



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education

SEPTEMBER 2014

WE

With
Excellence



First in First Responder Training

Story on page 12

Celebrating 40 Years of *Progress and Pride*



On Saturday, July 19, the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) was a major entry in the annual San Diego Pride Parade, celebrating the LGBT community and the rainbow of the entire San Diego population. Although groups from the campuses and various departments had marched individually in prior parades, this was the District's first official participation as a total organization.

This was an important date as well, commemorating the establishment of what was then the Center for Social Services. The Center sponsored its first pride event in 1974 honoring the famous "Stonewall Rebellion." In 1969, when "enough was enough" a crowd spontaneously struck back when there was just one too many police raids of establishments welcoming a gay clientele.

On June 28 of that year, the raid at the Stonewall Inn in Greenwich Village, New York, resulted in a full-scale revolt followed by days of protest, which ultimately led to the foundation of a number of LGBT organizations, as well as heightened public awareness of the need to redress centuries of discrimination affecting this segment of the population.

In San Diego, the Pride Parade tradition has grown over the decades, reaching a record turnout this year of some 300,000 enthusiastic people lining the streets of Hillcrest to Balboa Park. The SDCCD contingent included students with our banner, four members of our Board of Trustees, myself as Chancellor, Mesa College President Pam Luster and Interim City College President Lynn Neault, Vice Presidents Bob Parker and Brett Bell, and about 120

marchers, including College Police in uniform, following our float. Let me just say that our group was well received by the crowd and we were thrilled to be part of the celebration. Civil rights means rights for all, and that's why we were there. Look for us next year!



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Constance M. Carroll".

Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor

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With *More* Excellence

Notice something different?

With Excellence has been expanded to 24 pages to allow us to share more stories and do so in greater depth. We're proud of the work being done by the San Diego Community College District's students, faculty, staff, and alumni. SDCCD is San Diego's largest provider of workforce education but too many people are unaware of who we are or how we serve the community. In the coming months, you'll see more changes as we expand outreach – especially through digital communications. For now, we hope you like the new WE!

Summer Session *a Success!*

Summer is *definitely* back! Students responded in a big way to the SDCCD's first summer session in five years. More than 16,200 students enrolled this summer at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges. An improved budget allowed the District to offer more than 1,000 classes – about 80 percent of its pre-recession offerings. In addition, Continuing Education offered more than 2,000 free noncredit classes at its seven campuses. Based on the strong response, summer will be back again in 2015 with SDCCD planning to offer a fully restored summer session.



District Welcomes *New Faculty*

Additional funding has enabled the San Diego Community College District to hire 46 new full-time faculty at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education.

The additions mark the second time this year the SDCCD has been able to hire new faculty following a five-year hiring freeze. Combined with new faculty who started in January, the District has now added 90 full-time teaching positions in 2014.

Several of the new hires, such as Duane Short at Miramar College, are no strangers to the District. Short, a new Assistant Business Professor, has been a contract faculty member serving as the articulation officer at the college since 2005. Prior to that, Short served as the first full-time Transfer/Career Center Director at City College.

Additional funding is enabling the SDCCD to add more than 400 course sections, and the District expects to serve 3,100 additional students during the 2014-15 academic year.



New tenure-track faculty participating in orientation activities to prepare for first day of classes at Mesa College.

The 411 on *a 911 Situation*

Emails. Text messages. Social networking sites. Those are among the tools the San Diego Community College District employs to notify students, faculty, and staff of an emergency impacting operations. That can come in handy with the heart of the fire season on the horizon.



How does the District know where to reach students, faculty, and staff?

“When students apply for admission or update their online demographic information, they are asked to provide an emergency contact cell phone number,” said Kent Keyser, the District’s director of Information Technology. Employees update their emergency contact information through WebAdvisor.

The District then imports the information into what is commonly referred to as a reverse 911 system, enabling it to send emails, text messages, and robo-calls to anyone during an emergency.

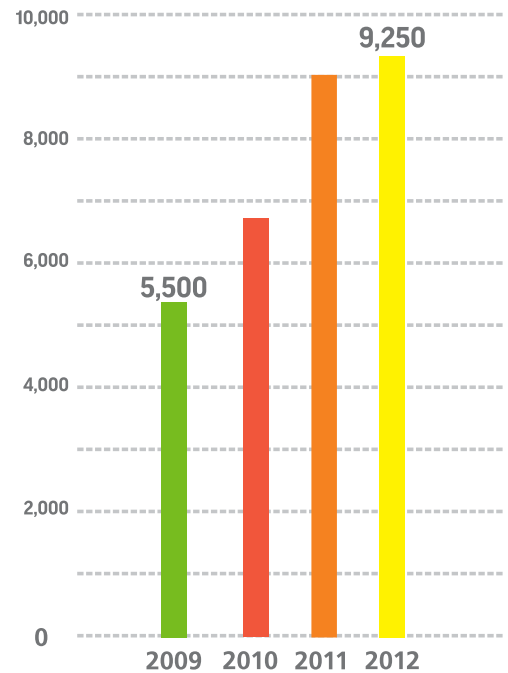
“We can target an emergency message only to those students or employees at a specific college or location, to multiple colleges and locations, or to all students and employees,” Keyser said.

