



San Diego Community College District

WE *with excellence*

September 2013

City College
Mesa College
Miramar College
Continuing
Education

STARS SHINE BRIGHT INSIDE NEW PLANETARIUM

For centuries, humans have studied the night sky and tried to comprehend the vastness of the universe. Soon, astronomy students in the San Diego Community College District will have a unique opportunity to do the same inside a new planetarium at San Diego City College.

Story continues on page 3.





Chancellor's Message



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

GOOD NEWS for a New Year

The academic year 2013-14 is off to an excellent start. It is a relief to be able to start the year without exhorting everyone to gear up for another round of budget cuts. Instead, the year has begun with 561 full-time and 2,342 adjunct faculty members returning from the summer hiatus to join 1,014 classified staff, 820 hourly and student workers, and 78 managers in ushering in a new year of opportunities in a much-improved financial climate. Board of Trustees President Rich Grosch, AFT Guild President Jim Mahler, and I traveled together to the four institutional convocations with messages of gratitude for the hard work and support of the faculty and staff during the five years of California's fiscal crisis and hope for a more positive year ahead.

Due to the passage of Proposition 30 last November, new revenue has been realized by the state and allocated to California's community colleges and universities. After a loss of over \$33 million in state funding during the fiscal downturn, the San Diego Community College District will see the restoration of about a third of those dollars. Thus we are able to put on the budget-cutting brakes and begin the slow but steady process of restoring and rebuilding.

Hundreds of new classes have been added to the fall semester, bringing the semester to a total of 5,862 class sections, 5,318 of them offered on campus and 544 offered online. Several hundred additional classes will be added to the spring semester as well, and the summer session, which had been reduced to 10% of its former size, will be

increased to 50% in summer 2014. These increases are in keeping with one of our core SDCCD values: putting students first. Given the enormous student demand, intensified by the still high unemployment figures, providing greater access to educational opportunities is probably our best gift to the San Diego community and region.

In addition, it was my great pleasure to announce the end of the hiring freeze on faculty positions and the phasing-out of the freeze on classified staff positions, measures we took as an alternative to layoffs. As we go forward, a special effort is needed to restore full-time faculty positions, both to strengthen classroom opportunities and governance at the campuses and also to ensure our compliance with the 50% Law requirement for balanced expenditures. I was very pleased to announce that 60 new full-time faculty positions have been authorized, in addition to replacement positions, with 30 to be hired by mid-year and the other 30 to be hired for 2014-15. The Colleges and Continuing Education have already formed search committees and are expediting the hiring process. Classified staff positions will also be addressed following final funding decisions by the state, especially the budget assigned to the new Student Success regulations.

In addition to the massive construction effort that is underway with our bond program, we in the San Diego Community College District have been given the wonderful opportunity to restore, rebuild, and renew programs and services for the benefit of our students and the region.



STARS SHINE BRIGHT INSIDE NEW PLANETARIUM

New Facilities Transforming Education Districtwide

(Continued)

City College's planetarium is one of more than 50 new facilities and projects completed thus far as part of a \$1.555 billion construction bond program that is transforming education districtwide.

Astronomy Professor Lisa Will is thrilled.

"A planetarium allows us to add a dynamic, immersive experience to our astronomy curriculum," said Will.

"Students will be able to see how the angle of the Sun in the sky causes seasons, for example. We'll be able to show that, not only does the Sun rise in the east and set in the west, but so do the Moon, stars, and planets as well. Astronomy is a beautiful science, and that is easily conveyed by static images, but a planetarium will allow us to demonstrate the universe in motion."

Will, who's taught astronomy and physics at City College since 2007, traveled this summer to a special workshop in Chadds Ford, PA to receive training to operate the 82-seat facility. She is currently developing a curriculum for the planetarium – which will become operational in January 2014, with the start of the spring semester.

"When we study the cosmos, we are really studying ourselves: our origins and connections to the rest of the universe," said Will.

The new planetarium includes a 35-foot diameter, hemispheric projection dome/screen with three HD digital projectors. Two projectors are located at the center of the room and are for full-screen shows. The other is located in the back of the room, which is used for teaching and instruction. The facility is also equipped with a sound system that includes five speakers and a subwoofer.



Astronomy Professor Lisa Will.

Will says that in addition to serving as a lecture hall for astronomy courses, faculty are planning to use the planetarium for community outreach events, including public workshops and lectures.

