



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education

OCTOBER 2017

WE

With
Excellence



IN THE
HOMESTRETCH

Story on page 10

PROPOSITIONS S AND N

Finding a Home



The growing challenge of homelessness in San Diego affects everyone, and the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) is among those taking the lead in seeking solutions.

As one of the largest community college districts in the nation, serving approximately 100,000 students at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education, the SDCCD simply cannot escape this vexing challenge. The SDCCD is a community-based and community-oriented organization, and it is open to everyone who wants to pursue a higher education that leads to a university transfer, employment, or sharpening job skills. The SDCCD reflects the community it serves, and the District estimates that approximately eight percent of its students are homeless or have recently experienced living without a place to call home. That is why the District has instituted a number of programs to alleviate challenges homeless students are facing.

These efforts include:

- Opening shower facilities at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges on a daily basis for homeless students.
- Stocking pantries with food to address the problem of hunger while also providing information on resources that are available in the community.
- Instituting a partnership between San Diego Continuing Education and the San Diego Rescue Mission to provide classes and other services to the homeless seeking temporary shelter there.

- Offering special scholarships to assist homeless students, especially through the San Diego Promise, by providing guaranteed space for students graduating from the Monarch School for homeless students.
- Providing mental health services at campuses throughout the District.

In addition, the District recently implemented priority registration for homeless students, and counselors are diligent in referring students to services such as Disabled Student Programs and Services (DSPS) or aid programs such as CalWORKs.

As part of the District's ongoing commitment to serving the needs of students with housing and food insecurities, the District is participating in a national survey of community colleges this fall to gather additional information on students needs.

Students facing housing insecurity are unable to fully concentrate on learning, and far too many of the District's students are sleeping in a shelter, on a friend's couch, in their car, or finding a place to sleep in a park. The District must continue to be diligent in finding solutions and alleviating the suffering of so many.



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor

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WE—With Excellence Magazine

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The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) 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.

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Seal of Approval

San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, along with San Diego Continuing Education, have once again had their accreditation reaffirmed after an arduous review that included comprehensive site visits from accreditation teams and in-depth self-evaluations.

City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges are accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Continuing Education is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Schools, Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

Accreditation allows for the transfer of credits among colleges and universities and is required for institutions to be eligible for federal and state funding.

Last fall, the colleges and Continuing Education completed their comprehensive institutional self-evaluations, a process that involved hundreds of faculty, staff, and students, and culminated in Institutional Self-Evaluation Reports. Those reports were submitted to the accrediting commissions in January. Accreditation teams visited City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education from March 13 to 16.

Letters from the accrediting agencies reaffirming each institution's accreditation were received in June.



An Abundance of Pride

Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff of the San Diego Community College District marched under the District banner at the 2017 San Diego Pride Parade, one of the largest parades of its kind in the country. The July 15 parade theme was "Allied in Action: United for Justice." The District has long had a presence in the parade, and this was the third year students, faculty, and staff marched together as a contingent.



A Star is Born

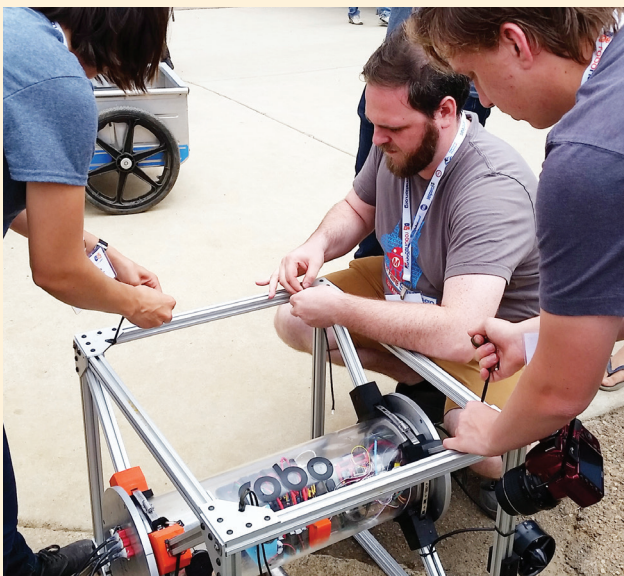
The California Community Colleges system has honored San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges for their stellar career education programs, which are yielding high employment rates and solid earnings for students completing the curriculum.

The Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) program at City College and the Aviation Maintenance Technology program at Miramar College earned Strong Workforce Stars recognition because every student who responded to a survey said they had secured a job in their field of study. Mesa College secured a Strong Workforce Star award because 79 percent of students who took part in its fashion program are earning the regional living wage or higher.

Strong Workforce Stars is a new, annual recognition for career education programs, also known as career technical education (CTE). Programs are evaluated for students showing significant gains in factors important for advancing social mobility, including a substantial increase in earnings, attainment of a living wage, or securing a job closely matched with a student's field of study.

Deep Dive

Competing on a shoestring budget against leading universities from around the world, San Diego City College's robotics team had one of its best showings in years at the recent 20th Annual International RoboSub Competition July 26-30 at the Navy's SPAWAR Systems Center (SSC) Pacific's Transducer Evaluation Center in Point Loma.



