



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education

WE

With
Excellence

May 2014

Clinical Training

Inside the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility

Story on page 4





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

LEARNING IN FOR STUDENTS

Generosity is one of the hallmarks of great colleges, and at no time of the year is this characteristic more in abundance than at the close of the final semester when students line up to receive scholarship awards. This year, scholarship awards dinners, luncheons, and programs have been held at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education. Scholarships have been provided by community donors, through bequests, by members of the faculty and staff, by administrators, and sometimes by external foundations. Generosity in abundance. One scholarship program, however, stands out: The Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Program.

Established from the estate of a philanthropist in 2000, the eponymous Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is "dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need," believing that "high-potential, low-income students will excel educationally when given the resources to develop their talents." Community college students receiving these scholarships are provided \$30,000 a year when they transfer to a four-year college or university in pursuit of a bachelor's degree. They are eligible to receive twice that amount if they pursue graduate studies. The Jack Kent Cooke "scholarship class of 2014" is composed of 85 students nationally, chosen from 3,705 applications from students at 737 community colleges. We in the San Diego Community College District are proud that 4 of these students are completing their programs at City College and Miramar College. Let me introduce them:

Marikris Guerrero Racho, 22, is a City College Biology major who has been accepted for transfer to SDSU in Fall 2014. She plans to go to medical school and become a surgeon. Since December 2012, Marikris has served as a peer educator for the

City College Mental Health Services. In Summer 2013, Marikris participated in the UCSD-Moores Cancer Center Summer Enrichment Program. Marikris is a member of the Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program and is a student participant in the Price Scholarship Program, in which she performs 300 hours of service learning in the community annually. Marikris is also a member of the American Medical Students Association – City College Chapter, and the City College Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Bryce Jared Schierenbeck, 35, enrolled at City College in 2010 after spending seven years in the Army and six years in the restaurant industry. A former Chancellor's Scholarship recipient who has been accepted for transfer to UCSD in Fall 2014, his academic goal is to attend a prestigious law school. Schierenbeck was influential in helping to found City College's Veteran Support Center and the City College student organization Veterans for Peace.

Trinh Hoang Viet Nguyen, 22, is majoring in Biology and Chemistry. She already has been accepted to UC Irvine and is waiting to hear back from another university. The future pharmacist has been actively involved at Miramar College, serving as Treasurer of Associated Students and being a part of Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. In addition, Nguyen has worked as a volunteer at the Sharp Reese-Steely clinic in Mira Mesa.

Mehrdad Yazdanibiouki emigrated from Tehran, Iran to San Diego less than three years ago with dreams of becoming an engineer. He enrolled at San Diego Miramar College and has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA, as well as being active on campus. He has served as president of the Miramar College Iranian Student Association, vice president of the Music Club,

and treasurer of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In his spare time, he works as an intern for the City of San Diego's Transportation Department, and also serves as a Supplemental Instruction Coach and a Math and Physics tutor at The PLACe at Miramar College.



From left: City College scholars Bryce Jared Schierenbeck, Interim President Lynn Neault, and Marikris Guerrero Racho.

From left: Miramar College students Mehرداد Yazdanibiouki and Trinh Hoang Viet Nguyen at a surprise celebration on campus.

A photograph of a modern, four-story academic building with large glass windows and dark grey panels. The building is surrounded by landscaping, including trees and orange flowers. Several people are visible walking around the base of the building. The sky is blue with some light clouds.

San Diego Mesa College **MATH+SCIENCE COMPLEX**

OFFICIALLY OPENED ON MARCH 19, 2014, THE \$109-MILLION, FOUR-STORY COMPLEX PROVIDES AN EXPANSIVE AND MODERN NEW HOME FOR TRANSFER AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS IN BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY, PHYSICAL SCIENCES, AND MATHEMATICS.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS FACILITY AND OTHER PROPOSITIONS S AND N PROJECTS VISIT SDCCD.EDU.