Information also can be posted on the District’s website and the websites of each college.

“Lastly, we have an ePage system that can broadcast a text-to-speech emergency message to all telephones and emergency phones at each college campus or District site,” Keyser said.

Employees can sign up for emergency notifications through the WebAdvisor link at webadvisor.sdccd.edu.

As of February 2013, Propositions S and N projects have generated more than **9,250 jobs in San Diego.**



Economic *Impact*

A recent study shows that for every dollar a student invests in the SDCCD, they receive a cumulative of \$4.80 in higher future wages – that’s a 22.3% annual rate of return!



Design Award *for HDAT*

The Community College Facility Coalition has awarded the Miramar College Heavy Duty Advanced Transportation Building an Award of Honor in the Growth category of the 2014 CCFC Professional Design Awards Program. Congrats to architect Marlene Imirzian on her winning design. She states, “The college’s vision and aspirations led the way on this great project!”



4-Year *Degree Bill* Gaining Support

California is moving closer to becoming the 22nd state where students can earn a bachelor's degree at a community college. A bill authorizing a limited baccalaureate pilot program has moved swiftly through the state legislature and is now on the governor's desk.

Senate Bill 850 (SB 850) would allow 15 California community colleges to offer one 4-year degree as early as January 2015. The bill, authored by Senator Marty Block, was approved in June by the State Assembly Committee on Higher Education. Previously it was approved unanimously by the Senate Higher Education Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee, and the Senate.

SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll is chairing the statewide advocacy effort for the bill and has provided testimony to lawmakers on how the bill would benefit students and the state's workforce.

"Workforce requirements have changed," said Carroll. "Many employers, especially in the health professions, now require bachelor's degrees. Since workforce preparation is one of the top missions of community colleges, it makes sense that we have to change as well to fill that need."

Chancellor Carroll urges supporters to contact Governor Brown and encourage him to sign SB 850.

Sharpening Skills in *the Workforce*

The next time a guest at the Manchester Grand Hyatt gets great service from a housekeeper or banquet steward, they may want to thank San Diego Continuing Education (CE).

CE is home to the Employee Training Institute (ETi), which has been teaching dozens of Grand Hyatt service workers who spoke little or no English how to



better communicate with hotel guests and engage them in conversation. The customized program includes 30 hours of instruction and takes place at the harborside hotel.

The program is typical of ETi's mission, which is to help companies determine specific needs and provide training at the workplace. The Institute has worked with more than 7,000 businesses to train more than 44,000 employees since being founded in 1990.

Manchester Grand Hyatt recently approached ETi to develop a program for housekeepers and banquet stewards with limited English speaking skills. Housekeeping staff who took part in the effort could understand when a customer would, for example, ask for a new towel or pillow, but wouldn't engage the guest in conversation because of limited English language skills.

"The workers went from basically saying, 'Yes,' when asked if they had a towel to being able to say, 'Yes, I'd be happy to get those for you. Do you need anything else?'" said Cassandra Storey, ETi's executive director of customized training.

Which is exactly the outcome Hyatt was hoping for.

Students *in Spain*

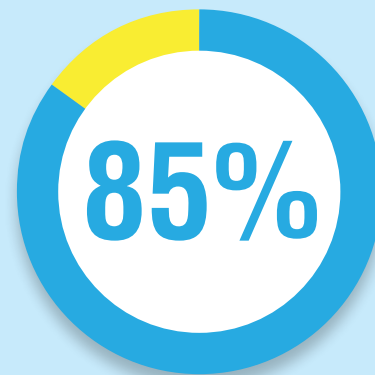


A New Leader *at CE*

Longtime adult education leader Rudy Kastelic has been appointed Interim President of the San Diego Community College District's Continuing Education division.



Kastelic took the reins on August 1 from Dr. Anthony Beebe, who was appointed President of San Diego City College. This is the second time Kastelic will have served as CE's Interim President; he held the same position during the 2005-06 academic year.