California Makes First Year of Community College Tuition-Free



On October 13, California Governor Jerry Brown signed legislation that will waive first-year enrollment fees for all community college students in California. Assembly Bill 19, put forth by Assembly Member Miguel Santiago (D-Los Angeles), will complement the San Diego Promise and other "college promise" programs recently established in an effort to encourage more students to get a college degree or certificate.

San Diego Community College District Chancellor Constance M. Carroll actively supported AB 19 and says it will enhance the District's efforts.

"This is a huge win for California students who will now know that they can come to one of our state's 114 community colleges for their first year without the burden of paying tuition. This bill will complement the San Diego Promise as well as dozens of other college promise programs that are already committed to ensuring that every student who wants to attend college will be able to regardless of the cost. With the first-year of tuition covered by the state, we will now be able focus the San Diego Promise fundraising efforts on supporting students with the cost of textbooks and other educational resources necessary for them to complete their education."

Getting a Jump on a New Career



Career education got a big boost this fall with the addition of several new certificate and associate degree programs at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education.

New certificate programs offered this year at City College include cybersecurity, freelance photography, and special effects makeup. A new associate degree program has been launched in nutrition and dietetics at Mesa College, and new associate degree programs are getting under way at Miramar College in entrepreneurship and financial services. San Diego Continuing Education's additions include a fashion retail

business program that provides the fundamentals of working in the fashion retail industry, and an automotive service adviser program that prepares a student for a job as an adviser at an automobile dealership or repair shop.

What's more, 12 percent of the 6,764 course sections at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education are now offered online. In addition, Mesa and Miramar colleges each are offering approximately 30 classes on Saturdays to give students more flexibility in their scheduling.

Giving Noncredit Education More Credit

San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) will host a two-day, statewide conference to support strengthening noncredit programming in the California Community Colleges system.

The New World of Noncredit: Building and Expanding Programs in Community Colleges conference was held on October 6 and 7 at SDCE's North City Campus in Kearny Mesa and the Four Points by Sheraton San Diego two blocks away.


The event includes panel discussions and breakout sessions on bolstering student support services, distance education, and institutional effectiveness.

Noncredit education serves a greater percentage of underrepresented communities than college systems as a whole and — with free, short-term job-training programs that include such diverse trades as fashion, health care, and welding — is among the biggest drivers of workforce development in California.

The New World of Noncredit: Building and Expanding Programs in Community Colleges conference complements a 125-page report produced by SDCE's Office of Institutional Effectiveness in November 2016. The report, based on specific, comprehensive research, includes several recommendations, such as modernizing curriculum and instruction, strengthening student support services, and expanding efforts in building a seamless transition from noncredit to credit programs.

"Because we are the largest noncredit institution in the California, we were constantly being contacted by people throughout the state to see if we could share our knowledge," said Michelle Fischthal, dean for the Office of Institutional Effectiveness. "SDCE recognized the need to conduct a statewide survey and disseminate the information, and the conference provides a forum for educators and administrators to learn about best practices and the future of noncredit education in California."

Up to 250 people are expected to attend the conference, which is being co-sponsored by the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.



A New Leader

at City College

When Dr. Ricky Shabazz arrived at Compton College a decade ago to serve on its leadership team, the once-proud institution was in shambles. It had lost its accreditation and was placed under the jurisdiction of a state-appointed trustee. Enrollment, along with the trust of the community, was falling fast.

No more. Today, Compton College is seeing record enrollment, recently secured its accreditation, and is on sound financial footing. Shabazz, who established a long track record of growing enrollment while promoting student equity and success, has brought his management skills south as the new president of San Diego City College, the flagship campus of the state's second-largest community college district.

He couldn't be happier.

"This is a special place," Shabazz said. "The faculty and staff here are special, the location here is special, and the commitment to social justice is special. I'm honored to be here and I look forward to working with the community to explore our opportunities."

*San Diego
City College President
Dr. Ricky Shabazz*



Shabazz is a product of the California Community Colleges system. While still a student at Pasadena High School, he enrolled at nearby Pasadena City College to get a head start on his higher education journey. Shabazz then embarked on a life-changing venture at UC Davis, where he earned a bachelor's degree in Native American studies with the help of a few classes at Sacramento City College.

Shabazz was at an event honoring student leaders when he met the vice chancellor at the time and learned about an opening for a job that might be a good fit for him. After several interviews, Shabazz was named assistant director of admissions at UC Davis and placed in charge of recruitment and admissions for Southern California.

He was just 22 years old. His responsibilities included working with high schools, community colleges, alumni, and community-based organizations from Santa Barbara to San Diego to recruit targeted and high-achieving students to the university.

"The job taught me enrollment management and how to build partnerships, including partnerships between instruction, student services, and marketing," Shabazz said. "When instruction, student services, and marketing integrate their efforts and start working with each other, something special happens. The college starts working as one entity. Everybody benefits. It's a wonderful thing."

Brief stops at a charter high school in Los Angeles (during which time he earned his master's degree in Educational Administration from Cal State San Bernardino) and Harvey Mudd College would follow before Shabazz was named director of outreach and relations with schools at El Camino College Compton Center. It was not an easy assignment. Founded in 1927 as Compton Community College, the Compton

Center became a satellite campus of El Camino College after losing its accreditation and independence in the wake of investigations into fraud and poor oversight. Enrollment plummeted.