The planetarium is part of the new, four-story, City College Science Building. The building provides 98,000 square feet for the Life Sciences department (including Biology, Biotechnology, Sustainable Urban Agriculture,

and Sustainability), and Physical Sciences department (which includes Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Geology, and Astronomy). In addition to the planetarium, the L-shaped building includes new classrooms, laboratories and state-of-the-art technology, a teaching garden, and a rooftop observation deck. The City College Science Building is scheduled for completion by Thanksgiving and will be open for spring classes in January 2014.



Planetarium displaying constellations.

Across the San Diego Community College District, students and faculty are benefitting from numerous Propositions S and N construction projects.

Mesa College's new Math+Science Complex is mostly complete, with move-in expected in December. The four-story building – the largest construction project undertaken by the District – provides 206,000 square feet of space for degree and certificate programs in Biology, Chemistry, Physical Sciences, and Mathematics. Included are "smart" classrooms, teaching laboratories, and support space.

Miramar College recently opened its new Student Services Center. The three-story, 76,700-square-foot building serves as home to student support services such as admissions, counseling, financial aid, and student activities offices. It also includes a cafeteria, bookstore, multi-purpose room, convenience store, coffee shop/café, meeting rooms, and offices.

Continuing Education has two new facilities to serve adult learners who are preparing for careers. Located in Kearny Mesa, the North City Campus is a new, two-story, 42,000-square-foot facility designated as the Campus of Excellence for Multimedia and Innovation. In addition, a significant expansion was recently completed on Continuing Education's Educational Cultural Complex. The new, 18,135-square-foot wing replaces all bungalows and modular classrooms, laboratories, and support rooms.

For more information on new District facilities, visit www.sdccd.edu.



Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D.
Interim President
San Diego City College



SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE



Excellence Multiplied by 6

Nominated by City College President Terrence Burgess, six City College faculty and staff members were awarded the 2012 John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award for their outstanding contributions to teaching, leadership, and learning. The six included Rafael Alvarez, Director, MESA Program; Dr. David Fierro, Professor of Engineering; Susan Hasegawa, Professor of History; Terri Jackson, Administrative Technician; Karen Lim, Professor of English; Awana Payne, Senior Clerical Assistant.

In recognition of the Roueches' long tradition of excellence in community college teaching and leadership, the League for Innovation established the John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Awards in 2012. Recipients were

awarded their medallion of excellence at the annual League for Innovation conference March 10-13, 2013 in Dallas, TX.

President Burgess commended the six recipients because they "provided something unique to student learning." For example, Susan Hasegawa looks for new ways to engage students in the study of history, everything from service learning projects to off-campus field trips. With City College since 1999, Susan said "City College has allowed me the freedom to grow and mature as a teacher. I get excited for the start of every semester and always learn something new with students as we explore different historical topics, people, and periods."



Back row, from left: Rafael Alvarez, Director, MESA Program; Dr. Terrence Burgess, City College President; Dr. David Fierro, Professor of Engineering; Front row, from left: Karen Lim, Professor of English; Terri Jackson, Administrative Technician; Dr. Constance Carroll, SDCCD Chancellor; Susan Hasegawa, Professor of History; Awana Payne, Senior Clerical Assistant



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



Students, Congressional Reps, Rally Against Loan Rate Increase

Students, college administrators, professors, and politicians appeared at San Diego Mesa College on Friday, June 21, to deliver a loud and clear message to Congress – do not double the interest rate on federally subsidized Stafford Student Loans.

Representatives Scott Peters (CA-52), Juan Vargas (CA-51), and Susan Davis (CA-53) joined President Pamela Luster, professors, and student leaders to call for keeping the current student loan interest rate of 3.4 percent in place.

“I have been vocal in my support for H.R. 1595, the Student Loan Relief Act,” said Peters. “The measure would freeze rates at their current level for two more years while Congress works on this issue.”

President Luster spoke about the value of higher education. “It simply doesn’t make sense to make it more difficult for our students to get a college degree,” she said. “We all benefit from education: students, taxpayers... the economy.”

J. Walker, president of Mesa College Associated Students Government, spoke on behalf of students.

“Many of my friends have these loans, and they are really scared of what’s ahead,” Walker said, adding that he and his friends struggle each semester simply to pay for rising tuition and book costs.

J.’s friends are among the 7 million students using the Stafford loan program who will see a \$4,000 increase of their average debt of \$27,000.

Vargas said raising rates would “be one of the dumbest things I’ve ever seen.”

“Students don’t want hand-outs,” J. explained. “We just want a hand up.”

UPDATE: On August 9, President Obama signed into law a new way of setting interest rates for federal Stafford loans. The rates will now move with the financial markets, which means lower rates for the coming school year.