Mesa College Students Receive Clinical Training

at Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility

Three times a week, for eight hours a day, San Diego Mesa College student Misty Herrera works with patients providing blood-pressure checks, vaccinations, and electrocardiograms at a local clinic as she puts in the hours needed before she can become a registered medical assistant. But unlike thousands of other future medical assistants, Herrera is getting her training on prisoners at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility (RJD) in Otay Mesa through a groundbreaking partnership between the prison and the college.

"It's definitely different but I love the opportunity," Herrera said. "I'm learning a lot and I'm able to take the skills I learned in the classroom and put them to use here."

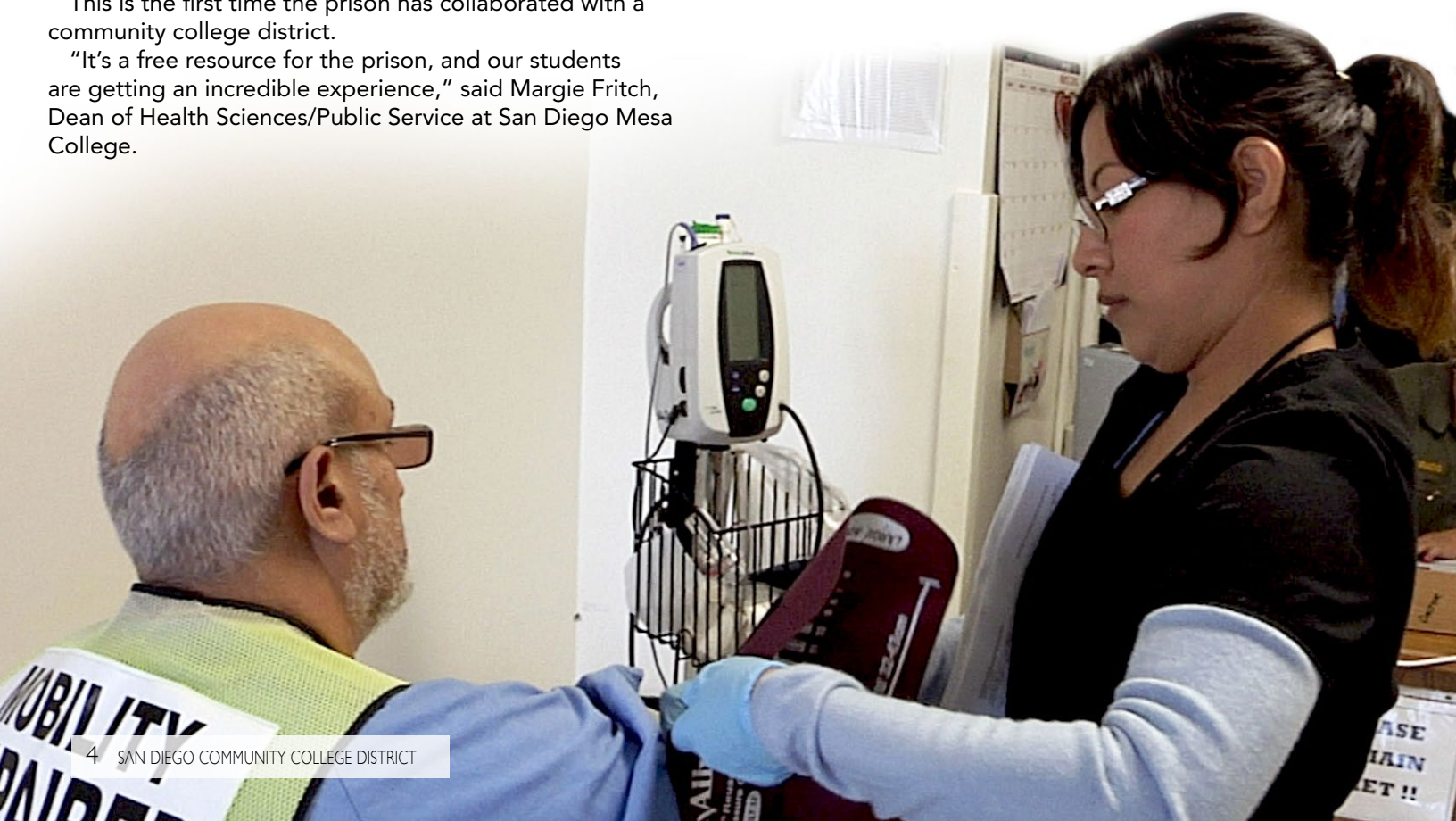
The partnership established this semester by the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) and RJD through California Correctional Health Care Services (CCHCS) enables 32 Mesa College students from the college's Dental Assisting, Medical Assisting, and Health Education Information Technology (HEIT) programs to secure up to 300 hours of clinical training at the prison. The partnership will be expanded to include San Diego City College's nursing program in the fall.