Shabazz helped lead the Compton Center's recruitment, admissions, and retention efforts, and his success resulted in being named dean of student services — all while earning his doctorate in educational leadership from Cal State San Bernardino. Enrollment doubled to more than 14,000 students by the time he left in 2014 for San Bernardino Valley College to become vice president of student services.

"Ricky Shabazz is a talented individual who is focused on student success and he will be a great addition to the San Diego Community College District," said Dr. Keith Curry, president and CEO at what is now known as Compton College.

The success continued at San Bernardino Valley College. President Diana Rodriguez praised him for everything from developing a successful First Year Experience program to establishing the state's first Dreamer Center to help undocumented students transition to college.

"San Diego City College will be receiving a new president with the qualities of a natural leader: creative problem solving, compassion, and sensitivity to diverse backgrounds," Rodriguez said.

Shabazz, a distant relative of baseball legend Jackie Robinson, isn't all work and no play. He's also a professional fisherman who qualified to fish the Bassmaster Elite Series, the highest level of professional bass fishing tournaments in the country, and once finished in the Top 10 on the Fishing League Worldwide Tour.

“ We are here to serve everyone and anyone who wants to change their life through education. ”

His focus, though, is squarely on City College.

"I am committed to the mission of community colleges to serve all students, be they military veterans, right out of high school, moms on welfare, disabled, it doesn't matter who you are," he said. "We are here to serve everyone and anyone who wants to change their life through education."





San Diego Miramar
College Science Building



San Diego Miramar College Bookstore
and Student Services Center

IN THE HOMESTRETCH

PROPOSITIONS S AND N

The San Diego Community College District is celebrating an extraordinary achievement. After passing two major bond measures since 2002, 42 new buildings have been constructed along with several major infrastructure projects. With only two projects left to complete, the District's bond program is now in the home stretch. It's fair to say that the District's campuses have been transformed.

When it comes to the Propositions S and N bond programs, Dr. Glenn Sparrow of the San Diego County Taxpayers Association doesn't mince words.

"This is a billion-and-a-half-dollar project pulled off by the San Diego Community College District that has successfully transformed all three of its colleges, plus Continuing Education, and has expanded educational opportunities for students and our community, and it has done so in a fiscally responsible manner that has served the taxpayers well," said Sparrow, who chairs the District's Citizens' Oversight Committee and is a professor emeritus at San Diego State University's School of Public Affairs and Urban Studies. "This is, quite frankly, one of the better bond projects that I've been involved with."

Now the District is in the homestretch. No additional projects are planned for San Diego Continuing Education, and construction is all but complete at Miramar College, save for some relatively minor infrastructure work. Crews remain busy at City College where \$58 million in renovations are taking place, but the lion's share of construction there has concluded, too. Over at Mesa College, remaining construction includes the new Center for Business and Technology. The \$32 million project will serve as the new home for Mesa's business, computer, and fashion design programs. A ceremonial groundbreaking for the new site was held in June.

"When I visit the District's campuses, I am continually astonished by the new buildings and landscaping that have dramatically reconfigured the three colleges and Continuing Education," Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said. "Campus facilities now match the excellence of the faculty who teach and the staff who provide support services for students."

Voters approved Proposition S, which authorized the sale of bonds in the amount of \$685 million, in November 2002. Proposition N, which authorized the sale of bonds in the amount of \$870 million, was approved by voters four years later.



San Diego Mesa College
Math+Science Complex



San Diego Mesa College
Mathematics Program

2002

NOVEMBER Voters approved Proposition S, \$685M.

NOVEMBER Voters approved Proposition N, \$870M.

2006

2007

PROJECTS COMPLETED
Mesa College Visual Arts Gallery, Miramar College Leave a Legacy Plaza, City College Learning Resource Center.





San Diego
Mesa College
Commons



PROJECTS COMPLETED City College
Career Technology Center, Mesa College
Allied Health Building.



2008

2009

NOVEMBER The SDCCD is honored by the San Diego chapter of the Associated General Contractors with its first-ever Build San Diego Public Owner Award, saluting SDCCD's management of its \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program.





San Diego City College Nursing Program



San Diego City College Business & Technology Building

What have taxpayers received for their investment?

- At City College, completed new projects include the \$94.6 million Arts & Humanities and Business & Technology buildings, a \$63.3 million Career Technology Center, and a \$57.4 million Science Building, in addition to numerous extensive renovations that have remade the look of the campus.
- At Mesa College, completed projects include a 45,000 square-foot Humanities, Languages & Multicultural Studies Building that brought multiple humanities-related programs together in a single structure, a \$109.3 million Math+Science Complex, a 73,000-square-foot Mesa Commons that serves as a student hub and gateway to the campus, a \$44.9 million Student Services Center, a \$40.5 million Social and Behavioral Science Building, a \$29.9 million Allied Health Building, and a \$14.3 million Exercise Science Center.
- At Miramar College, completed projects include a Cafeteria/Bookstore and Student/Campus Center, the Mathematics & Business Building, the Arts & Humanities Building, the Library/Learning Resource Center, the Fire Technology and EMT Training Center, Hourglass Park Field House, the Student Resource Center, the Administration Building, and the Science & Technology Building.
- At Continuing Education, bond-funded projects include the construction of six new campus facilities and a major wing extension for the Educational Cultural Complex. The new César E. Chávez Campus in Barrio Logan, complete with an underground, 149 car parking area and detached car park with 320 additional spaces and murals featuring the life and work of César E. Chávez located two blocks east of the campus, has helped transform the community. Among the other new Continuing Education facilities are a new campus at Mesa College, a new Mid-City Campus in the heart of City Heights, a new North City Campus, and a new West City Campus near the San Diego Sports Arena.