Within 30 days of program completion, 85 percent of San Diego City College's ShipWorks Institute graduates are hired into San Diego's ship repair industry.

San Diego Mesa College's Summer in Spain program is back after a 15-year hiatus.

Program Director and Spanish Professor Dr. Francisco Zabaleta, along with Professor Dora Schoenbrun-Fernández, taught second- and third-semester Spanish courses to a group of 36 students looking to expand their horizons. Students studied for one week at Mesa College before flying to Spain for an additional four weeks of instruction. The program included room and board for four weeks at a Universidad Complutense residence hall in Madrid, guided walking tours of the Spanish capital, and one-day excursions to the UNESCO World Heritage cities of Toledo and Segovia.

For their final oral and written presentations, students created blogs and/or portfolios where they shared photos and commentary of their experiences. Students interested in reserving a spot for the Summer in Spain 2015 Program should contact Dr. Zabaleta.



A Vision

for San Diego City College

Dr. Anthony Beebe didn't set out to become a college president. Throughout his childhood, San Diego City College's newest President had his sights on becoming a fireman.

In fact, Beebe spent his free time during his teenage years as a volunteer firefighter in Oregon just to be around a fire station and firefighters. When he landed his first, full-time, paid job at age 18 with the Douglas County Fire District #1 south of Eugene, Beebe became the youngest full-time paid firefighter in Oregon history.

But his career turned when Beebe took a job with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at King Khalid Military City in Saudi Arabia, where he was charged with training a fire department composed of contract workers from around the world. Passing on the intricacies of fire science to his students showed Beebe that teaching is his true passion.

"It was an amazing experience," Beebe said. "And after having taught there for two years, I realized I loved the idea of teaching others. I decided to go into education and make it my life's career."

That was in 1980. Beebe came home, earned an associate of arts degree in human studies at Lane Community College, a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Oregon, a master's degree in business administration from Cal State Sacramento, and a doctorate in education from Oregon State University. He taught and served in a variety of leadership positions at community colleges before the San Diego Community College District hired him as President of San Diego Continuing Education in 2006. Beebe, 58, took the reins as President at City College on August 1.

"The San Diego Community College District made an excellent choice," said longtime mentor Dr. Dale Parnell, who presided over the American Association of Community Colleges in the 1980s and who served as Chancellor of San Diego Community College District from 1974 to 1976. "He believes very strongly in the mission of community colleges and serving those who would otherwise not have access to higher education."

Beebe, who lives with his wife in Bankers Hill, has been meeting with students, faculty, and staff since his appointment was announced, but already has set several goals. Among them:

Advancing social change and civility: "America's community colleges are founded on social change and educational opportunity for all," Beebe said. "But the colleges have stalled in this effort over the decades. City College sits at the ideal intersection of social change and education and is poised to advance a reawakening of this movement, becoming the national community college leader in this area."

Increasing access and completion rates: "City College does a good job of providing access to about 18,000 students," Beebe said. "The challenge is that the college only has about 700 associate degree graduates each year. This number is below where a college of this size should be. This is not just a City College matter, as many of California's community colleges are behind where they should be related to graduates. We can all do better."

Transitioning adult learners: "City College has an opportunity to generate new college graduates from older students, transitioning adult learners into the college. A significant campaign needs to be launched recruiting students with 'some college, but no degree,' getting them back into the pipeline."

"He believes very strongly in the mission of community colleges and serving those who would otherwise not have access to higher education."

Dr. Dale Parnell

Building community connections: "City College has deep ties to San Diego, but must build stronger community connections and partnerships. This could start with the many nonprofit organizations that share a vision for social change."

Working with the community is Beebe's forte.

"He has a sincere interest in the people of the community and he is invested in their success," said Calvin Manson, a San Diegan who leads a local theatre company and has worked closely with Beebe in the past. "I've never seen a community college president involved with so many community organizations."

Dorothy Smith agrees. The former San Diego City College instructor who now serves on the board of directors of the Common Ground Theatre at the Educational Cultural Complex said Beebe's sincerity is unmistakable.


"He has served on the board of the Jackie Robinson YMCA, he participates in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, and he is involved with the Rotary Club and the Catfish Club. You name it, he is there," Smith said. "He is just a wonderful person who cares about people."



Dr. Anthony Beebe with Continuing Education students at a 2013 scholarship event.



Having been an instrument-rated, multi-engine airplane pilot for 25 years, Dr. Beebe has also earned his U.S. Coast Guard Captain license.



Sustainable garden in front of the Mesa College Math+Science Complex.

Making Sustainability a Priority

As California faces severe drought and spiraling energy costs, the San Diego Community College District's investments in sustainability are paying off.

