



San Diego Community College District

City College
Mesa College
Miramar College
Continuing
Education

WE *with excellence*

December 2012

POLITICS AND EDUCATIONAL FUNDING

If California is the state where the future happens first, then the political landscape has changed with potentially far-reaching implications for the state's future.

This has become apparent in San Diego's November 6, 2012, elections in the aftermath of redistricting by the non-partisan California Citizens Redistricting Commission. This has resulted in a change in the electoral composition of the state's legislature giving one political party a super-majority in California for the first time since the 19th century. [Story on page 3.](#)





Chancellor's Message



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

Election 2012

Election 2012 has been described by many terms as it ramped up to Tuesday, November 6: cliff-hanger, nail-biter, too-close-to-call, torturous, volatile, and other descriptors that suggested that Tuesday night would be a long haul before definitive outcomes emerged. As November 6 unfolded, however, what emerged was a total sweep in important contests, especially in California, from the President of the United States to the U.S. Senator to State Senators and Assembly members to community college and K-12 governing board members to critical propositions affecting many aspects of society and the economy, including funding for education. There are many outcomes to celebrate.

The SDCCD Board of Trustees election resulted in the return of an incumbent Board member, Mary Graham, first elected in 2008 and continuing in office, since she ran uncontested in the 2012 election. Also joining the Board will be Bernie Rhinerson, Chief of Staff of the San Diego Unified School District and a popular college instructor. Please join us in welcoming them both.



Mary Graham



Bernie Rhinerson

Three faculty members in the SDCCD stood for election and are to be congratulated on their victories in the 2012 election:



Marne Foster,
Professor, Continuing Education, was elected to the San Diego Unified School District Board of Education.



Bill Stewart,
Professor, City College, won his bid to join the Southwestern Community College District Board of Trustees.



Rick Cassar,
Professor, Miramar College, was elected to the Cardiff School District Board of Trustees.

The stakes were extremely high regarding Proposition 30, Governor Jerry Brown's tax initiative, "The Schools and Local Public Safety Protection Act of 2012." Passage of the tax initiative meant stabilizing budgets throughout education. Failure meant a catastrophic cut of \$1 billion for the California Community Colleges, the University of California, and the California State University systems.

For the SDCCD, passage of Proposition 30 meant \$5.6 million credited to buying-down deferred compensation from the state and \$1.7 million in restoration funds for offering more classes and related improvements. For the SDCCD, failure would have meant an enormous cut of \$11.9 million, putting over 700 class sections on the chopping block in addition to the 2,750 class sections that have already been cut in the last two years.



Governor Brown holds Proposition 30 Press Conference at City College.

With the passage of Proposition 30, we at the SDCCD are immediately moving to stabilize our budgets and will add several hundred class sections to the spring schedule of classes, which may benefit up to 5,000 students. If the economy continues to improve, our new financial situation, while not perfect, will enable us to stop the pattern of reductions and begin the slow and steady process of building back. I am definitely looking forward to that.

Election 2012 is a cause for celebration on many fronts, bringing excellent leadership and stability, both of which are welcome changes. ♦

POLITICS AND EDUCATIONAL FUNDING (CONTINUED)



has made cuts. Schools and the state's economic well-being are in peril. A "Yes" vote for Proposition 30 would allow California to begin to restore K-16 education and other vital public services, and bring the state budget into balance. Roberto Rosas, San Diego Mesa College Associated Student President, emphasized that passing Proposition 30 was "paramount to avoid any further cuts in classes and increases in tuition fees!"

California's voters, by a 2 to 1 majority, also endorsed Proposition 39, financed by \$32 million from San Francisco billionaire investor-philanthropist-green energy advocate Tom Stayer, which closed a tax loophole that benefitted out-of-state corporations. The measure called for the diversion of this previously-lost state tax revenue to fund environmentally sustainable public investments in renewable energy projects. This has the potential to enrich the District's efforts in the area of environmental sustainability.

Several of those Board or staff members currently or previously associated with the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) were elected to office. Former Board President and current California Assembly Higher Education Chair Marty Block won a seat in the California Senate. San Diego Unified School District Chief of Staff, Bernie Rhinerson, won the contested open seat on the SDCCD Board vacated by outgoing trustee Bill Schwandt.

