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February 2014



Honors Students Seek Challenge and Transformation

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

Celebrating the “Beloved Community”

Several weeks ago, the City of San Diego joined forces for a weekend of celebration and mobilized around the vision of an extraordinary man, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. One of Dr. King’s most compelling visions was his concept of the “beloved community.” The society he called for was to be characterized by equality of all people, by civility, by love, by world peace, by educational opportunity, by support for health and other needs, and by the willingness to crusade in non-violent ways to reach these goals.

The events in his honor enable all of us to “witness” and provide testimony to these ideals and to demonstrate our own commitment, individually and collectively, to the humane causes that were espoused by this great civil rights leader, preacher, and educator. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was not just a hero of the African-American Civil Rights Movement; he was and is the hero of the broader movement to provide opportunity, dignity, equal rights, peace, and fulfillment for all people irrespective of their heritage, background, beliefs, or economic condition.

As we usher in Black History Month during February and conclude the annual celebration of Dr. King’s legacy, here are some scenes of our institutions’ participation in the MLK Parade.



1) Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Parade Grand Marshal; 2) Student Trustees Emalina Ledbetter, Carolina Moreno, and J. Walker lead the SDCCD delegation; 3) Trustee Rich Grosch; 4) Trustee Peter Zschiesche; 5) San Diego City College; 6) San Diego Mesa College; 7) San Diego Miramar College; 8) San Diego Continuing Education

Honors Students Seek Challenge and Transformation

by Adam Behar



From left: Rozhon Badiozamani, Bryce Schierenbeck, and Gulya Tlegenova

Sometimes you have to dig a little deeper. For students enrolled in honors programs across the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD), extraordinary change is an everyday occurrence.

"Honors programs not only prepare our students with the rigorous academics they need to succeed at four-year universities, but they also transform the way students think about themselves and their role in the community and in the larger world," said Constance M. Carroll, SDCCD Chancellor.

Each of the district's three colleges – City College, Mesa College, and Miramar College – offer highly regarded honors programs. Last year, nearly 3,000 SDCCD students participated in honors-level coursework.

"Sometimes students don't think of themselves as honors students," says Dr. Leticia López, District Honors Coordinator. "They worry they're not good enough. Seeing their transformation is awe-inspiring."

An example is Bryce Schierenbeck. Growing up in southwestern Oklahoma, high school held little interest. In his early 30s, he enrolled at City College, and immediately the doubts began to fester: *What am I doing here? I've never been good at school. I'm too old for this.* The honors program, he says, "exposed me to new ideas and showed me that I could do more than I thought I was capable of." Already he has co-founded the City College Veteran's Service Center and was nominated for a prestigious Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. Last year, only 73 Jack Kent Cooke scholarships were awarded in the nation, four of which went to district students. Carrying a 4.0 GPA, Bryce hopes to transfer to UC Berkeley this fall and study business administration.

Academic rigor is only half of the equation. The other, equally important half, is the personal attention and support provided by committed and caring professors, counselors, and classmates. Professors are vested in students' success and wear many hats: teacher, facilitator, mentor, coach, and friend.

In high school, Rozhon Badiozamani applied to five colleges and was accepted by none, a setback that chipped away at her confidence. Instead of being discouraged from obtaining a college education, she enrolled at Miramar College.

(Continues on page 4)

Honors Students (Continued)

"The honors program helped me regain my confidence," she says, crediting her Honors English 101 professor, Dr. Carmen Jay, for challenging and engaging her like no one had ever done. "This is what a classroom and a professor should be like," she says. Inspired, Rozhon became president of Miramar's Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and is now ready for another challenge – UCLA, where the physiology/pre-med student hopes to transfer this fall.

At Mesa College, Spanish professor Dora Schoenbrun-Fernandez is the brainchild behind ACTOS, a series of four, one-act plays written, produced, and performed in Spanish by the college's honors students. The production is the result of an innovative collaboration between the Spanish language honors department and the theater department. Writing a Spanish-language play – and acting in it as well – enables students to develop a more nuanced understanding of the language. "When you're trying to transmit meaning with your body and your gestures, it is very important to understand completely the meaning of the words," says ACTOS cast member Christina Muñoz.