2011



APRIL Miramar College Police Substation is awarded a LEED Platinum certification from the USGBC, the first Platinum to be awarded to a higher-education institution locally.

2012



2012



DECEMBER Mesa College Student Services building is awarded a LEED Gold certification from the USGBC.



San Diego City College Arts and Humanities Building



MARCH The SDCCD is honored by SDG&E as its Higher Education Energy Champion.



2013



2013

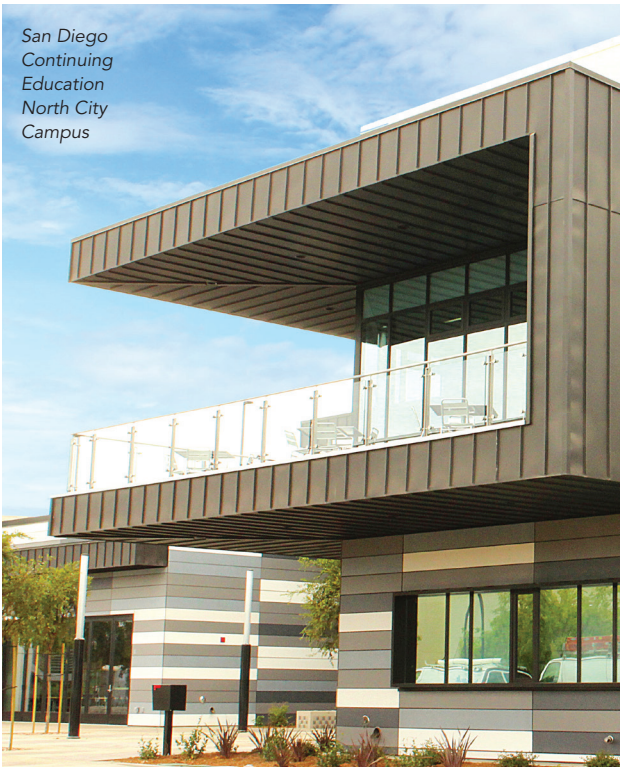


PROJECTS COMPLETED City College Science Building, Mesa College Math+Science Complex, and the Miramar College Cafeteria/Bookstore and Student Services Center.

San Diego
Continuing
Education
César E.
Chávez
Campus



San Diego
Continuing
Education
North City
Campus



Every new and remodeled building funded through Propositions S and N has received Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED, certification.

Among the other highlights:

- Of the more than 1,100 individual construction contracts awarded through December 31, 2016, more than 56 percent were awarded to businesses certified as historically underutilized, including those headed by women, disabled veterans, and/or minorities.
- Even though construction has doubled the square footage at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education, energy and water costs have decreased. The District requires all projects to divert at least 75 percent of construction and demolition debris from landfills, yet the amount has been significantly higher in most cases and up to 92 percent in some.
- Last fall, an improved financial forecast coupled with higher ratings assigned to bonds sold through Propositions S and N resulted in a savings of \$80 million to taxpayers. In addition, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the District's bond rating from Aa1 to Aaa, its highest possible rating, marking the third time Moody's has upgraded the District's bond rating since 2005.

So what's left to do? At City College, the most significant remaining project is happening at the Engineering Technology building, where approximately 77,000 square feet of space is being remade to accommodate new homes for the Engineering Department, along with space for the Agriculture Program, the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies incubators, and more. Meanwhile, plans for a new \$7.1-million Child Development Center are in the design phase.

Once the Center for Business & Technology is complete at Mesa College, the only significant project left will be a major renovation of the Dramatic & Fine Arts Building, now in the design phase. The four-story, \$14.8-million project will include 26,500 square feet of space within the former I-300 Building, with the main entrance housing the Mesa College Art Gallery.

2014



NOVEMBER Continuing Education North City Campus is awarded a LEED Gold certification from the USGBC.



2015

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Miramar College Fire Technology & EMT Training Center.



2014

OCTOBER The SDCCD receives the Green Community College Leadership Award - Energy from the Green California Schools & Community Colleges.



San Diego Continuing Education
César E. Chávez Campus

PROJECTS COMPLETED

Mesa College Exercise
Science Center, Mesa College
Cafeteria/Bookstore.



2017



FUTURE PROJECTS

City College A, D, and T building
renovations, Mesa College Center
for Business & Technology.

2016



JUNE Groundbreaking ceremony for
Mesa College Center for Business
& Technology, which is set for
completion in October 2018.