From San Diego City College's new 98,000-square-foot Science Building in downtown to Miramar College's 5,100-square-foot police substation in Mira Mesa, virtually every project built under Propositions S and N has obtained Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council.

"The San Diego Community College District is one of the most vocal clients we've had about pushing sustainability," said Randy Dolph, an architect with the San Diego firm Delawie Wilkes Rodrigues Barker, which designed Mesa College's new Math+Science Complex, the largest instructional building at a California community college campus. "They were pushing us more and more to make sure their projects are sustainable."

"The San Diego Community College District has a responsibility to help protect the region's environment but we also have a responsibility to taxpayers. Fortunately, sustainability is also a good business decision."

Rich Grosch, President of the SDCCD's Board of Trustees



From left: Miramar College Police Station green roof, Ned Baumer Aquatic Center at Miramar College, solar panels on City College parking structure, and SDCCD Landscape Technician maintaining the garden at the Mesa College Math+Science Complex.

The District's Board of Trustees has gone so far as to include among its annual goals to "ensure that all buildings built with Proposition S and N monies be LEED certified or equivalent and that all due diligence be made to use green products and materials wherever economically feasible." Its Five-Year Strategic Plan emphasizes the District's responsibility to lead in sustainable practices and policies.

With 100 of 125 bond construction projects recently completed, the District is yielding huge benefits:

- Computer-driven irrigation systems that measure the amount of moisture in the air and soil saved the District 37 million gallons of water districtwide during a one-year pilot project, yielding water savings of 40 percent. Landscape designs using native and Mediterranean vegetation, along with mulch, gravel, and boulders, are saving millions of gallons of water annually.
- Solar installations across the District have generated approximately 13.5 million kilowatt hours for a savings of more than \$700,000 in utility costs and making the District one of the top producers of renewable energy in SDG&E's service area.

- A solar pool heater for the Ned Baumer Aquatic Center at Miramar College is on track to save more than 31,000 therms of natural gas each year for an annual cost savings of \$27,000.
- All buildings maximize natural lighting that reduces the need for electricity, and most are equipped with 'high performance' glass that reduces the amount of heat coming in and air conditioning being used.
- All projects are required to divert at least 75 percent of construction and demolition debris from landfills, and in some cases that figure has reached 92 percent.

The SDCCD has obtained or is on track to obtain 42 LEED certifications, more than any single organization in San Diego County. On average, SDCCD projects exceed California energy savings standards in new buildings by 20 percent, and as high as 49 percent.

"As a vital resource to the region and one of the San Diego's largest employers, it is critical that we lead the way in sustainability, and energy and water conservation during a time of diminishing resources and escalating costs," said SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll.

First in *First Responder* *Training*





San Diego Miramar College was little more than 120 largely undeveloped acres in 1981 when George Beitey enrolled in one of the first classes at its San Diego Regional Law Enforcement Academy.

Cadets honed their driving skills at Hourglass Field, a former runway used by Navy air crews to practice their bombing runs. Officers-in-training perfected their marksmanship at a pistol range a stone's throw from a collection of Spartan classrooms. And recruits sweated themselves into shape by jogging along routes beside Interstate 15 – nestled in what at the time was the city's hinterlands.

Today, Beitey is the Dean of San Diego Miramar College's School of Public Safety, which includes not only the Regional Law Enforcement Academy but also a new LEED-certified Fire Science/EMT Training Facility, a Regional Lifeguard Academy, a Detentions/Courts Academy, and a Homeland Security training program – the latter of which is funded by the Transportation Security Administration. In addition, fire-training academies in San Diego and El Cajon fall under Miramar College jurisdiction.

In fact, the next time you see a firefighter, emergency medical technician, or law enforcement officer in the region, you will be seeing a first responder who most likely received their training from Miramar College's School of Public Safety and its San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute. The next time you walk through airport screening at Lindbergh Field, there's a good chance the TSA officers watching you studied at the institute.

"We've come a long way," Beitey said of the nationally recognized center.

Growth Built on Community Partnerships

The School of Public Safety's evolution is reflective of Miramar College, which was founded in 1969 as the Miramar Regional Occupational Training Center, a \$1 million complex for police and fire cadets. Arts and sciences programs were added in 1973, and in 1975, the Miramar Regional Occupational Training Center was renamed San Diego Miramar College.

"Preparing first responders is an extremely important aspect of our mission, benefiting the community in a very direct way," said SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll. "We are proud of the work our graduates do, from saving lives to intervening in challenging events to serving as the chiefs of the San Diego Police Department and Fire Department."