District Continuing Education faculty member Marne Foster was elected to an open seat on the San Diego Unified School District Board. San Diego City College faculty member William Stewart and Miramar College counselor Rick Cassar won seats on the Southwestern College and Cardiff School District boards, respectively.

California's voters supported 6 of the 7 state ballot issues dealing with fiscal matters, most involving an increase in taxes ranging from personal to corporate. For example, the voters of California supported Proposition 30, a temporary tax increase that would restore some of the K-16 classes eliminated during the past four years due to state budget cuts.

The message from Governor Brown to SDCCD students and the voters of California was a simple one: State government



Since his electoral success and the voters' approval of new revenue measures, the personally frugal Governor Brown has warned members of the state's legislature that he is still committed to achieving a balanced budget and not to get too excited about the additional revenue. ♦



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

SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE



San Diego City College Ranked #1 Community College in the Nation

Nationally Top Ranked Professor Kristen Cole teaching her Psychology course at San Diego City College.

San Diego City College ranked #1 of the top 25 community colleges in the nation in the 2011-2012 RateMyProfessors.com annual Top Lists report. Stanford University earned top ranking in the nation's list of universities. Additionally, San Diego City College Psychology Professor Kristen Cole ranked 15th in the nation on the list of the Highest Rated Professors.

City College President Terrence Burgess said, "I am not surprised about either ranking as our students receive the best overall education with outstanding support from faculty every day." A full-time professor at City College since 2007, Kristen Cole, Ph.D., also develops curriculum for the Public Mental Health Academy and was the founding faculty advisor for the Psi Beta Honors Club in Psychology on campus. As a licensed psychologist, she provides clinical supervision to United States Navy drug and alcohol counselors in San Diego. In addition to helping author two books: *Helping You Help Others: A Guide to Field Placement Work in Psychological Services* (edited by Cole) and *Introduction to Academic and Career Opportunities in Psychology* (edited by Cole & Emilia Ulloa), Cole also volunteers with the

Red Cross Disaster Mental Health team and the Camp Hope California grief camp for youth.

Because the RateMyProfessor data is unsolicited, first-hand feedback from her students, Professor Cole says the comments help her determine what is helpful or a hindrance to learning in her classroom. Cole says, "Teaching is an art form that constantly needs refining to meet the needs of the current generation of students."

Cole believes City College ranked #1 in the nation because "the climate here is one that encourages faculty members to focus on their teaching skills and meeting the needs of our very diverse student population." She added that beyond the classroom, the campus serves students through club activities, mentorship programs, health services, learning communities, mental health services, housing referrals, support services for Veteran students, scholarship opportunities, outreach programs, and many high-quality workforce training and certificate programs.

Last year, RateMyProfessors.com rated City College Psychology Department adjunct faculty member Professor Annette Keddington #18 in the nation. ♦

Each year, RateMyProfessors.com compiles Top Lists of the Highest Rated Professors, and Top Schools in the U.S. based on ratings from students. RateMyProfessors.com lists itself as the largest online destination for professor ratings. RateMyProfessors reports it has 7,500 schools and over 14 million entirely student-generated comments and ratings, making it the highest-trafficked free site for researching and rating 1.7 million professors from colleges and universities across the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom. www.ratemyprofessors.com/toplists/topLists.jsp



Pamela Luster, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Mesa College

Homecoming: A Great Day to be an Olympian



The Mesa College Olympians football team preparing for the college's first homecoming game in school history.



Amid cheers and glittering blue pom-poms, the San Diego Mesa College Olympians made sure that the first homecoming game in school history, held on October 20, was one to remember.

"The Olympian spirit was everywhere," said Dr. Pamela T. Luster, President of Mesa College. "You could see it in the stands, in the cheers of alumni and everyone who attended, and especially in the performance of our athletes."

Grads, students and friends mingled during pre-game activities held at the new East Athletics Plaza at the Merrill Douglas Stadium. The event included a Mesa Memory Booth, a trivia game, and a scholarship opportunity drawing. Half-time was devoted to celebrating Mesa's winning athletic teams, Olympian scholar athletes, and a presentation of the Chet DeVore Trophy (see more on page 9.)



Mesa College homecoming game attendees.

For alumna Maryanne Hernandez, it was a "sweet homecoming."

"My mother and I represent two generations of Mesa graduates, and I plan to keep this family legacy of education going," said Hernandez, who attended the game with her mom, father and nephew. "It was an education received with appreciation... Mesa's in my heart for life!"