2018



**SAN DIEGO
PROMISE**

CITY COLLEGE • MESA COLLEGE
MIRAMAR COLLEGE

A PROMISE KEPT

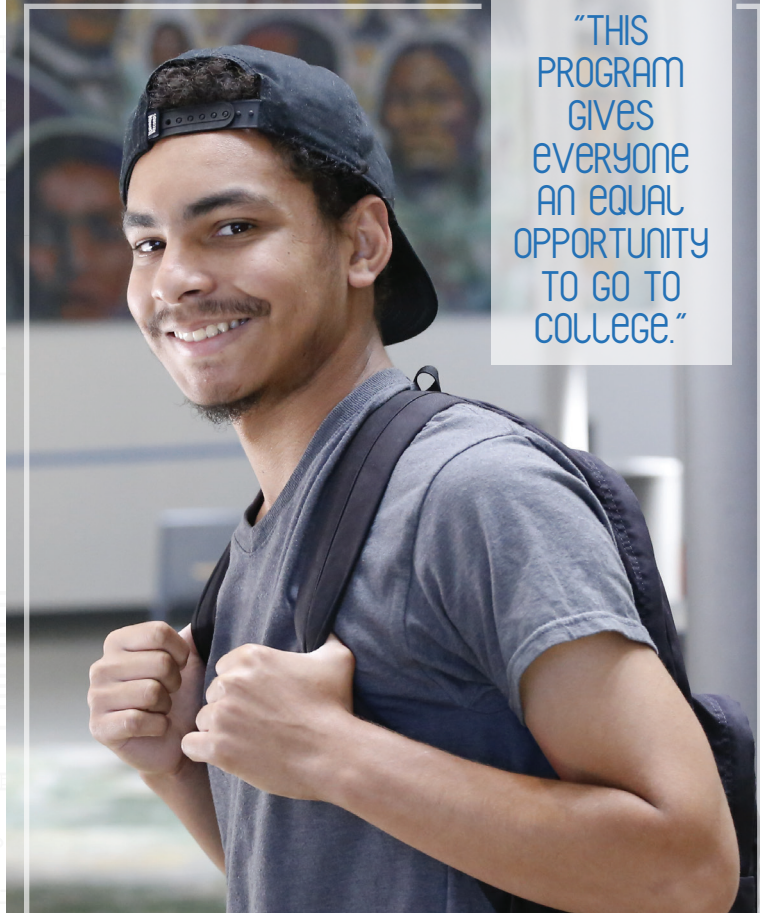
One is aiming to work as a computer engineer or programmer. Another, once homeless, is eyeing a career as a veterinarian. A third is a former high school dropout with dreams of becoming a firefighter.

Makiely Barbour, Alicia Osuna, and John Warner are just three of the nearly 800 students at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges benefiting from the San Diego Promise, the San Diego Community College District's version of America's College Promise for free community college.

Introduced as a pilot program with nearly 200 students in 2016, the San Diego Promise pays for enrollment fees and books for participating students. This year, the San Diego Promise was expanded to include an additional 600 graduating high school students and Continuing Education students who have completed a high school diploma program.

The need is critical. More and more Americans cannot afford a college education. Those who can are left with more student loan debt than ever before. Barbour, Osuna, and Warner embody the San Diego Promise and how it is impacting the future for many a millennial. Here are their stories:

LEARN MORE ABOUT HOW TO SUPPORT THE
San Diego Promise at www.sdccd.edu/promise



"THIS
PROGRAM
GIVES
EVERYONE
AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY
TO GO TO
COLLEGE."

MAKIELY BARBOUR

A resident of the Skyline neighborhood in southeastern San Diego, Makiely Barbour was attending the San Diego Metropolitan Regional, Career, and Technical High School — commonly referred to as The Met — on the Mesa College campus when he heard about the San Diego Promise from a counselor. Good thing. Barbour would like to study computer engineering at a four-year university, but his family can't afford it.

"My mom doesn't have that kind of money," said Barbour, who grew up in a single-parent household.

Thanks to the San Diego Promise, Barbour's first two years of college will be covered.

"Even though Mesa isn't expensive, you still have to pay fees and buy books, and all of that can add up," he said. "This program gives everyone an equal opportunity to go to college."

After being accepted into the Promise program, Barbour didn't waste any time preparing for the fall semester. He almost immediately began meeting with counselors and developing an education plan that he hopes will lead him to a bachelor's degree. Meanwhile, he promises to make the most of the opportunity he has been provided.

"Mesa College is a great school," Barbour said. "It provides a lot of support for students and it has excellent services. I'm happy to be here."



"THIS
PROGRAM
IS LIFE
CHANGING."

ALICIA OSUNA

Until her final semester in high school, Alicia Osuna had never given much thought to going to college. Growing up in a family without a home for most of her childhood meant meeting more immediate goals, such as finding a place to sleep for the night.

Thanks to the San Diego Promise, Osuna is now on her way toward earning an associate degree in biology at City College, with hopes of transferring to San Diego State University and becoming a veterinarian.

"This program is life changing," said Osuna, whose family a few years ago was able to move into a modest apartment near Naval Base San Diego. "I'm very, very grateful for the people who have given me a chance, and I know that I'm going to make them proud."