From left: Representative Juan Vargas, SDCCD Trustee Bernie Rhinerson, Representative Susan Davis, Mesa President Pamela Luster, Representative Scott Peters, and Mesa College Associated Student Government President J. Walker.



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



SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

NEW

STUDENT CENTER OPEN FOR BUSINESS

On September 4, San Diego Miramar College celebrated the opening of a \$34.5 million Cafeteria/Bookstore and Student Services Center.

"Most all the services included in the building had been housed in WWII bungalows since the college began in 1969, and the rest were in newer bungalows or portable buildings," according to Miramar College President Dr. Patricia Hsieh. "We're all excited about this new facility and what it means for our students, but no one is more excited than the staff and counselors who now have a permanent and beautiful home."

The new, three-story, 76,000 square feet, Cafeteria/Bookstore/Student Services Center includes a multi-purpose room, convenience store, espresso café, meeting rooms, and houses student support services such as admissions, counseling, financial aid, Veterans Affairs, and student activities offices.

The project is on track to obtain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, and includes a number of sustainable features.

The light well and atrium is multifunctional, harvesting daylight into the building core, creating ventilation, and helping with wayfinding. Photovoltaic panels will capture energy and provide shade to the building and outdoor balconies. The building is 35% more efficient than required by California's Title 24 energy efficiency code for construction. The building utilizes reclaimed water to flush toilets and for landscape irrigation.

The Cafeteria/Bookstore/Student Services Center was funded by Propositions S and N, local facilities bond measures passed by voters in 2002 and 2006.

The September grand opening included brief comments from college and SDCCD officials, ribbon cutting, food, entertainment, tours and a massive sandcastle, sculpted by master carvers and international sandcastle champions, The Sand Squirrels, led by Dan Gutowski, Miramar's Administrative Services Supervisor.



Admissions & Records Office Supervisor Dana Stack has witnessed enrollment double in the 14 years she's worked at Miramar College.

For 33 years, Kathy Burke has helped students navigate the admissions process. "The students I helped decades ago are returning now with their children and grandchildren to enroll at Miramar. The smiles on their faces as they look around make my co-workers and me so proud and happy!"





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



SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION

A Strategic Partner to the San Diego Business Community

Founded by leaders of entrepreneurial colleges and universities, the Global Corporate College (GCC) is a unique organization that leverages the best learning industry practices with the resources of accredited academic institutions so local businesses have access to up-to-date, relevant, customized workforce training.

Members are invited to join the network based on reputation and experience in providing employer-sponsored training and education. Two key areas of excellence prompted an invitation for the San Diego Community College District to join this exclusive network:

- (1) The SDCCD has maintained a strong reputation and 20+ years of experience in providing employer-sponsored training and education in San Diego through the Employee Training Institute (ETi).
- (2) Continuing Education is the largest adult educational institution of its kind in the nation and has been named as an adult education model by the state of California.

With active membership, ETi and the District can now expand to include national and international workforce solutions. Membership permits full access to the entire database of contract training curricula from all GCC members' colleges and allows referrals for the District to and from the network. Educational leaders such as Anne Arundel Community College, College of Lake County, Ivy Tech, and Tacoma Community College are also part of the network.

Cassandra Storey, the new Executive Director of Customized Training for ETi will generate new contracts for workforce training by meeting with San Diego's business and public sector employers to determine the best fit for customized training based on needs. All contract opportunities will be coordinated with the relevant college (City, Mesa, or Miramar) or with Continuing Education.

The Global Corporate College benefit is that training is customized to fit specific industry needs, and standardized so training is delivered consistently at all locations either in-person or online.

Companies such as Goodwill Industries, Marriott, Moen, Nissan, Raytheon, Cobham, and Walgreens have already tapped into the knowledge and expertise within the Network to provide world-class training for their workforce with these benefits:

- Access to the largest delivery network for corporate training
- The largest body of relevant workforce content
- Facilitators with industry/content expertise
- Flexibility in delivery modality
- Flexibility in design
- Commitment to best practices in workforce education



KUDOS

Accomplishments & Achievements

Language Day Festival at San Diego City College

Held on April 17 in Gorton Quad, "Citizens of the World" was the theme of the annual Language Festival at City College. The celebration featured music, dance and international food. Information was also shared about the study abroad programs and language classes in French, German, Italian, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, and American Sign Language.



Celebrating "Citizens of the World" at the annual Language Festival at San Diego City College.