Schoenbrun-Fernandez' passion for language and culture draws students to her. "Entering her class was a life-changing experience," says Gulya Tlegenova, a Mesa honors student originally from Uzbekistan. "At that point, everything turned around for me." Gulya, who may pursue a double major in Spanish and Russian, hopes to transfer to Columbia University to complete her undergraduate studies and then her doctorate in Global Studies.

"Our honors students have the upper hand when it comes to transfer," says Dr. López. She notes that more than 80 percent of the district's honors students transfer to four-year universities, including top-tier institutions like Columbia University and the University of California, both of which have formal partnerships with the SDCCD.

District honors programs may be elite, but they are decidedly not elitist. Although students ideally have a 3.25 GPA to qualify, Dr. López says the honors philosophy is not to turn down any students. "We put them on the honors track, so they can experience it and try it out for themselves.

Spanish Stage Plays ACTOS





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

HAVE YOU STEPPED UP TODAY?

This is the question of the day at San Diego City College since it was recognized as the first higher education institution to become a Live Well San Diego partner. Live Well San Diego is the county's ten-year plan for achieving safe, healthy, and thriving communities.

City College Step Up to Live Well Coordinator and Psychology Professor Dr. Veronica Ortega explained that the focus of Live Well is a concept known as 3-4-50, which shows that three behaviors – poor nutrition, lack of exercise, and smoking – contribute to four diseases: cancer, heart disease and stroke, type 2 diabetes, and respiratory conditions. Together, the four diseases account for more than 50 percent of deaths in San Diego County.

In a December 4, 2013, FORBES magazine interview, Live Well creator, San Diego County's Health and Human Services Association (HHS) Director Nick Macchione, said that "Sometimes simple things have great impact." HHS studies showed that from an economic standpoint, these behaviors were contributing to \$4 billion worth of direct medical expenditures in our region.

So City College set up a variety of simple things to provide options for healthier life choices.

First, County Supervisor Ron Roberts declared City College a Live Well partner at the San Diego Community College District's (SDCCD) Board of Trustees meeting on November 7, 2013.

A week later on November 14, Step Up to Live Well @ San Diego City College and the Fitness Center held a Fitness Week that emphasized fitness, nutrition, and

behavioral health. Students could learn about healthy eating, smoking cessation, and suicide awareness. Students also had the opportunity to get their blood pressure tested, be screened for depression, take part in aerobic workouts, and buy fresh produce from the Seeds@ City Urban Farm.

"We are so happy to be a part of Live Well," said Dr. Lynn Neault, Interim President of San Diego City College.

"Learning ways to improve your overall health is the best gift we can give to our students and employees."

For the official launch of the Step Up to Live Well @ San Diego City College initiative, President Neault joined nearly 200 athletes, students, faculty, and staff in the on-campus 2K Fun Run/Walk. Under the guidance of Health and Exercise Science Professors Paul Greer and Ellen Turkel, a 1-mile fitness path was developed to allow a quick exercise option on the 60-acre downtown campus.

Supervisor Roberts, a former City College student, said he was amazed at the spirit and enthusiasm across the campus for Live Well. He hopes City College will become a model for other colleges to step up to the healthy living challenge.



SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE



Presentation of Live Well designation at the November 7 SDCCD Board of Trustees meeting. From Left: Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, SDCCD Board President Rich Grosch, County Supervisor Ron Roberts, and City College Interim President Lynn Neault.





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

NEW FACULTY Infuse Energy and Passion at Mesa College

Since the passage of Propositions S and N by San Diego voters in 2002 and 2006, the SDCCD has made major brick-and-mortar investments on the San Diego Mesa College campus.

Now, with new opportunities in a much-improved financial climate, the college is turning its focus to making dramatic changes inside the college's academic classrooms, labs, and offices.