Osuna was planning on enlisting in the Navy but then heard about the San Diego Promise from a counselor at the Monarch School. She jumped right in, taking a full load of courses in the summer.

"Things are going well and I don't want to interrupt the momentum," she said. "I know I went through a lot, but that's all in the past. I'm not going to let homelessness define my future."



"YOU CAN'T DO
ANYTHING WITHOUT
AN EDUCATION."

JOHN WARNER

After he dropped out of high school to help care for a younger sister, John Warner wasn't quite sure what his future looked like. "I was nervous, I was anxious, I was worried about what I was going to do," Warner said.

Thanks to the San Diego Promise, Warner has enrolled at Miramar College to earn an associate degree in fire protection technology and prepare for his EMT certification. His vision is focused firmly on a future as a firefighter.

College was the last thing on Warner's mind after dropping out of Kearny High School in spring 2016, but he knew he had made the wrong choice.

"You can't do anything without an education," he said. "So I called the Continuing Education North City Campus and they got me into their high school diploma program within days. Then I heard about the San Diego Promise, and it was something I wanted to be a part of. How can you turn down a free education?"

Warner earned his high school diploma in June and began classes at Miramar College in August.

"None of this would have been possible without the San Diego Promise," Warner said. "It's taken a lot of weight off my shoulders and it's reduced a lot of stress from my mom, too."



BUILDING A SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Born and raised in a Tanzanian refugee camp after his family fled a war-torn Congo, Mkyongwa Cosma Ekyoci has found a home at San Diego Mesa College.

"I feel like I belong here," said Ekyoci, who resettled in City Heights with his family nearly five years ago and enrolled at Mesa in Fall 2017 through the San Diego Promise program. "I feel comfortable here. I'm having fun."

Ekyoci is not alone. City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education have instituted a number of policies and practices aimed at ensuring that all students — from refugees and undocumented immigrants to those who come from families with deep roots in the community — feel welcome.

"The San Diego Community College District is an inclusive organization, governed by a supportive Board of Trustees," states an email sent to students, faculty, and staff in advance of the fall semester that began August 21 at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and September 5 at Continuing Education. "The District is committed to providing high-quality educational opportunities for all students without regard to race, ethnicity, cultural heritage, national origin, religion, immigration status, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, medical condition, or disability."

Campuses fulfill this pledge in a variety of ways, including the Umoja program, which is designed to assist African-American and other historically underrepresented students who want to transfer to a university. Ekyoci says Umoja, which borrows its name from the Swahili word for "unity," is among the reasons why he feels so at home at Mesa. Other clubs and chapters supporting a diverse range of students include the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and the Urban Scholars Union at City College, the Black Student Union and the Baha'i Club at Mesa College, and the Filipino American Student Association and the Student Veterans Association at Miramar College.

San Diego Continuing Education is among the leaders in providing citizenship classes for immigrants and refugees, enabling students to focus on their English language skills and knowledge of American history and government in preparation for the citizenship test and immigration services interview.

The District is also committed to safeguarding students who are undocumented immigrants. The District has long had a policy against assisting federal immigration officials with immigration enforcement, and college police are directed to request federal immigration officials cease any activity on campus that has or appears likely to cause a disturbance, interferes with regular campus activities, or has or appears likely to result in harm to persons or property otherwise lawfully present on campus.

In addition, the SDCCD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution expressing its disagreement and concern regarding President Donald Trump's recent decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program unless Congress enacts legislation to preserve it. The SDCCD also worked in collaboration with the San Diego Unified School District in organizing community forums, resource fairs, and other outreach activities supporting students lacking the proper documentation to be in the United States. The District estimates that at least 466 of its students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education have DACA status based upon their application for financial aid.



The District is taking such actions during a statewide rise in hate crimes. According to a recent report from the California Attorney General's Office, reported hate crimes increased by more than 11 percent last year, the second consecutive double-digit increase, with violent crime accounting for nearly two-thirds of reported events.

"The San Diego Community College District is committed to providing the conditions our students need to succeed, and included in those conditions is providing a safe learning environment," Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said. "We want to let our students know that protecting their right to learn in an environment that is free from disruption is a priority."

Ekyoci said such efforts have helped him feel good about his future at Mesa, which he hopes will lead to a future in law enforcement. "We have different backgrounds here," he said. "We're all from different places."



Ricky Shabazz, Ed.D.
President
San Diego City College

Alumnus Overcomes Obstacles to Persevere



From left, Sean
Bennett, Matt Penning,
Cassandra O'Shea, and
Jordan Custodia.

Making the world a better place through innovation is the idea behind the annual University of San Diego's Social Innovation Challenge. Winning the Local and Global Impact Awards and receiving \$7,000 is a dream come true for two San Diego City College (SDCC) alumni, Jordan Custodia and Matt Penning. Former SDCC Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program students, Custodia and Penning recently graduated from SDSU with degrees in mechanical engineering.

After overcoming years of obstacles, winning the award was especially meaningful for Custodia. His story is one of perseverance and resilience.

Initially, Custodia saw himself on a path to becoming a general contractor, so he dropped out of high school. Following a series of uninspiring jobs, he took the California High School Proficiency Exam and enrolled at City College to study mechanical engineering.