This is the first time the prison has collaborated with a community college district.

"It's a free resource for the prison, and our students are getting an incredible experience," said Margie Fritch, Dean of Health Sciences/Public Service at San Diego Mesa College.

“This partnership advances our district’s mission, which is to educate, train, and prepare students with the skills and competencies they need to succeed in local industry growth sectors such as health care.”

SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll





“Partnerships such as this help students be better prepared to enter the workforce.”

Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster

The collaboration makes sense for Mesa College, given its focus on health care education and training.

In 2008, the college opened a \$28.9 million Allied Health Education and Training Facility, which boasts state-of-the-art equipment and 50,000 square feet of training and classroom space for five allied health fields: Dental Assisting, Health Information Technology, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapist Assisting, and Radiologic Technology.

With an inmate population of approximately 3,300, RJD provides patient care for a variety of issues, including mental illness and development disability. “Our inmate population poses a variety of unique challenges,” says Mary Ann Glynn, California Correctional Health Care Services Chief Executive Officer at RJD. “As the inmates age, their health conditions become increasingly complex, and the need for a highly-trained healthcare staff increases. Our partnership with the SDCCD will help address this need. The colleges provide the education and RJD provides the experience.”

Mesa College students undergo four weeks of intense lab training before going to Donovan. They also go through a lengthy orientation at the prison. “They are pretty well prepared when they come out here,” Fritch said. “They’re ready to work with patients.”

Dr. Pankaj Karan, a board certified internist who works at the prison, says he is impressed with the quality of training.

“This is so much different than a normal medical assistant program in a private practice,” Dr. Karan said. “If they can learn how to work here, which is so much more complicated than in the outside world, they can learn how to work anywhere.”

San Diego Mesa College students say they are not intimidated by their surroundings.

“I feel very secure here,” said medical assistant student Christina Escobedo. “I’m never here by myself – there is always a guard nearby. And the inmates have been very respectful. I have not gotten any inappropriate questions.”

Besides working in the prison’s four clinics, students also care for inmates at RJD’s Treatment and Triage Area (which serves as the facility’s emergency room), and Correctional Treatment Center, a 28-bed center for in-patient care.



From top: Mesa College students Misty Herrera and Yeun Lee.



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

DO NEW BUILDINGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Nancy Crispen, Chair of the Physical Sciences Department at City College, said she has been waiting to teach in a new Science Building since 1976. After 37 years with the San Diego Community College District, and the last 14 at City College, her dream finally came true with the opening of the dazzling 98,000-square-foot Science Building on February 19, 2014.

Crispen says that in the new building, "everybody is more upbeat, there is new energy. I feel it when I teach. The new audio/visuals help a lot."

Part of the SDCCD's \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program, the \$57.4 million Science Building is home to the life sciences and physical sciences programs, including agriculture, astronomy, biology, chemistry, geographic information systems, geography, geology, physical science, and physics.