"I'm excited that we have begun an ambitious hiring initiative to expand our tenure-track faculty and academic leadership across academic disciplines," said Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster.

Mesa College earlier this year hired four faculty members. Already, they are infusing new energy into the college.

"As a group, our three recent hires in the allied health fields – Connie Renda, Christine Balderas, and Christy Foster – have definitely made an impact on our health information, physical therapist assistant, and radiologic technology programs," says Dean Margie Fritch.

"Healthcare specialties are extremely dynamic and require a unique skill set that includes a strong clinical background and educational or training experience," Fritch explains. "The combination of professionalism, clinical and technical expertise, and instructional and interpersonal skills that our new faculty bring will enable us to continue to offer the highest quality of education to our students, and new employees for our workforce."

Under this new initiative, Mesa College is poised to:

- Build on existing strengths and grow new expertise in strategic areas by hiring talented scholars within a targeted selection of academic departments;
- Respond to workforce needs by bringing in industry professionals with field experience;
- Provide outstanding teaching and services to our students; and
- Continue the transformation that has led Mesa to rank as the fastest-growing college in California and among the fastest-growing in the nation.



Connie Renda



Christine Balderas



Christy Foster



Isaac Argüelles

A few of the new hires have come full circle. Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) counselor Isaac Argüelles was the first in his family to attend college. He graduated from Mesa College in 1998 with an associate degree in American Sign Language. For a young immigrant with two deaf parents and whose first language was Mexican Sign Language, the degree and future career in education and counseling was a natural.

"As a student, I used to look at that sign above the cafeteria that says 'Invest in Your Future,'" recalls Argüelles. "I took that message to heart, and I did it, despite so many challenges. That's what I try each day to teach my students: that they can do it. That the only true disability is attitude."

Mesa College is poised to begin spring semester 2014 with thirteen new faculty hires.

"All of us at Mesa look forward to the infusion of energy and passion, and the unique skills our new faculty will bring," added President Luster.



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

Research Symposium Showcases Honors

Each year, during the Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, Miramar students explore diverse subjects and controversial issues through slide presentations, poster exhibits, and original poetry as a component of their honors study.

According to Dr. Carmen Jay, Honors Program Coordinator, "The symposium simulates a professional conference, providing students with the opportunity to present detailed research to colleagues." She added, "Posters are a common display element in symposium presentations."

The 7th annual symposium held in early December featured six individual and team presentations, 16 poster exhibits, and eight poetry readings.

Among the PowerPoint presentations, Honors English 101 student Ryan Walker challenged the United States EPA requirements for ever-increasing percentages of ethanol in gasoline, while Judy Linn investigated Africa's "blood diamonds" industry, achieved through violence and warfare.

Anthropology student Alex Cervantes explored the world's taste for insects and why eating bugs is good for you. Did you know 80% of the world – two billion people from Mexico, China, Africa, Japan, and Thailand, eat the protein-rich food source? Australia and the Netherlands have begun farming insects, an eco-friendly industry. For those intrigued by the idea, Cervantes encouraged students to attend the annual Bug Fair held at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum each May, where talented chefs whip up bug delicacies for the adventurous snacker.

Anthropology Professor Laura Gonzalez chimed in, "Mealworms are very good – they taste like roasted almonds."

Between slide presentations, other students stood by poster creations to answer questions about their research. Among the displays, pre-med student Rita Tafliia provided natural alternatives to traditional medicine; Nicolas Lehnhoff discussed the positive effects of video

gaming, which include cognitive enhancement; and Jason Pulido explored the emotionally heavy topic of "honor killings," a practice that takes the lives of more than 5,000 people each year in various cultures.

The symposium concluded with original poetry from students of Professor Adrian Arancibia's Creative Writing class.



From top left: Ryan Walker, Rita Tafliia, Nicolas Lehnhoff, and Alex Cervantes.