"My first semester was pretty rough," he said. "It had been a long time since I'd been in a classroom and I was barely passing with Cs — and then in the middle of my second semester I learned about the MESA Program, and it wasn't too long before my grade point average went from 1.9 to 3.1." The MESA program provided him with different ways to learn and helped him discover which tools worked for him. He even became a tutor.

Dream Interrupted

Upon receiving his acceptance to SDSU, Custodia decided to treat himself by purchasing a new motorcycle. Taking a ride the weekend before classes were to begin, he crashed into the side of a mountain at 55 mph.

After being airlifted to a hospital and remaining unconscious for eight days, he faced a daunting recovery from many broken bones. Then the news got worse — he learned doctors had found a malignant brain tumor.

Custodia required proton therapy every day for five weeks in San Bernardino. He still marvels at how his wife and friends rallied around him and

created a spreadsheet so they could sign up to drive him back and forth to his 15-minute treatments.

"Part of the tumor is still there, but I recently passed my two-year post-treatment anniversary, and it hasn't grown," Custodia said. "I'll be getting MRIs every six months to make sure it's stable."

Moving Forward

Resuming his education at SDSU, Custodia met Penning and asked him to be a part of the four-member team for his senior design project, the Recyclinator.

The Recyclinator is a CO₂ recapture system for use in the fast-growing craft beer brewing industry. This beneficial recapture process would eliminate the brewers' need to purchase CO₂ in huge quantities by allowing them to capture this byproduct of the fermentation process instead of releasing it into the environment.

Local brewers' interest grew and the school project turned into the beginning of a small business. Penning decided to go another direction after graduation, but Custodia and his team continue to develop the Recyclinator business.

"MESA empowers students with the learning culture to be able to create their own success," Rafael Alvarez, MESA program director said. Jordan and Matt did just that. Their future looks very bright!"

From high school dropout to crash and cancer survivor to budding entrepreneur, Custodia's awe-inspiring trajectory already has a happy ending — with more good news brewing.



Building a Bridge to Excellence



Students with Dr. Edward Alexander (far right), faculty adviser of San Diego Mesa College's Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program.

San Diego Mesa College's Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program continues to transform lives.

Just ask Mireille Kamariza, a former Bridges scholar and a current doctoral candidate in biology at Stanford University. Or Emmanuel Gutierrez, a Bridges alumnus who in May earned his associate of science degree in chemistry and is now studying chemical engineering at UC Riverside. Or Sonjiala Hotchkiss, a Bridges alumna completing a master's program in chemistry at UC San Diego.

Kamariza, Gutierrez, and Hotchkiss embody the Bridges Program at Mesa, which boasts a remarkable 98 percent transfer rate since 2008. More than 100 students have completed the program since it was launched a dozen years ago.

Bridges to the Baccalaureate focuses on boosting the transfer rates of students from underrepresented populations who are studying biomedical or behavioral sciences and are interested in careers as researchers. It succeeds because the people involved – such as Program Director/Principal Director Dr. Edward Alexander and Coordinator/Research Assistant Brian Mackus – make sure students are provided with supportive faculty mentors, tutors, and counselors

who encourage students to engage in undergraduate research and present their work at research conferences across the country. Participants flourish because of the intense hands-on training involved. Students work in research labs at UCSD and Mesa College for up to 25 hours per week during the school year and hear from leading scientists who discuss career options.

The result: Mesa College Bridges Program alumni are now in or are completing doctoral programs at the likes of Brown University, DePaul University, the University of Washington, and UC San Francisco. The pipeline to a doctorate remains strong. Gutierrez, for example, is one of seven Bridges scholars transferring to a four-year school this fall. They join the nine Bridges scholars who transferred last year to institutions such as Cornell University, UC San Diego, and UCLA.

San Diego Mesa College is at the head of the class when it comes to students who successfully transfer to a four-year college or university, and the Bridges to the Baccalaureate Program is one of the many reasons why. We owe a hearty "thank you" to all who are contributing to the success.



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

Miramar College Grad and Veteran to Attend Yale

Miramar College graduate Summer Lee admits to not taking her education very seriously as a student at Torrance High School. "I wasn't very passionate about education back then, and admittedly, I didn't put forth much effort," said Lee, 24. Not the type of statement you would expect to read from an Ivy League student. Fast forward six years and Lee has been accepted to Yale University as an Eli Whitney Student after completing an associate of arts degree in social and behavioral sciences this past May at San Diego Miramar College.

The Eli Whitney Students Program is designed for individuals with high academic potential who have had their education interrupted at some point during their educational careers for five or more years. Yale accepts between two and nine Eli Whitney Students a year. In Lee's case, she graduated high school and pursued a career in the Marine Corps, ascending to the rank of sergeant. After four years and a deployment to Afghanistan and Qatar as a comptroller, Lee enrolled at San Diego Miramar College.



In August, Lee enrolled at Yale to begin pursuit of her bachelor's in economics hoping to start a nonprofit organization to help veterans excel in academia.

Lee learned about the Eli Whitney Students Program while attending the Warrior Scholar Project at Harvard when she was stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. The one-week academic program assists veterans transitioning from the military to college.