Today, Miramar College is the fastest-growing college in the San Diego Community College District and one of the fastest-growing in San Diego County.

Miramar College partners with local industry and governments to prepare students for in-demand and well-paying jobs in the highly competitive labor market. The college offers 149 certificates, associate degrees, and comprehensive transfer programs, and is home to the Southern California Biotechnology Center and the Advanced Transportation and Energy Center.

“At San Diego Miramar College, we recognize the importance of partnering with industry leaders and are committed to serving the region’s public safety needs,” said Dr. Patricia Hsieh, San Diego Miramar College President. “We are proud to play a leading role in training thousands of first responders over the years.”

Multiple Career Paths

Most cadets at the San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Institute have already been hired by a police or fire protection agency and earn college credit while enrolled in their respective academy, though their goal is not necessarily to earn a degree but to secure the training necessary before they can don a uniform and work in the field.

Miramar College also has degree and certificate programs for students who have not been hired but are looking to round out their education, go into a related field, or improve their chances of finding employment with a police or fire department. Among

Academy, which graduates a handful of classes each year and will graduate its 100th class in October.

In all, some 2,173 San Diego police officers – including SDPD Chief Shelley Zimmerman – and 1,415 San Diego County sheriff’s deputies have been trained at the Regional Academy. In addition to Zimmerman, police chiefs in Chula Vista, El Cajon, La Mesa, and National City are Miramar academy alumni.

“The San Diego Regional Public Safety Training Center at Miramar College has been instrumental in training the very best law enforcement recruits for our city and our entire region,” said San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer. “Our current police chief, Shelley Zimmerman, started her police career in 1982 at that academy. Miramar College continues to offer a diversified field of study for students to achieve success and pursue excellence in their chosen field.”

Lifeguards Learn From the Best

Founded in 1997, the San Diego Regional Lifeguard Academy this year will celebrate its 50th graduating class. Miramar College has the only accredited, regional, open-water lifeguard degree program of its kind in the world.

The Lifeguard Academy was formed to better coordinate training and standards among the county’s myriad coastal agencies. Eight lifeguard services from



courses offered through the Fire Protection Technology Department, for example, are Fire Behavior and Combustion, Firefighting Tactics and Strategy, and Firefighter Safety and Survival – courses that can be vital for private-sector careers as fire insurance inspectors and investigators, fire protection engineers, and the like. Advanced classes include Fire Command for Large Scale Disasters, Structure Collapse, and Management of Major Hazardous Materials Incidents.

A Leading Police Academy

In 1980, the police and sheriff’s academies combined to form the San Diego Regional Law Enforcement

Imperial Beach north to Camp Pendleton now take part in the program, which includes not only the two-week Academy, but also a 54-hour Emergency Medical Response class, and courses covering the operation of vehicles on the sand, the handling of personal watercraft, and caring for the severely injured who are still in the water.

“The people who teach at the Lifeguard Academy and in the lifeguard program at Miramar College are lifeguards working as adjunct instructors, so you’re talking about the best teachers anywhere,” said lifeguard and San Diego Fire-Rescue Department Capt. Nick Lerma, who founded the Lifeguard Academy in 1997.

“Miramar College has played and will continue to play a key role in training the region’s first responders. It will be interesting to see how the academies develop over the next 30 years.”

George Beitey



Commitment to Fire and EMT Training

The latest addition to Miramar College’s School of Public Safety is a \$16.5-million Fire Science/EMT Training Facility, set for an official dedication on September 11. It includes nearly 23,000 square feet for classrooms, space for Fire Science and Emergency Medical Training programs, and an outdoor training area that comes with a drill tower. Also housed in the new Fire Science/EMT Training Facility will be Miramar College’s program for prospective emergency medical technicians. In addition to EMT training, studies include classes in advanced airway management, basic life support, and refresher courses for certified EMTs. Ambulance ride-alongs and clinical experience in the emergency department are a vital component of the curriculum.

The new facility will enable training programs for firefighters and emergency medical technicians to return to the college for the first time since 1995 when the Fire

Technology Program moved to Camp Nimitz at the old Naval Training Center in San Diego. In 2013-14, more than 70 students graduated from Miramar College with a two-year degree in fire technology.

The 14-week training academy for San Diego firefighters, however, will remain at the former NTC site, while the Heartland Fire Training Academy will remain in El Cajon. The Heartland academy trains firefighters for virtually every East County agency. Miramar College fire academies graduated more than 100 firefighters in 2012-13.

Looking ahead, Beitey says Miramar College will remain at the forefront of first responder training in the region.