Buddy Farnsworth, Mesa College's first Student Body President, Class of 1964, was the Homecoming alumni honoree. He flipped the traditional coin toss, which went to Victor Valley. To the crowd's delight, the Olympians held the lead into the fourth quarter. In tense closing moments, and after giving up a two-yard touchdown run, the Mesa defense stopped a game-tying two-point conversion attempt. Mesa recovered the ensuing onside kick to seal the win.

The athletes weren't the only winners. Winning the scholarship opportunity drawing that totaled \$410 was Jordan Hands, daughter of Ashanti Hands, Mesa's Dean of Student Affairs. The beaming 11-year-old said she was thrilled, and that she wants to create a scholarship that rewards college students for doing good things in their community.

"It was a great day to be an Olympian," noted Mesa College Athletics Director and Dean, Dave Evans. ♦



First Student Body President Buddy Farnsworth showing his Olympian spirit, then and now.



(From left) SDCCD Vice Chancellor Lynn Neault, Mesa graduate and Student-Athlete Matt Neault, Mesa President Pamela Luster, and Dean Dave Evans.



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

SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

LLRC GRAND OPENING



More than 200 faculty, staff, students, friends and media turned out in early September to celebrate the opening of the new Library/Learning Resource Center (LLRC), a celebratory event marked by the presence of the Mira Mesa High School Color Guard, instrumental performance by Son de San Diego, and the meticulous sculpting of a 16-ton pile of sand into a stack of books by master carvers The Sand Squirrels, the Sandcastle Man, and IB Posse.

The \$39.4 million Miramar College Library/Learning Resource Center is a three-story, 100,000 square foot facility with state-of-the-art teaching and independent learning spaces, including a library, classrooms, computer labs, tutoring services, a technology lab for students with disabilities, a media production facility, café, and faculty and staff offices and work spaces. Situated on the new campus Compass Green, a tribute to the college's history and former use as an aviation runway, the LLRC is flanked by new classroom buildings and, slated for completion in less than a year, a new Cafeteria/Bookstore/Student Services Center – all made possible by the voter-approved Propositions S and N construction bond program.

Grand opening festivities were sponsored by building partners Sundt Construction, Zabrodnik + Thomas Architects, Gafcon, Wimmer Yamada and Caughy, and Burkett & Wong Engineers. Photo galleries can be viewed on the Miramar College and Propositions S and N Facebook sites. ♦



LLRC Ribbon Cutting: (L-R) Miramar Associated Students President Michael Shepard, SDCCD Vice Chancellor of Facilities David Umstot, SDCCD Board of Trustees President Rich Grosch, SDCCD Chancellor Constance Carroll, Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh, Miramar Library and Technology Dean Susan Schwarz, San Diego North Chamber of Commerce President Debra Ronsen, Miramar Academic Senate President Daphne Figueroa, and Miramar Classified Senate President Joyce Allen



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

SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION

San Diego Continuing Education Helps Older Adults Access Technology



Creating Success with Community Partners

The Technology and Aging Coalition is a group of members from agencies supporting community service for older adults, education, and technology. San Diego Continuing Education represents the educational agency on the coalition.

The coalition is helping a program for older adults that has been funded partially by a grant through Motorola. The program provides a computer and internet access to low income, older adult households in the Bayside neighborhood of San Diego.

Continuing Education instructor Mary Prine wrote the grant and has administered the program. Prine has established wonderful relationships through this training and the older adults who are benefiting from new skills are grateful for the class.

A 12-week, robust class introduces computer novices to their computer, and shows them how to communicate via e-mail, social networks, and social sharing.

Technology Ambassadors

The program uses older adult volunteers as ambassadors who help facilitate the learning experiences and design learning materials relevant to the participants.

“The ambassadors are key to a student’s success,” says Prine. “Instructors are the experts, but ambassadors are peers and since they have gone through the learning process themselves as older adults, they are able to connect immediately with the students.” ♦



“If not for this project, most participants may have never accessed a computer in their lifetimes,” said Prine.

Continuing Education is part of a Technology and Aging Coalition, which developed *Get Connected*, a free resource booklet.



Aging and Independent Services, San Diego Continuing Education, and San Diego Futures are part of the Technology and Aging Coalition—a group that addresses solutions that help seniors access computers and use technology.