From left: Trustee Peter Zschiesche, Board President Rich Grosch, City College Interim President Lynn Neault, Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria, Vice Chancellor Christopher Manis, and Associated Students Government Officer Katie Lonchair.



Shane Haggard, Adjunct Professor of Chemistry, agreed that the new building allows professors to teach differently because they now have industry-standard instrumentation available. Now students get hands-on experience working with cutting-edge tools such as a nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy (NMR) and high-performance liquid chromatography (HPLC). This type of skills training allows students to apply for internships and jobs. Haggard said four of their students are currently working in the forensic science area with local police departments.

Both Crispen and Haggard agreed that the new buildings create a much better learning environment. The old lab had just three fume hoods; now there are 11. "The new equipment allows students to have a more personal experience," Haggard said.

Lynn Neault, Interim President for San Diego City College, appreciates that the new building will allow enrollment in science classes to nearly double at a time when there is an increasing focus on STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) degrees.

So, whether you visit the outdoor teaching gardens to learn about the Earth, or you take an astronomy class in the amazing new 80-seat planetarium to learn about the stars, there is agreement – new is better!





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

Mesa College Student Named #1 in California

Sarah Farmer, Mesa College Class of 2014, will have some bling to wear along with the bright gold honors cord on her commencement regalia in May. She also gets to wear a gold medallion symbolizing that she is one of the top community college students in the nation.

On April 8, Sarah was named to the 2014 All-USA Community College Academic Team. This all-star academic team consists of only 19 college students from the entire country, selected from more than 1,700 students, nominated by more than 800 community colleges.

Along with the special medallion, the peppy 21-year-old from Poway will receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

The week in April was a double-header for Sarah. Earlier that week, she and fellow student William Keck were honored at a luncheon in Sacramento sponsored by the Community College League of California. Sarah was one of 25 students from around the state to be named to the All-California First Team, and William among 26 students selected for the All-California Second Team. Sarah was also named the top scorer in the state, earning an additional award as the 2014 Coca-Cola New Century Scholar for California, which comes with a \$2,000 scholarship and a plaque from the Coca-Cola Foundation and Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation.

"Sarah is a perfect example of what teaching and learning at Mesa College is all about," said Pamela T. Luster, president. "At Mesa, Sarah found the encouragement and programs to thrive – both in and outside the classroom. She has made the transition from student to leader. She is a role model for her peers – on campus and in the community – and has an outstanding future ahead of her."

Although she'll graduate with high honors, Sarah never had ambitious goals for an academic future.

Throughout middle and high school, Sarah suffered from constant health problems, including postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome (POTS), and bipolar disorder.

Her grades suffered due to numerous hospital visits. She surprised even her high school counselor by graduating.

Then she enrolled at Mesa College.

"From the day I set foot at Mesa, the college experience – and especially the people, programs, and wealth of ways for students to get involved – helped me to turn my life around," explains Sarah, who is now able to cope with her conditions without the need for medical attention.

With a 3.95 grade point average, the psychology major's academic success is matched by her involvement in campus affairs and community service. She is Vice President of the Associated Student Government, President of the Honors Club, and a member of the pre-med AMSA chapter, the Inter-Club Council, and the Psi Beta Honor Society. She is also Vice President of Fellowship in the college's PTK chapter, which presents the All-USA Community College Academic Team awards.

Off campus, Sarah volunteers for the Escondido Humane Society and as a youth leader in her church, with a total of more than 5,000 hours of community service.

After graduation in June, Sarah hopes to transfer to a four-year university and eventually earn her Ph.D. in psychology. She hopes that she can one day "guide future generations to achieve greatness and overcome the odds set against them."



"I continue to do my best as a student while also being continuously involved on and off campus, and while encouraging my peers to be the best they can be," says Sarah. "There is no greater service or goal than helping lift up others."