“Miramar College has played and will continue to play a key role in training the region’s first responders,” Beitey said. “It will be interesting to see how the academies develop over the next 30 years.”

Serving the D

Delia Covarrubias is a testament to the San Diego Community College District's programs for the disabled.

A single mom living with dyslexia and other learning disabilities, Covarrubias has improved her reading and become a certified nursing assistant thanks to Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) offered throughout the District.



Education Coach Laurie Franklin with DSPS student.

"They told me when I started here that with all the support systems and services they have in place, there was no way I couldn't succeed," Covarrubias said. "And they were right."

The SDCCD serves more than 5,000 students with a wide range of disabilities that include hearing impairments, brain injuries, autism, blindness, and psychological challenges. DSPS provides such services as American Sign Language interpreters for the deaf, along with "captionists" who create closed-caption

messaging on computers during class lectures. Extended time on tests, adaptive hardware, and disability management are among the myriad other services.

Covarrubias was aided by recorded lectures that allowed her to re-hear lessons instead of looking at notes, and by books that she could scan and record onto a CD for listening instead of reading.

Five years after Sacramento cut DSPS funding across California by 45 percent, the new state budget restores \$30 million of what was lost. That follows the restoration of \$15 million last year, allowing the SDCCD to bring DSPS spending to nearly the level it had been before the 2009-10 reductions.

That has been a welcome relief to faculty and staff working with disabled students.

"We had been experiencing cuts every year for several years," said Anne Heller, Dean of Disability Support Program and Services at San Diego Continuing Education.

"When our money is cut, we have to cut back on the classes, counselors, and services that we offer, and that results in fewer students being served. Because funding is based in part on how many students you serve, that results in even less funding."

Covarrubias completed her job training/certificate program in certified nursing from Continuing Education in May, but plans to return to study business. She said she still struggles with reading, but uses memorization techniques she's learned at Continuing Education that continue to help her.

Sarah Farmer of Poway is another DSPS success story. Throughout middle and high school, the Poway resident suffered from constant health problems, including postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome and bipolar disorder.

With the help of DSPS services at Mesa College, Farmer graduated in May with a 3.95 grade point average as a psychology major. She was named to both the Phi Theta Kappa Honor



Sarah Farmer,
Mesa College
graduate.

Disabled

**“I’m 47 years old,
I was reading at a
third-grade level.
Suddenly, I was
getting all A’s.
It was amazing.”**

Delia Covarrubias (pictured),
San Diego CE Graduate

Society’s 2014 All-USA and All-California College Academic Teams, and as the top community college student in the state.

Her academic success was matched by her involvement in campus affairs and community service. She was 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.

“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,” Farmer said.

Farmer is transferring to UCLA this fall and plans to pursue a Ph.D. in psychology.





Anthony E. Beebe, Ed.D.
President
San Diego City College

Travel by Design

Ciao City College!



pressed olive oils; all wonderful reasons for tourists to visit and shop in the area. To help market these Radicondoli products, the student's innovative designs included simple items such as affordable, functional wrapping paper to put around farm-to-table foods with stickers; packaging stamp kits be sold in local stores; and educational posters for the area Geothermal Museum. In addition to the brand identity and retail

The San Diego City College Portfolio Class 2014 won first, second, and third place overall in the annual city-wide American Institute of Graphic Arts (AIGA) San Diego portfolio review competition. Competing against four-year universities and private schools, City College students also won best cross cultural design, identity and branding, interactive design, packaging, photography, publication design and sustainability.

Travel by Design takes on a whole new meaning with City College Graphic Design Professors Candice Lopez and Sean Bacon steering the Vespa. In spring 2014, graphic design students adopted a tiny hillside town in the Tuscany region of central Italy as their eight-week class project. Forty miles west of Siena, Radicondoli is a medieval village with Etruscan origins known for a strong sense of community, farm-to-table food, and resourcefulness. Lacking a marketing campaign to bring visitors to the area, Radicondoli was facing tough economic times that seriously impacted its future viability.

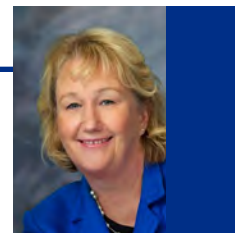
Village visionary Giovanna Hipting reached out to professional San Diego designer Ron Miriello of Miriello Grafico for help. Miriello was familiar with Lopez's Urban Art Trail and other highly-regarded community improvement projects around San Diego. Together, Miriello, Lopez, and Bacon came up with an innovative plan to connect advanced SDCC design students to city leaders in Radicondoli to increase visibility of this community. Overcoming the challenge of the 6,000 miles distance apart, the students used photos, videos, Skype, and online meetings with villagers to become familiar with Radicondoli.