"It is such a great honor to be accepted into the Eli Whitney Students Program and I believe my military service played a crucial role in this transition," Lee said. "My time in the Marine Corps served as a sufficient preparatory period to gain confidence in my academic abilities. I owe most of my academic success to the Marine Corps and its leaders who shaped me into the student-veteran that I have become today. Additionally, I feel very lucky to have met such incredible staff and faculty during my two years at Miramar College and Mesa College. They work tirelessly to ensure academic success of their students and deserve every ounce of praise and recognition."

“I was not from San Diego, but through research, I became aware of the high transfer rate and incredible support Miramar College provides to its student veterans.”

"I was not from San Diego, but through research, I became aware of the high transfer rate and incredible support Miramar College provides to its student veterans," Lee said.

While at Miramar College, Lee used that support to excel in her studies, posting a perfect 4.0 GPA. She also served as the treasurer for the Student Veterans Organization and used the College's Vets-2-Jets program to assist with the purchase of textbooks.



Expanding the Community in Community College

"Building partnerships makes communities stronger," said Maureen Rubalcaba, Dean of Student Equity at San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE), as she explained SDCE's newest partnership with the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA).

SDCE serves 44,000 students annually and is the largest provider of noncredit adult education in San Diego. The next step for many students after taking classes at SDCE is either higher education or a job. In 2016-17, 5,593 students were enrolled at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges who got their start as noncredit students at SDCE. In addition, more than 11,000 students report their educational goal is to either prepare for a new job or advance in a current career.

"Education and workforce go hand-in-hand and each contributes toward self-sufficiency and success," said Carlos O. Turner Cortez, President of SDCE. "Our goal is to leverage resources and provide support to help students achieve and to ultimately build a successful, strong workforce for the region."

A student's academic success can be tied to the emotional and social supports available to them beyond the classroom. SDCE has significantly increased these types of support resources over the past 18 months with new programs such as the San Diego Gateway to College and Career, which supports individual counseling in a case management style, and by offering classes at off-campus locations such as Second Chance and the San Diego Rescue Mission. The new partnership with HHSA is another recent example.

"By partnering with SDCE, we will better connect students with critical services that will help them succeed academically," said HHSA Director Nick Macchione. "Research demonstrates that people are more successful in education and in achieving long term-goals when they are healthy and in stable living environments. We provide a diverse range of health and social services for individuals and families that promote wellness and support becoming self-sufficient that SDCE students will be able to access."

Specifically, SDCE will be able to enroll eligible students for financial, nutrition, and health care coverage services such as CalWORKs, CalFresh, and Medi-Cal as well as to provide resource referrals. Staff from HHSA's Central Region will be at three SDCE campuses beginning this fall.



HHSA staff member Emmanuel Molina discusses eligibility requirements and guidelines with SDCE Dean Maureen Rubalcaba.



Students will receive immediate and real-time eligibility determination, and resource referrals right on campus. If a student does not qualify for an eligibility program, HHSA will provide information on resources that might be available to them.



From left, HHSA staff members Emmanuel Molina and Eva Imperial with SDCE Dean Maureen Rubalcaba and CalWORKs Project Assistant Crystal Saldaña.

On the CUTTING EDGE

If all goes as planned, Mesa College student Henry Cunningham will make history in May of 2018 as one of the first students in California graduating with a bachelor's degree from a community college through the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program. Cunningham, who earned an associate degree in Health Information Technology from Mesa in 2015, enrolled as a junior with the first upper division cohort in the Health Information Management (HIM) program at the campus in fall 2016. Cunningham, 27, hopes to sit for his Registered Health Information Administrator exam, launch a career as a data analyst in the medical field, and perhaps later earn a master's degree.

We asked Cunningham a few questions about his experience at Mesa.

Q. How does it feel to be part of Mesa College and California Community Colleges history?

A. It feels great, to be honest. We're helping to pave the way for other community colleges to offer their own bachelor's degrees in fields that are scarce in their area.

Q. Why HIM?

A. I wanted to be in the medical field, but be part of the team that works behind the scenes. I did some research and found out about the HIM field. Being very interested in data and medical coding, I prepared myself to get into the HIM program at Mesa.

Q. What stands out about the HIM program at Mesa?

A. History, reputation, and the professors. Many of the people I have met in the industry graduated from Mesa's HIM associate degree program. Knowing that helps reinforce that when we choose Mesa as our education for the HIM program, we're getting the education we need to succeed.

Q. How do you relax before a test?

A. I wish I knew the answer to that. I'm always anxious before anything and I've tried multiple techniques to get calm and relaxed but none of them worked. Maybe one day, I'll find a technique that works for me.

Q. Most memorable Mesa moment?

A. Graduating back in 2015 with my associate degree in HIT. When I graduated from high school, I didn't even think about going to college as I didn't really have a career path on where I wanted to go.

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES



Jordan, Charles, and Karla
STUDENT VETERANS



*Abdisalan, Yesenia,
Alicia, and Jerry*
STUDENT OUTREACH TEAM



Barbora and Marcelo
BIOLOGY PROGRAM

INTERSESSION
JAN 2 - 27, 2018

SPRING SEMESTER
JAN 29 - MAY 26, 2018

SUMMER SESSION
JUNE 4 - AUG 11, 2018

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