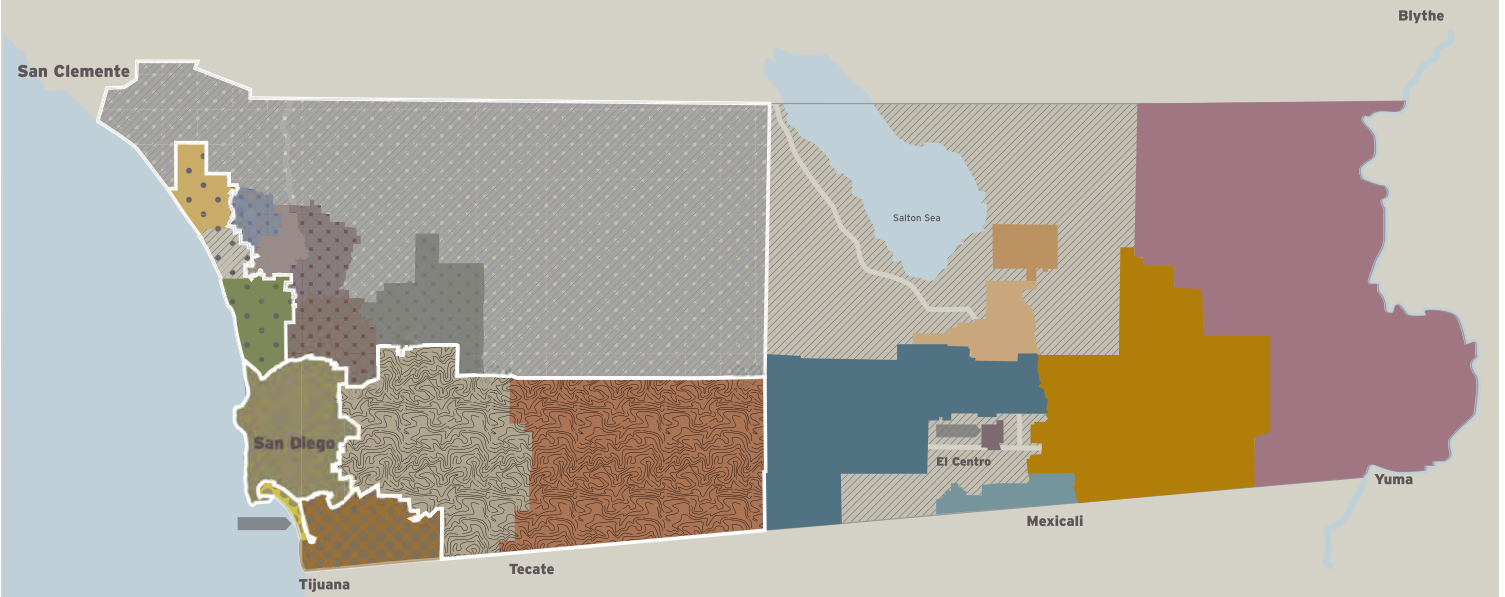


Anthony E. Beebe, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Continuing Education

CALIFORNIA'S NEW ADULT EDUCATION SYSTEM



Community Based Organizations
San Diego & Imperial Counties



The San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA) was formed in 1963 as a model of cooperation among public institutions of higher education. SDICCCA identifies issues of concern and implements mutually beneficial programs and projects in San Diego and Imperial Counties. The group is currently evaluating the impact of a new adult education system within the region.

In an effort to establish one adult education system for California, Governor Brown is moving ahead with a plan that aligns college and K-12 adult education services throughout California's regions, while playing to the strengths of the various existing providers. This new alignment is being accomplished through a system of regional adult education consortia, where both community colleges and K-12 adult education providers will play a significant role.

In California, both community colleges and K-12 school districts can provide adult education. Over the years, colleges and schools districts have collaborated and partnered to divide adult education responsibilities and serve communities based on need. In most communities, one of California's 300+ schools districts provides adult education. In fewer cases, such as in San Diego, community colleges provide adult education.

The new structure is separate from the current community college adult education (noncredit) funding that San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) receives, which is good news for SDCE as it remains authorized to offer classes in nine current areas, including Emeritus and Parent Education programs.