World Cultures Program

In September, the San Diego City College World Cultures program presented *Divya Devaguptapu: Bharata Naatyam Dancin*.

Bharata Naatyam is a classical Indian dance form originating in the South Indian State of Tamil Nadu. This traditional dance form is the manifestation of the ancient idea of the celebration of the eternal universe through the celebration of the beauty of the material body. Dancer Divya Devaguptapu possesses a rare alchemy of rich tradition and sublime gift. She started dancing at the age of five and performed her Arangetram (maiden solo performance) when she was only seven. Divya's art is a consummate marriage of rigorous grounding and deep meditative personal interpretation.

World Cultures presents an array of performances, lectures and documentaries each semester in the Saville Theatre at San Diego City College. www.sdcity.edu/worldcultures. ♦



Divya Devaguptapu performing Bharata Naatyam Dancing for the San Diego City College World Cultures program.



Student Development at Continuing Education Benefits from Statewide Committee Insight

Brian Stockert, Dean of Student Development at Continuing Education, was appointed to the statewide Matriculation Advisory Committee (MAC), which serves as an advisory body to the California Community College Chancellor's Office regarding matriculation issues.

Matriculation is a student services program with an emphasis on at-risk and underrepresented students that uses evidence-based, innovative approaches to promote student access and success.

The committee is currently working on ideas for developing a comprehensive data collection system pertaining to student outcomes, and utilizing technology to enhance student access. ♦

SD Press Club Awards First Place to SDCCD



The District received First Place awards for the *WE—With Excellence* newsletters (December 2011 – College Preparation for Student Success, February 2012 – Planning for the Future, May 2012 – Public Civility: What Has Happened to It?) and the *2011-2012 Annual Report to the Community* from the San Diego Press Club at its recent 39th Annual Excellence in Journalism Awards Gala held at the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park. ♦

KUDOS

Accomplishments & Achievements

First Graduates: Homeland Security Training

The first group of San Diego-based Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers to receive certificates of completion of a new three-semester credit Homeland Security training program was recognized at a TSA Associates Program Achievement Ceremony on September 11 at San Diego Miramar College.

The ceremony included a Presentation of Colors by the TSA Honor Guard and remarks from Dr. George Menzer, San Diego Airport Education Coordinator; Micheal Aguilar, San Diego Airport Federal Security Director; Michael Novak, Assistant Administrator, Office of Training & Workforce Engagement; Dr. Patricia Hsieh, San Diego Miramar College President; and John Koontz, Security Training Instructor and officer in the graduating class.

Contracted by the TSA through San Diego Miramar College, the program will continue to be offered to the 650 employees based at San Diego's International Airport, Lindbergh Field. ♦



Eleven San Diego-based Transportation Security Administration officers were awarded certificates of performance of a new credit Homeland Security training program, contracted by the Transportation Security Administration through San Diego Miramar College on 9/11.

Mesa College Awarded 2011-12 Chet DeVore Trophy Takes Top Honors in California Community College Athletics

San Diego Mesa College has been named the recipient of the 2011-12 Chet DeVore Trophy, the top athletic award presented by the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) to a California community college. This award is presented each year to a PCAC member college with the most successful men's and women's intercollegiate athletic program for the academic year.

Mesa accumulated 241 points in a scoring system that rewards state community college team finishes, conference team finishes and major conference individual awards. Mesa College took four women's (water polo, volleyball, basketball, swim/dive) and four men's (cross country, tennis, baseball, softball) PCAC conference championships in 2011-12. The Olympians placed third in the California Community College Athletic Association State Championships in men's cross country and eighth in men's track and field. Mesa teams scored academically as well. Matt Neault (football) was selected Male Scholar Athlete of the Year, while Chanel Putras (basketball) took the top female scholar athlete title.