Radicondoli produces locally grown fruits and vegetables, wines and artisanal cheese, and hand-

packaging, the students developed a wikipedia page, a website, street banners, and a signage system. In summary, Lopez said, "we effectively put Radicondoli on the map."

After visiting Radicondoli in May, Lopez shared that "my reception from the community was more than I could have ever hoped for. The gratitude and kindness of the villagers burns in my memory and I am reminded of the power of design to make a difference."

Lopez developed her Travel by Design class more than eight years ago with the desire to build global competencies for her students. Lopez notes that many of her students have never traveled outside the United States, but through their class work they make genuine and lasting connections to the people and cultures around the world.



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

Equity Matters

Equity is more than a buzzword at San Diego Mesa College. The college, which co-hosted the 2014 Region X Student Equity Conference in August, has made it a top priority, and is actively engaged in bringing fresh, new ideas and research-based practices into its student equity efforts.

Leading the cross-college effort are Dr. Julianna Barnes, Vice President of Student Services, and Tim McGrath, Vice President of Instruction, who are quick to explain that everyone at Mesa – students, staff, faculty, and administrators – are engaged in its student equity efforts.

“Our goal – and my prediction – is that Mesa is on its way to becoming a leader in student equity,” said Barnes, “and that student equity will be woven into the fabric of what we do each day on the Mesa.”

Championing the effort is President Dr. Pamela T. Luster. In fact, Luster’s own 2010 dissertation at Fielding Graduate University, *Discovering Effective Student Equity Practices in California Community Colleges: An Action Research Study*, focused on the challenges and opportunities in serving the state’s largest new majority students, who are also the state’s most at risk student population.

“Community colleges as a system, and individual colleges, such as Mesa, are still far from achieving the goal of closing the divides that have historically characterized and challenged our institutions, and breaking barriers toward student success,” said Luster. “But we’re finally on our way.”

Indeed. In 2014 alone, Mesa participated in a number of important professional development opportunities including the national conference of the

Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, the National Conference on Race and Ethnicity, and USC’s Center for Urban Education Student Equity Institute. In spring, Mesa was re-designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution, with over 30% of students being Latino.



Dr. Julianna Barnes addressing conference attendees.

The college is also developing a comprehensive student equity plan – led by Dr. Ashanti Hands, Dean of Student Affairs, and Dr. Jill Moreno-Ikari, English Professor – which will enable Mesa to employ high impact practices to address the needs of student populations who are disproportionately impacted in terms of outcomes.

“When we looked around, we realized that we will not find the answers ‘out there,’ but that we have to look to one another,” noted McGrath. “That inspired the idea of a region-wide conference that would provide a venue for meaningful dialogue and sharing to take place. Clearly, with close to 100 participants, there is a need, interest, and strong commitment to student success and equity.”

The focus on student equity is part of a national and statewide imperative. The state has allocated about \$70 million to support student equity efforts in the California community colleges.



More than 100 participants from all nine Region X colleges and Continuing Education attended the Mesa College Student Equity Conference on Friday, August 8. The conference was a collaborative effort between all Region X colleges, and the SDSU CC Leaders Alumni Chapter.



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

All is Well at Miramar

For the first time in the history of Miramar College, student health services have a permanent home. On August 18, a new 10,100 square foot Student Resource and Welcome Center opened its doors to offer comprehensive health services, mental health counseling, and more, due to an extensive remodel of the former library into state-of-the-art Wellness and Welcome facilities.

Formerly housed in a bungalow, the first Student Health Center debuted at Miramar 16 years ago, thanks to a \$50,000 donation from Alfred "Uncle Frank" Antonicelli, a personal friend of nursing student Elisha Risley. Then Vice President of Student Services Bob Garber orchestrated the donation of most of the medical equipment through personal contacts with Kaiser Hospital. In 1998, Center Director and Family Nurse Practitioner Judy Harris also coordinated the college Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) instructional program, which interestingly also moved into a new facility this fall.

According to current Student Health Supervisor Lezlie Allen, the new Center includes four exam rooms, three more than the prior facility. Allen says with additional exam rooms, student wait times will be reduced.

"I'm most excited about the space we now have to serve students. In the old bungalow, there were times we had to draw blood in the hallway. Expanded space should result in expanded services."

The new building also features rooms dedicated to mental health counseling for one-to-one and group

sessions, alternative care providers, lactating mothers, a Public Health office, and a meditation garden.

