramar College-based Regional Public Safety Training Institute to develop curriculum to teach first responders in the newest technology on the road. When called to accident sites involving hybrid vehicles, for example, firefighters, police, towing operators and paramedics must learn how to identify a vehicle as a hybrid, become well-versed in specific disabling procedures and warnings, and quickly interpret high voltage warnings.

The college also plans to develop instruction for first-responder training on the new Nissan zero-emission, all-electric LEAF vehicle, which is expected to hit the retail market this year in San Diego.

In the K-12 arena, Miramar is collaborating with SciTech High, an academy of San Diego High School that merges vocational and academic study.

"Our work with high schools is particularly satisfying," Newhouse noted. "Curriculum we've developed in the sciences, integrating sustainability through the exploration of biodiesel and energy alternatives, drives students to career training offered at all colleges in our district."

Students interested in transportation studies head to Miramar to continue auto and diesel technology training; to City College for photovoltaic/solar training; and to Mesa for "green" building design. ♦



Advanced Transportation and Technology
Dean Greg Newhouse

Taking a Different Path to Careers



Expanded Skills Center at the Educational Cultural Complex.

Now, more than ever, the need to offer alternatives to college degrees is heightened, and Continuing Education is meeting the need.

The recently expanded 67,010 square foot Continuing Education Skills Center at the Educational Cultural Complex provides free job training in career and technical education that can lead to career-track jobs in high demand.

Certificate programs and courses are offered in accounting, graphic printing technology, computer graphic arts, Cisco lab, business and information technology, welding and several automotive areas, including technology, body repair, upholstery and mechanical and electrical repairs. It is the largest automotive technology skills center of its kind in the nation.

"The Skills Center represents hope for the future, not only for the students, but for this community's economy as well," said SDCCD Board President Rich Grosch. "Free job training is the means to create and fill jobs that this community, state and nation so desperately need."

Over the next five years, the San Diego Workforce Partnership projects the region's need for automotive service technicians to grow by 7.4 percent while demand for auto body repair technicians will increase by 6.5 percent.

According to state projections, demand for computer specialists will rise by 12.7 percent while the need for

accountants will increase 16 percent. The Cisco lab courses prepare students to take the Certified Networking Associate exam, leading to certification, real jobs and real wages at \$20-40 per hour. In contrast, many skilled occupations will have zero growth.

While free job training is the foundation people need to find jobs, the work doesn't end in the classroom. Dozens of local community partners collaborate with Continuing Education to put people to work, including the Southeastern Economic Development Corporation (SEDC), the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils (CNC) and the Urban League.

"By taking advantage of the free training classes offered at Continuing Education many under-employed residents of our southeastern San Diego community will be able to pursue new career opportunities or seek a promotion from their current employer," said Brian Trotier, SEDC executive director. "The combination of classroom teaching and hands-on experience gives students a real competitive edge in a difficult job market."

Some time ago, the Coalition identified completion of the new Skills Center as a priority and an integral aspect of CNC's commitment to the redevelopment of southeastern San Diego and recognizes that the community must create greater access to education.

Meanwhile, San Diego County Urban League President Ray King commended the SDCCD for expanding the Skills Center and its programs. "Having a meaningful job and a steady income is the catalyst that will enable our residents to transform their community into a thriving center of activity."

The Skills Center addition includes new automotive repair bays, drive-in spray paint booths, shops, labs, classrooms and demonstration theaters. ♦



Robert Cohn, Continuing Education Foundation Board President and SEDC Executive Director Brian Trotier

POWERFUL PARTNERSHIP



Continuing Education Instructor **Marne Foster** (left) joined an illustrious group of faculty when she received a Promising Outcomes Work and Exemplary Research (POWER) Award from Janet Fulks for "The Best Example of Excellent Outcomes Assessment in the Noncredit Area."

The award is presented annually by the California Community Colleges (CCC) Network for Student Learning Outcomes Assessment as a partnership between the CCC Research and Planning Group and the statewide Academic Senate for California Community Colleges.

As Continuing Education's student learning outcomes (SLO) coordinator, Foster led the transition from institutional Student Learning Outcomes to program- and course-level SLOs in less than one year. She teaches Adult Basic Education. ♦

ON-CAMPUS FARM NETS CITY PROF. A GREEN LEADERSHIP AWARD

For her efforts in making City College's sustainability program an important part of the campus culture, Math Professor **Karon Klipple** recently won the Green California Community College Summit Leadership Award in the category of "Instructor."

Dr. Klipple helped develop several "green" projects at City. She is founder/director of *Seeds at City* – an urban farm on campus that trains students for green jobs.

And the college recently received a \$30,000 grant to develop the first certificate program in sustainable urban agriculture in the region. The campus farm, once a grassy third of an acre, now boasts a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, and is managed by two professional farm educators.

Klipple also helped extend the college's Environmental Stewardship Committee, a group that raises awareness of environmental issues on and off campus. It hosts a green speaker series and events such as Earth Fair and Recyclemania.