Classi Con:

Empowerment Through Change Inspires Mesa Classified Staff

Accolades and kudos flooded the emails following the Mesa College Classified Development Conference, now dubbed "Classi Con," and held June 19-20. The conference workshops were based on five themes: workplace adaptiveness, personal adaptiveness, staying safe, changes in technology, and physical changes.

"The options were hard to choose between, and the speakers were great," said **Sunny Jones**, of Admissions. Sunny also said that the opportunity to socialize and meet new friends was "refreshing."

"This is my second favorite thing about Mesa," emailed **Mary I. Toste**. "Students are first, but these conferences are the absolute BEST!"



Accounting Clerk Michelle West was voted Mesa College Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year. She's pictured here with President Pam Luster.

Commencement Returns to Campus

The 37th Annual Commencement Exercises were held on the San Diego Miramar College campus for the first time in seven years — 1,138 associate degrees and certificates of achievement were awarded to 798 graduates. Among the colleges of the San Diego Community College District, Miramar is the only college with an increase in the number of degrees and certificates awarded in 2013 compared to the 2012 graduating class, despite deep budget cuts and subsequent course offering reductions. Miramar also has the most Filipino, Pacific Islander, and American Indian students in the graduating class.



Accomplishments & Achievements

KUDOS

SCRIPT TO SCREEN

THE SAN DIEGO INDIE SCENE 2013

A free symposium of film industry experts discussing all aspects of film production.

Only something with pizzazz could bring students out on Saturday morning in early April to attend a day-long symposium. This first-ever Script to Screen Indie Scene event included award-winning film producers, directors, and writers sharing their industry secrets on getting into the film industry. Topics covered included film scriptwriting, producing, directing, editing, and promotion distribution. City College Radio, Television, and Film department Professor **Russel Redmond** spearheaded this successful gathering of the local film community. At City College since 2004, Redmond has twenty years of experience as a freelance commercial and documentary writer, including five feature screenplays. He is looking forward to a "bigger and better" Indie Scene in 2014.



Assemblymember Brian Maienschein Impressed With Campus Growth

Freshman Assemblymember **Brian Maienschein** returned to the Miramar College campus for the first time in six years in late July and left impressed with the campus growth. Former San Diego Fifth District City Councilmember (two terms) and United Way Commissioner on Homelessness, Maienschein was elected to represent California's 77th Assembly District in November 2012. Maienschein, who was accompanied by Chief of Staff **Lance Witmond**, toured the campus with student ambassadors and Public Information Officer **Sandi Trevisan**, exploring the many new facilities funded by Propositions S and N. He said, "I have always been impressed with Miramar College's community connections, which I've noticed are unique among many institutions of higher ed." He summarized his visit, saying, "This is as beautiful as any university campus around."

Auto Program Running at Top Speed



The Automotive Technology program at San Diego Continuing Education has met the strict industry standards required for National Automotive Technician Education Foundation (NATEF) accreditation.

Receiving the industry accreditation has been years in the making, with facilities planning, a demanding self-study process and report, a comprehensive peer evaluation, and finally, a NATEF review.

Continuing Education is one of the only noncredit programs in the U.S. to receive this confirmation of excellence. The accreditation adds tremendous value to the course certificates awarded to 118 students in 2012-13, and ultimately to the employers who hire Continuing Education graduates.



Mesa College Eligible for AANAPISI Status

This spring, Mesa College successfully competed for and gained Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) eligibility.

The AANAPISI is a federal program designed to support higher education institutions in their efforts to increase institutional self-sufficiency by improving institutional management, fiscal stability, and academic programs.

In April 2012, Mesa College was designated by the Department of Education as a Hispanic Serving Institution. With these designations, Mesa College is now eligible to apply for Title V (HSI) grants and Title III (AANAPISI) grants.

"This current opportunity goes hand-in-hand with the college's designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution," noted President Pamela Luster. "It is further acknowledgement of Mesa College's commitment to serving historically underrepresented students, and opens the door to grants and funding that will enable us to increase access and success for even more students."

Public Mental Health Occupations Explored

The San Diego City College Public Mental Health Academy (PMHA) sponsored its 2nd Annual Career Panel Luncheon on June 13, 2013. This free event is offered to the PMHA students and the local community at large to explore the array of vocations in the field of public mental health.