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



Far More Than Basic



From left: Instructional Assistant Melissa Salvatore and Professor Mark Manasse.

“The program gives our students additional help, it gives our professors additional help, and it provides graduate students with a mentor in the profession while allowing them to get hands-on training and real-life teaching experience in the classroom.”

Professor Mark Manasse

Roxana Demehri could barely string sentences together in English after immigrating here from Tehran less than three years ago. But thanks to a nationally recognized program at San Diego Miramar College for students needing help with their language skills, Demehri is quickly mastering the nuances of English and writing lengthy essays she hopes can help her transfer to a University of California campus.

“There has been an unbelievable difference,” the 20-year-old San Diego resident said. “When I got here, you couldn’t understand what I was saying. I knew a lot of words, but I didn’t know how to put them together into sentences. I couldn’t even write a basic paragraph.”

The Basic Skills English/ESOL Center and Instructional Assistant Program employs graduate students from the University of San Diego, San Diego State University, and Point Loma Nazarene University as tutors who team with professors in San Diego Miramar College’s basic skills English courses. The effort also includes a Basic Skills/ESOL Center that provides a centralized location with computer workstations, current technology, and resources for instructional assistants and faculty to use when working with English/ESOL basic skills students.

The college program recently earned the highest possible national level of recognition and certification (Advanced) from the National Association of Developmental Education (NADE). In 2012, it was recognized by the Association of Community and Continuing Education (ACCE) and The League for Innovation in the Community College as an “Innovation of the Year.”

“The program gives our students additional help, it gives our professors additional help, and it provides graduate students with a mentor in the profession while allowing them

to get hands-on training and real-life teaching experience in the classroom,” said Professor Mark Manasse, who coordinates the program at the college and serves as the basic skills regional coordinator in San Diego and Imperial counties.

Manasse’s data shows that students in San Diego Miramar College’s Basic Skills English/ESOL Center and Instructional Assistant Program fare far better when compared to students who are not. Such students had an average grade point average of 2.88 in English courses in the spring of 2013, compared with a 2.35 GPA for students in need of remedial work who were not part of the program.

Some 300 students enroll in the program each semester. Funding comes from an annual, \$175,000 California Community College Success Network (3CSN) grant, which is based on the number of basic skills students enrolled on campus.



From left: Students Negin Ahmadi and Maryam Maddahi review notes before their midterm.



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

Raising the Bar for GED® Preparation



The new 2014 GED exam highlights:

- Half the length of the previous GED exam
- Delivered via computer
- Four content areas: reasoning through language arts; mathematical reasoning; science; and social studies
- Students can stop and restart the exam as needed
- Test takers will need to exhibit stronger analytic, critical thinking, and writing skills
- Two English forms; one Spanish form
- High test scores will receive a "pass with honors" designation
- Educator scoring tool
- Practice test and test prep materials are now available through GEDtestingservice.com

It's digital learning day in Trenton Watkins' classroom, where 28 students are studying math to help them prepare for the GED exam. "Students are learning about online resources and instructor blogs," said Dean Lorie Crosby Howell. "It's a day to focus on technology in the classroom."

Technology isn't the only focus. Students are preparing to take the GED exam, which has recently undergone significant changes.

"Don't panic," announces Watkins, "Square roots are the opposite of squared." Finding square roots is one of the many math challenges students will find on the GED exam, which has seen changes that impact the tests, and the students.

The new requirements include incorporating college and career readiness standards for adult education, and a student's ability to score with honors. This new test ensures adults are prepared for college and career training programs, incorporates digital skills for today's digital world, and awards a credential that is respected by employers and colleges.

While the tests are more rigorous, the students who pass will be better prepared. "The test is designed to measure critical-thinking and problem solving skills, said Crosby Howell. "Our contextualized learning strategies help students prepare for what is needed to be successful in college and in the workplace. I support the changes."