"I am both grateful and impressed by Karon Klipple's vision and high-energy implementation. She achieves real outcomes with our green projects such as the City College farm and districtwide energy saving efforts, including the recycling program, carbon footprint reductions and plans for solar installations," SDCCD Chancellor Constance Carroll stated.

Building on the impressive work done by City College Professors Erin Rempala and Theresa Gallo, Klipple hopes her efforts inspire others to do the same.

"The more I learned about global climate change and its affects, the more I knew I had to act," Klipple said. "We work on a supportive campus where, along with our students, we have the opportunity to change the world." ♦



Mesa Duo Ice Dances in National Championships

A pair of Mesa College students competed in January at the AT&T 2010 United States Figure Skating National Championships in Spokane, Washington. Kassy Kova and Justin Ross are the first African-American ice dancing team to compete in Novice Dance at the competition. They have been skating partners for the past five years.

Kassandra Kova, 16, and **Justin Ross**, 19, are both second-year students at Mesa. Kassy graduated from high school at the age of 15 and immediately enrolled at Mesa to pursue a transfer degree. She hopes to earn a B.A. in political science from UCSD. To pursue his chosen career in professional skating and coaching, Justin is working toward an associate degree in dance. ♦



WELDING PROF RAISES THE BAR



The American Welding Society recognized Continuing Education Associate Professor **George Moore** for quality instructional performance dedicated to the promotion and expansion of welding skills and knowledge.

In the photo, from left: **John Tacata** of Praxair, a member of the Continuing Education Welding Advisory Board; **Jane Signaigo-Cox**, Dean of Career and Technical Education programs; and Professor Moore. ♦

Mesa Grad's First Film Produces Oscar Buzz

In the fall, film producer **Raul Celaya** returned to Mesa College, his alma mater, to testify at a SDCCD Board of Trustees campus meeting about how the Mesa College Theatre Company launched his movie career.

His company's first feature film, *That Evening Sun*, starred the legendary Hal Holbrook whose performance created extensive Oscar buzz but was not nominated. Some film critics were irate.



The motion picture won at least 27 film festival and juried awards from across the nation, including the best film and best ensemble awards from the prestigious SXSW (South by Southwest) Festival. It was also a *New York Times Critics Pick*. For more information, go to www.thateveningsun.com. ♦

In the December 2009 edition of the *WE—With Excellence*, years of service were incorrectly listed for 2009 Classified Employees of the Year Lisa Munoz of Centre City Campus and Jackie Clark of Miramar College. Munoz has served for 17 years while Clark is a nine-year employee. *WE* regrets the error. ♦

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Vice Chancellor **Otto Lee** has been selected to serve on the recently established Community College League of California Commission on the Future.

The Commission on the Future will focus on model ways to help community college students enroll in and complete the educational and training programs to reach their goals and lead successful lives. ♦

WE with excellence

March 2010

Published by the San Diego Community College District

Office of Public Information & Government Relations
619-388-6500 • www.sdccd.edu

Executive Editor: Richard Dittbenner

Editor: Mary Lee

Text Coordinator: John Nunes

Graphic Design: Cesar Gumapas

Contributions from:

City College Communications Services
Mesa College Communications Services
Miramar College Communications Services
Continuing Education Communications Services

The San Diego Community College District is governed by its Board of Trustees. No oral or written representation is binding on the San Diego Community College District without the express written approval of the Board of Trustees.

Everyone Is a Winner

All four San Diego Community College District entries were award winners at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in January.

City College won the Grand Sweepstakes Award while Mesa College won for Best Float. Both Continuing Education and Miramar College received honorable mentions in the float category.

SDCCD Chancellor **Constance Carroll**, Board President **Rich Grosch** and Trustee **Mary Graham** also participated in the parade, as well as Continuing Education President **Anthony Beebe**, City College President **Terry Burgess**, Mesa College President **Rita Cepeda** and Miramar College President **Patricia Hsieh**. ♦



WHO'S WHO AT CITY COLLEGE

Alex, I'll take Who's Who at City College.

Answer: This radio station development director won \$45,200 on television's *Jeopardy!*

Question: Who is **Jennifer Montgomery**, KSDS Jazz88 development director?

In December on nationally televised broadcasts, Montgomery competed

on the popular prime time game show, winning three nights in a row. Her celebrity led to extensive local news coverage.

She almost didn't get past the first day on this answer from game show host Alex Trebek: "Padre fans know this feathered trickster has been called the Sir Laurence Olivier of mascots."

Her response: "What is the Chicken?"

"Be more specific," show host Trebek instructed.

"Oh my God, and I'm from San Diego!" Montgomery remarked and quickly added, "What is the San Diego Chicken?"

Correct.

Nine days before her wedding in September, she auditioned to be on *Jeopardy!* with about 20 others. The tryout was composed of an interview,

test and playing a mock version of the game.

About five weeks later, Montgomery was invited to tape the show in Culver City.

A lifelong fan of *Jeopardy!*, Montgomery told a reporter that playing on a televised game show is now "something I can cross off my bucket list." ♦



KSDS Jazz88 Development Director Jennifer Montgomery with *Jeopardy!* host Alex Trebek.