Continuing Education President Anthony E. Beebe has been very proactive and effective in helping to shape this overall plan, and participates in a state work group. "The new law gives us a tremendous opportunity to reshape adult education in California," said Dr. Beebe. "With collaboration, adult learners will be better served as a result of the consortia. It will be interesting to watch how this all unfolds, as it represents history in the making."

A Request for Application (RFA) was sent out from the state this past December. The RFA will solicit applications from potential regional consortia across the state that must each be comprised of at least one community college and one K-12 school district. Given SDCE's excellent and long-established relationship with the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD), a regional consortium application and partnership with SDUSD is a natural option, benefiting both SDCE and SDUSD adult school sites.



And the ORCHID goes to: Mesa College Student Services Center

Mesa College President **Pamela T. Luster** and Vice President of Instruction **Tim McGrath** were on hand to accept a 2013 Orchid Award from the San Diego Architectural Foundation. The 30-year-old “Orchids and Onions” contest takes nominations from the public for good and bad examples of local architecture, landscape architecture, historic preservation, interior design, and community revitalization. Mesa College’s Student Services Center was awarded an Orchid for Architecture.

In their comments, the jury described the Student Services Center as a building that “makes people feel good about coming to school.” They appreciated the project’s interesting architecture and tessellated façade and thought it was well-executed. One juror noted that it was “a handsome building that does a hell of a job terrain-wise.”

Campus of Excellence

More than 100 students, faculty, staff, and members of the community joined administrators and Board members to celebrate the grand opening of Continuing Education’s North City Campus on Aero Drive. The facility is a two-story, 42,000 sq. ft. Campus of Excellence for Business and Information Technology and provides state-of-the-art technology in all classrooms and computer labs, expansive multipurpose areas, and numerous student gathering areas. Job Training/Certificate Programs for Business and IT, and Accounting/Office Skills programs are offered, as well as a special high-tech center for students with various abilities and multiple classes for basic education to serve students who need to complete a high school diploma or earn a GED equivalency.

The new building is a result of San Diego voters passing Propositions S and N, which provided \$1.6 billion dollars to San Diego Community College District for new construction and renovation on multiple campuses throughout San Diego.



From left: CE Student Thomas Fitzgerald, Interim Vice Chancellor Donn Betz, CE Alumnus Gary Cristofani, Trustee Rich Grosch, CE President Anthony Beebe, CE Classified Senate President Neill Kovrig, Dean Michelle Fischthal, CE Academic Senate President Timothy Pawlak, SDCCD Chancellor Constance Carroll, Balfour Beatty Construction Senior Vice President Anton Greenville, and Architect Joseph Wong.

TAKING THE CLASSROOM TO THE COMMUNITY

Adjunct Professor **Natache Muschette** wanted her San Diego City College Introduction to Business students to understand how business planning affects real people. So, she asked her 29 students to focus on how for-profits and nonprofits could work together to integrate civic engagement practices into business operations. The students worked in small groups that developed four inspirational real-world projects. One group donated toys to 19 children at the San Diego Rescue Mission, another group taught families in Normal Heights about sustainable gardens, a third group provided 20 families with winter clothes at Father Joe's Village, and the fourth group conducted English-as-a-Second Language (ESL) and healthy eating tutoring in Tijuana and San Diego.

Each group surpassed their own goals and expectations. The City Clothing and SD Textile Recycling group exceeded their goal by 40% and secured clothes for 50 individuals; while the groups Gifts of Love and Spirit of Giving, obtained every toy and more on the children's wish lists. The Marble Mentoring group helped a young man learn how to translate Spanish into English for those in his neighborhood and helped a mother learn how to make healthy muffins for her children. Muschette said, "It was inspiring to watch students make positive contributions to societal issues that do not have easy solutions. Each student exemplified leadership and demonstrated that education is the most powerful weapon they have to change our world for the better." The students agreed that working outside of the classroom allowed them a unique opportunity to apply real world business concepts with an immediate return that positively impacts their communities.