The DeVore award is named after the late Chester S. "Chet" DeVore, longtime Southwestern College Superintendent/President and founding Commissioner of the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference. ♦



KUDOS

Accomplishments & Achievements

Mesa Be Civil: Pass It On

On October 2, Mesa College students participated in the *Restoring Respect Fall Breakfast to Promote Civility* on the USD campus. "I was honored to be part of the meeting and being able to learn different ways to see dilemmas, and especially in political situations, in a civilized manner," said Mesa College Student Ambassador Naayieli Bravo. "I left the meeting with lots of ideas and perspectives on different issues, and a greater understanding of the common disputes in political conflicts." The idea for the community initiative to promote greater civility in San Diego originated in fall 2011 at a panel discussion on civility that included Mesa College Political Science Professor Carl Luna, Ph.D. The project is supported by a consortium of San Diego area academic institutions and community groups including the Catfish Club of San Diego, the San Diego Community College District and the University of San Diego. As a result of the breakfast, Mesa students enthusiastically created a "Mesa Be Civil, Pass It On" civility campaign launched this fall. ♦



CITIZENSHIP INSTRUCTOR INSPIRES DEMOCRACY



When Continuing Education Instructor **Mechelle Perrot** gave a writing assignment to her citizenship class, student **Sandra Catano** wrote a letter to Mayor Jerry Sanders. Neither imagined the request in Sandra's letter to become a reality.

The letter was about a dangerous crosswalk near Sandra's son's school. Complete with photographs of the intersection, and 100 support signatures, Sandra's letter led to the new pedestrian markings on the street, and the installation of a signal light at the intersection. ♦

RSVP's Newest Member

The San Diego Community College District's Retired Senior Volunteer Patrol (RSVP) welcomed their newest member **Apolinar "Paul" Garcia**. Paul is a retiree from the San Diego Police Department and brings many years of public safety experience to the RSVP unit.

The RSVP is a group of individuals who contribute time and services to the College Police Department and the campus community in the belief that their activity is beneficial to others as well as satisfying to themselves.

For more information on becoming an RSVP member call 619.388.2323. ♦



KUDOS

Accomplishments & Achievements

Miramar College Becomes Smoke Free Campus

Based on the survey results of staff, faculty and students, the College Executive Council voted on August 28 to make Miramar College a non-smoking campus.

As a result of the college decision, the entire District is now smoke-free. The national "Great American Smokeout" and cessation were promoted throughout October and November. ♦



Mesa Professor Selected



Long-time adjunct professor **Oscar Canedo** of the Mesa College Chicana/o Studies Department was selected to participate in the American History, Atlantic and Pacific: A National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) Bridging Cultures Project coordinated by the American Historical Association (AHA Bridging Cultures at Community Colleges) 2013-2015. Canedo has taught at Mesa College since 2000 and his main areas of interest include Mesoamerican cultures (Aztecs, Maya, Olmecs, Teotihuacan), Spanish colonialism, and the US-Mexican War. ♦



RECOGNITION FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

At the September 13, 2012 ASDCCD Board of Trustees campus meeting at San Diego City College, the Honorable Judge David Danielsen presented a plaque to President **Terry Burgess** reading, "In Recognition and Sincere Appreciation for your dedication and continued support of the Passport to Life Career and Education Expo and the Youth of San Diego County." This year more than 800 youths aged 14+ on probation or with probation history participated in the third annual Expo at San Diego City College to learn more about education, training and career opportunities. ♦

City College President with Judge David Danielsen, of the Superior Court of California, County of San Diego.



we

with excellence

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Mental Health Counseling Center Receives Suicide Prevention Grant

“Nearly 80% of college students who died by suicide never participated in counseling services,” according to Abby Burd, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the Mental Health Counseling Center (MHCC) at City College. This is just one of the problems the MHCC is addressing after securing a \$236,815.00 competitive grant to develop a model suicide prevention program at City College.

The goals of the MHCC “Suicide Prevention and Stigma Reduction Program” include raising awareness of suicide as a public health problem, involving campus faculty and staff in recognizing and referring people at risk of suicide, and providing prevention training.

The program will institute a “Peer to Peer Educators” component in which peer educators will do classroom outreach to confront the stigma attached to seeking help from mental health professionals. Burd wants to change this stigma that is widespread and can stop people from receiving the counseling that can save lives. “We want to create a climate change on the campus of City College of really having more openness toward mental health wellness,” Burd said.

The peer educators aren’t counselors but may refer students to the MHCC for evaluation or counseling. They will organize student clubs, health-related activities, and suicide prevention.

Burd wants to shift people’s perceptions, to promote “an attitude that all of us benefit at some point in our lives from having someone to talk to outside of our family, having an objective listener, and that treatment in mental health should be looked at as something that’s preventative – just like you exercise and diet to live well and feel good,” she related. “Why not learn stress management techniques ahead of time so you can be more successful in school?” ♦



Abby Burd, Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the City College Mental Health Counseling Center.