The panelists included the field education director at the SDSU School of Social Work (**Candy Ellison, LCSW**), a licensed marriage family therapist and clinical supervisor in private practice (**Molly Fassler, LMFT, LPCC**), a double-board certified forensic psychiatrist (**Steven Ornish, M.D.**), an occupational therapist (**Brian Mims, OTR/L**), a licensed marriage family therapist directing the Kickstart program assisting adolescents with psychosis (**Maria Morgan, LMFT**), and the outreach program coordinator for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (**Niki Kraska, BA**). Led by faculty members, **Veronica Ortega, Ph.D.**, **Kristen Cole, Ph.D.**, and **Alisa Rowland, MA**, the PMHA provides educational and career pathways for entry-level mental health workers.



Attendees at the June 13, 2013, 2nd Annual Career Panel Luncheon sponsored by the San Diego City College Public Mental Health Academy.



Annie Novak, 2013 Outstanding Classified Employee

Annie Novak, Senior Student Services Assistant II, has been named San Diego Miramar College 2013 Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year for her exemplary work performance.

Novak, who started working in the SDCCD in 1987, joined the Miramar College Admissions Office in 1989. She was selected for the annual award by her peers of 115 classified staff for her continuous positive attitude and commitment to students, as well as her volunteer spirit.

It's a family affair... Novak's son, Anthony, received the *Classified Employee of the Year* award in 2008 for his outstanding work and commitment to students and staff as Accounting Technician at the college.

Model Classified Senate

The Classified Senate at Continuing Education (CE) is carrying on the tradition of excellence at CE by being recognized as an exemplary organization. CE's Senate is distinguished as a Model Senate by the California Community College Classified Senate (4CS).

"This award speaks as much about the positive, encouraging relationship the Classified Senate enjoys with our Union, our Academic Senate colleagues, and with the Administration here in Continuing Education and at the District level," said **Neill Kovrig**, (pictured) President of CE's Classified Senate. "The cooperative discussions and efforts we have been able to support stems as much from our commitment to the service of our campus communities, as it does from the relationships we have cultivated with our counterparts at all levels."

4CS is the statewide organization for ensuring classified participation in shared governance. CE's Senate is the only noncredit Classified Senate in the State of California to receive this distinction of excellence.



Accomplishments & Achievements

KUDOS



Celebrating Mesa College Faculty

Mfusion, the Mesa College student-run restaurant, was the setting for Mesa's 2013 Faculty Recognition event, which honored faculty members who were promoted this year to the rank of Professor and Assistant Professor. Honorees and their families enjoyed a lovely dinner prepared by Mesa culinary students, followed by awards and comments from the school Deans. **Jill Moreno Ikari** was promoted to rank of Associate Professor, and 20 faculty were promoted to Professor. Also honored were this year's faculty retirees, **Catherine Berstch Boychuk, John Sievers, Mimi Moore** and **Laurie Mackenzie**.



Class of 2013 Tenured Professors: Front row: Anar Brahmhatt, Morteza Mohssenzadeh, Momilani Ramstrum, Janna Braun, Toni Parsons, Tracy Tuttle, Dora Schoenbrun-Fernandez, Kari Parker, Kevin Krown. Back row: President Pam Luster, Inna Kanevsky, Denise Rogers, Mark Abajian, Duane Wesley, Joseph Safdie, Michael Temple. Not pictured: Alison Damoose, Claude Mona, Juliette Parker, Robert Sanchez, Tracey Walker.

SCHOLAR FEST

More than 100 scholarship awards were distributed to 89 Miramar College students for a total of more than \$58,000 at Scholar Fest in late spring. Plus, 54 awards worth over \$120,000 from external agencies were provided to 53 recipients during 2012-2013 for a total of more than \$178,000 to Miramar College students.



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2013 Design Center Student Showcase



The Mesa College Design Center featured the work of its architecture and interior design students at the annual student design showcase, held in May. Professor and department chair **Ian Kay** also proudly announced that three Mesa College architecture students — **Socrates Medina, Thao Nguyen, and Jennifer Vargas** — received acceptance notifications from Cal Poly Pomona, one of the foremost schools of architecture in the nation. Cal Poly Pomona accepted only 20 transfer students out of the 400 transfer applications they received for fall 2013, and three of the 20 accepted were from Mesa College.



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HONORING THE PAST, CELEBRATING THE FUTURE

As the first community college in San Diego, City College has educated more than one million students in 100 years and grown to more than 60 downtown acres. In honor of the 99th class of graduates, in May, City College posted 40 new commemorative street banners around the college perimeter from Park Boulevard to 16th Street to introduce its Centennial Celebration in 2014. For the Centennial, City College is asking all former students, faculty, and staff who attended City College to sign the Centennial Roll Call 100 at sdcity.edu/centennial.

1CC San Diego City College
Centennial 1914-2014

Expanding
1,000,000
minds