EXTREME MAKEOVER, College Edition



In 2014, Miramar College will celebrate its 45th anniversary. The campus has come a long way — from bungalows to state-of-the-art buildings; from sage brush to first-class athletics facilities; and from 1,119 police and fire students to nearly 14,000 students each semester working toward university transfer and training for careers in public safety, transportation, biotechnology, and more. Last year, the campus bid farewell to many of the bungalows that once housed classrooms, student services, the cafeteria, bookstore, tutoring lab, and even the library that preceded the interim library (currently being renovated to house student health services and outreach).

Lady Jets Clinch Fourth Straight Conference Title



The Miramar College women's soccer team clinched its fourth straight Pacific Coast Athletic Conference title with a 3-0 win over Palomar College in November. Coming off their 2012 undefeated season, the Lady Jets dominated the conference again with a 14-2-3 record. In only its seventh year of existence, the Miramar College women's soccer program, led by former soccer pro head coach **Sean Bowers**, came into the season nationally ranked at #6 in the country in the Community College Division III by the *National Soccer Coaches Association of America* (NSCAA). The Lady Jets beat Citrus College and College of the Canyons in the Southern California regional playoff competition, but fell to #1 state-ranked Cerritos College in double overtime on Saturday, November 29. Coach Bowers said, "Our girls gave their heart and soul in this game and it could have gone either way. I am so very proud of our team's hard work and character."

A Community College Sports Dynasty in the Making

There have been quite a few dynasties in sports history, and many of the most memorable ones have been in college football. Now, on the Mesa College track and athletic courts, a community college sports dynasty is in the making.

Topping off a banner season, Coach **Thom Hunt** and the Mesa College men's cross country team were crowned Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Champions (PCACC) — for the third straight time. The team advanced to the state championships in Fresno, where they took sixth place, with individual runners taking second and third.

Three times is also the charm for the Lady Olympians volleyball team and Coach **Kim Lester**, who took their 14th PCACC title in the program's history. The team ranked fifth in the state before heading into the regional tournament.

Under the leadership of Coach **Renee Ross**, the women's cross country team also took their PCACC conference title for the second year in a row. In the state final, the squad finished ninth, with an individual runner crossing the finish line in fourth.

Coach **Todd Curran** led the women's soccer team to its fourth conference title for Mesa. The Pacific Coast Athletic Conference South champions secured their 13th appearance in the regional tournament, in which they fell to Cypress College in a penalty kick shoot-out with two goals to the Chargers' four.



Instructor Recognized for Outstanding Service

The National Council of Negro Women, Inc. (NCNW, Inc.) provides leadership and advocacy for women of African descent as they support their communities. Exceptional individuals are recognized when their service in the local community aligns with the mission of NCNW, Inc. In August, Continuing Education instructor **Cynthia Parks** was honored for her work with AARP, senior care, and health awareness. Cynthia has been teaching in the Emeritus Program for Continuing Education since 1987. She also serves on the Continuing Education Diversity Committee. NCNW, Inc. is a national nonprofit organization with 240 sections, including a San Diego section, with an outreach to nearly four million women nationwide.



Cynthia Parks, Continuing Education Instructor.

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DISTRICT WELCOMES 46 NEW FULL-TIME FACULTY TO BEGIN SPRING SEMESTER



New Miramar College faculty with "Jimmy the Jet" mascot.

After a five-year hiring freeze, new funding has enabled the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) to hire 46 new full-time faculty at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education. The new hires began in January as classes resumed for 72,000 students.

"The addition of 46 new faculty members is good news for students," said SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll. "As we begin the spring semester, we welcome our new colleagues and look forward to a brighter future here and throughout California. In addition to adding more full-time faculty, the district has also added 1,000 more class sections and is opening several major buildings, further strengthening its instructional programs for students."

Along with added classes, the arrival of new tenure-track faculty is a welcome sign of California's reinvestment in higher education. In addition to its 46 new hires this spring, the SDCCD plans to hire 43 full-time faculty by August – which represents the most faculty hiring since 2006.