At age 30, Gerardo Ramirez has been preparing for the GED exam for six months. "I decided to get a GED to better myself and to show my kids how important it is," he says.

Myesha Jones, 35, has been preparing for the GED exam for five months. "I want to go to college," she says. After passing the GED exam, she plans to transition to Mesa College and study psychology.



From left: Gerardo Ramirez and Myesha Jones.

New Book Grants Make College More Affordable



From left: Mary de Leon and Patricia Hsieh, Miramar College President.

Attending college was made more affordable this spring for students at Miramar College. Wells Fargo Bank donated \$6,250 to the Miramar College Foundation to support 25 new \$250 book grants for continuing students registered in six units or more in spring semester classes. The annual average cost of books for a community college full-time student is \$820, according to Teresa Vilaboy, Financial Aid

Director. Mary de Leon, branch manager for Wells Fargo Bank in Mira Mesa, noted the corporate goal to help out local neighborhoods.

"What better way to give back to the community than to reach out to our local students," she said. According to de Leon, she's hopeful the Wells Fargo sponsored book grants will help students attain their educational goals and pave a stronger path to becoming a contributing citizen of the local community. Wells Fargo Bank and de Leon were recognized during the college's annual scholarship awards event, ScholarFest, on April 16.

SDCCD Women Recognized

The women of SDCCD were well-represented in the recent exhibit by the Women's Museum of California (WMC). Among the San Diego women trailblazers honored in "The Beauty, Brilliance and Bravery of Black Women" were **Dr. Constance M. Carroll**, and Mesa College Professors **Dr. Judy Sundayo** and **Starla Lewis**.

The exhibit, which ran February 7 through March 30, celebrated the diverse beauty, brilliance, and bravery of Black women throughout the world and highlights 21 local women that have made amazing contributions within their communities and professions.

The chancellor was recognized as being the first African-American woman chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. Professor Sundayo was honored for her work and as founder of Rites of Passage for African-American Girls. The exhibit was curated by Mesa College Professor Emeritus, Starla Lewis, who has spent more than 25 years of study and teaching the topic of Black History within the social scope of American life.

Lewis says, "This exhibit provided the opportunity for women of all ethnicities to see themselves and their journey ... their experiences and their accomplishments, and their greatness!"

BeeBe's Bees Bring Home the Gold

Neill Kovrig, Nancy Hampson, and Roselle Rippo, also known as BeeBe's Bees, made up one of two San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) teams for the San Diego Adult Spelling Bee held in February. The annual event is a fundraiser to support the San Diego Council on Literacy. Kovrig, Hampson, and Rippo went 10 rounds to overpower the field of 16 teams.

Additional SDCE faculty participated on a second team: **Marie Doerner, Leticia Flores, and Marnie Weigle**—team Spelling Beests—and made it to the final round of three but were ultimately defeated by ostreiform.

Marie Doerner, AKA "Queen Bee", works directly with the Council to coordinate the event. SDCE's two team participation was made possible this year by support from Chancellor Carroll, SDCCD, and the SDCE Classified Senate.

A STEP BACK IN TIME

Presented by the City College World Cultures program, a standing-room only crowd of more than 100 students welcomed **Carlotta Walls LaNier** to City College on March 6. In 1957, at age 14, LaNier was the youngest Little Rock Nine member to integrate Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas. During her nearly two-hour presentation, LaNier talked about her vivid recollections, including walking through an angry crowd under the protection of the Screaming Eagles Army's 101st Airborne Division that President Dwight D. Eisenhower had called in to escort the students into the school building on that first day.

Inspired by Rosa Parks and a strong desire for a quality education, LaNier did not know then, but the actions of this group would change the course of history and help provide access to a quality education for all. LaNier's recent book, *A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School*, brings to light the tumultuous civil rights years of the 1960s and fight for equality in education.



Little Rock Nine member, Carlotta Walls LaNier (left) at City College for a standing room only World Cultures Program presentation.