Fully supported by the student health fee assessed of all registered students, services will increase as enrollment grows. According to Allen, the Center currently serves about 4,000 students each semester.

She expects to be busier than ever with the new, more accessible location near the center of campus.

Free services include examinations by a registered nurse, nurse practitioner, or medical doctor for acute, chronic, or episodic complaints; over the counter medications; blood pressure monitoring; vision screening; condoms; information about the Affordable Care Act, Covered California, and student accident insurance; monthly health presentations; crutches on loan; and referral to community agencies for personal counseling or other needs.

Fee services include physical examinations; laboratory, tuberculosis, HIV, and pregnancy testing; prescription medications, special procedures, contraception medications, oxygen therapy, allergy shots, bandaging, and splinting.

Judy Patacsil, Miramar College Mental Health Counselor, is also housed in the new Center. Mental Health Counseling provides confidential services including assessment, a behavioral intervention team, consultation, crisis counseling, individual counseling sessions, and workshops. Patacsil says expanded services will include placement and training for interns, which will allow even more students to be served.



From left: Lisa Manley, RN; Medical Office Assistant Lorna Phillips; Nurse Practitioner Lynette Lyon; Center Director Lezlie Allen, RN.



Rudy Kastelic
 Interim President
 San Diego Continuing Education

Dreams of Freedom



There is an area in Sudan where there are no streets, no working phones, limited drinking water, and limited food, yet the area is populated with thousands of people, including Abbo Abakar's mother.

Abbo arrived in the United States as a refugee from Sudan. He left his country to escape war and violence, but leaving his country also meant leaving his mother. When he arrived in San Diego, his goals were simple: become a U.S. citizen, and bring his mother to his new home. He enrolled in Continuing Education classes at Mid-City Campus to prepare for the Citizenship exam, and on May 25, 2014, Abbo completed his first goal during an official naturalization oath ceremony. "It was big, big, big," he said. "I came here to get freedom. Now I am a U.S. citizen, and now I have freedom."

Abbo is continuing his education and plans to gain a high school equivalency after completing preparation classes at Continuing Education. He knows education will provide him more opportunity.

His next priority is contacting his mother. "It is not easy because there are no phones there. I need to figure out a way," he said.

Continuing Education helps approximately 500 students annually prepare for citizenship. Preparation classes cover the overall application process and provide practice with the questions and information students can expect during their official oral interview.

"Citizenship changes lives," said Mechelle Perrott, a CE Citizenship instructor. "Achieving citizenship is a big accomplishment for both students and their families. To hear about their lives before, why they want to become citizens, and then to know we are helping them achieve something very significant that will impact their lives in a profound and lasting way, is very rewarding."

After completing CE citizenship classes, Abbo Abakar was armed with the necessary knowledge to apply for naturalization, pass the verbal and written exam, and stand proudly at attention to recite and pledge the naturalization oath of allegiance.



Represent on the Mesa

Claudria Seefeldt is San Diego Mesa College. A student ambassador who promotes Mesa College at area high schools, Seefeldt can tell you everything you wanted to know about the campus that serves 35,000 students annually.

Seefeldt plans to transfer to San Diego State University in the fall of 2015 and hopes to work in the television and film industry. We asked her a few questions about her experience at Mesa College.

Q. What led you to Mesa College?

A. In all honesty, I found this school on Google, and the landscape and architecture of this campus was breathtaking. It was simply beautiful and I'm a visual person so the way the campus looked is what led me here, and the services I learned about when I got here were a plus!

Q. Most unusual question you've been asked as a Student Ambassador?

A. I have actually not received any unusual questions as an ambassador, but I have been in some unusual situations. Sometimes students apply here but set up appointments to see counselors at Mesa College in Arizona by mistake. I would spend so much time looking for someone they had an appointment with, only to realize that the person accidentally set up an

appointment with someone at the wrong college. It's happened so many times for me it's just hilarious.

Q. How has Mesa College changed your life?

A. Mesa College has changed my life in many ways. This school has given me the opportunity to meet great people, friends, and taught me how to network. College can be a tough journey, but because Mesa is so diverse it's made that journey a lot easier and helped me find my path with great people. The most important way Mesa has changed my life was by providing me the services of the Career and Transfer Center. For a long time, I was lost and confused about what I was going to school for. When I went to the Career and Transfer Center, they were able to assist me with figuring out what it is that I want to do and they took their time with me. Today, I know exactly where I'm going.

Q. What's your favorite after-class treat?

A. A nice hot caramel macchiato from Starbucks or the café on campus. It doesn't matter what time of the year it is or if it's extremely hot out, I have to have my macchiato HOT!

Pride 2014





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