Gracia Molina de Pick Attends Glass Gallery Dedication



From left: Dean Charles Zappia, President Pamela Luster, Professor Alessandra Moctezuma, Professor and Chicana/o Studies Chair César López, Gracia Molina de Pick, and Professor Manuel Velez.

Mesa College celebrated the 84th birthday of educator, feminist, mentor, activist, and philanthropist **Gracia Molina de Pick** with an unveiling and dedication of the Gracia Molina de Pick Glass Gallery. The event, held March 20 (her birthday is actually March 17), honored Mrs. de Pick as one of the co-founders of Mesa's Chicana/o Studies Department, and her legacy – to Mesa College, San Diego, Mexico, and beyond.

During the dedication, children of the Chavistas César Chávez Service Club from Wilson Middle School presented her with a cake and sang the Mexican Birthday song "Las Mañanitas" in her honor.

Following, long-time community activists Linda and Carlos LeGerrette, founders of the Chavistas César Chávez Service Clubs and former students of Mrs. de Pick, were the featured speakers of the Third Annual Gracia Molina de Pick lecture series.

The Mesa College Chicana/o Studies Department was founded in 1970, largely through the efforts and dedication of Gracia Molina de Pick, who taught there in the 1960s and 70s. In March 2013, Gracia gifted \$80,000 to Mesa College to create the Gracia Molina de Pick Endowment Fund in support of furthering the college's Chicana/o Studies Department.

The public is invited to stop by to view the outdoor glass gallery in the G-Building rotunda. The first exhibit, honoring the life and teachings of Mrs. de Pick, will run through next spring.

Honorable Mention



From left: Rozhon Badiozamani and Dianna Ratsamy.

Congrats to Miramar College honors students **Rozhon Badiozamani** and **Dianna Ratsamy** on their recent selection for the 2014 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-California Academic Team. Badiozamani, who serves as president of Miramar's honors chapter, Beta Iota Lambda, and Ratsamy, who is public relations director for the chapter, were recognized at an awards luncheon, sponsored by the Community College League of California in conjunction with Phi Theta Kappa on March 28 in Sacramento. Badiozamani has also been named a 2014 Coca-Cola Community College Academic Team Bronze Scholar, a national-level recognition.

WE

With Excellence

Published by the
**San Diego
Community College District**

**Communications
and Public Relations Office**
619-388-6500 • cpr@sdccd.edu

Executive Editor: Jack Beresford

Editor: Cesar Gumapas

Graphic Design: Brenda Aguirre

Writer: David Ogul

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.



San Diego Community College District
Administrative Offices
3375 Camino del Rio South
San Diego, CA 92108-3883

Board of Trustees:

Mary Graham
Rich Grosch
Bernie Rhinerson
Maria Nieto Senour, Ph.D.
Peter Zschiesche

Chancellor:

Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.

Presidents:

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D., San Diego City College
Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D., San Diego Mesa College
Patricia Hsieh, Ed.D., San Diego Miramar College
Anthony E. Beebe, Ed.D., San Diego Continuing Education

www.sdccd.edu

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



www.facebook.com/sdccc
www.twitter.com/sdccc



Summer Session Returns in a Big Way

An improved budget picture will enable the San Diego Community College District to restore summer college credit courses this year for the first time since 2009. More than 1,000 classes will be offered at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges at \$46 a unit – including numerous online courses. In addition, San Diego Continuing Education will offer nearly 2,000 free noncredit classes at its seven campuses in San Diego.

Classes in high-demand areas such as allied health, basic skills, hospitality and consumer sciences, and career technical studies will be among those being offered.

The primary summer session is set for June 16 – August 9, but three other sessions also will be held: May 27 – June 28; June 9 – August 2; and June 30 – August 2. Plans call for 435 summer courses at City College, 423 at Mesa College, and 203 at Miramar College.

For more information on summer session visit www.sdccd.edu