



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education

FEBRUARY 2017

WE With Excellence



Minding Their Business

The SDCCD prepares entrepreneurs
and small business owners for success.

Story on page 12

Driving the Economy



FOR EVERY **\$1** SPENT ON EDUCATION

TAXPAYERS WILL RECEIVE

\$3.90

IN RETURN OVER THE COURSE OF THE STUDENTS' WORKING LIVES

The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) continues to play a significant role in fueling the regional economy. It is important to quantify this role in a manner that community leaders, legislators, and taxpayers can understand.

According to the latest study by Idaho-based Economic Modeling Specialists International (Emsi), the SDCCD generates \$5.5 billion in annual spending, an amount equal to approximately 2.8 percent of San Diego County's Gross Regional Product, which is enough to support more than 74,000 jobs.

The 91-page report analyzed District spending in the 2015-16 fiscal year addressing everything from payroll to construction, in addition to the higher wages earned by current and former students that are attributed to the education provided by City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education.

In breaking down the numbers, the Emsi study noted that the SDCCD spent \$261.9 million on payroll and benefits for 5,626 full-time and part-time employees, and an additional \$258.4 million on goods and services to carry out daily operations throughout the District. That investment leads to more spending across other businesses throughout San Diego County, resulting in what is commonly referred to as multiplier effects. In all, taxpayers provided the District with \$416.1 million in state and local funding. That investment yielded an estimated present-day value of \$1.5 billion in added tax revenue stemming from the students' higher lifetime earnings and the increased output of businesses. In addition, savings to the public sector adds an estimated \$114.4 million thanks to a reduced demand for government-funded social services.

The result: for every tax dollar spent on educating students attending City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education, taxpayers will receive an average of \$3.90 in return over the course of the students' working lives.

What the study did not look at, however, is what is happening behind the scenes. As noted through an article you can read in this issue of *With Excellence*, the District is playing a major role in building the innovation economy, from City College's San Diego Technology Incubator, which is run through the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies, to San Diego Continuing Education's Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management Program. Another article in this issue of *With Excellence* details how the District's sharp focus on building state-of-the-art Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) facilities and nationally recognized STEM programs is having a profound impact on providing local biotechnology and engineering firms with workers who have the training and education they need to succeed.

Thanks to the ongoing support of local taxpayers and business partners, the San Diego Community College District continues to set the pace in building the economic vitality of America's Finest City.



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor

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WE—With Excellence Magazine

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From Miramar to Fire Chief



San Diego Miramar College alumnus Colin Stowell is the new chief of Heartland Fire & Rescue, which provides fire protection to El Cajon, La Mesa, and Lemon Grove under a joint powers agreement.

Stowell, who spent 28 years with the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department, where he rose to become assistant fire chief, began his new job November 7. Stowell replaces former Heartland Fire Chief Rick Sitta, who retired August 12.

Stowell earned his associate degree in Fire Science from Miramar College before securing a Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration and a certificate in Fire Protection Administration from San Diego State University. He graduated from Mira Mesa High School in 1985.

Stowell, 49, worked for the San Diego Fire-Rescue Department from 1988 to 2016 in a variety of roles, including fire captain, fire battalion chief, deputy fire chief, and assistant fire chief of emergency operations. His latter post had him overseeing the Emergency Operations Division, which includes 48 fire stations, 845 sworn personnel, the training division, special operations, lifeguards, and emergency medical services.

We tweet



@SeherAwan13

Seher Awan

Vice President, Admin Services,
City College

This is how Admin Services rolls. Fills the food pantry on campus during our lunch break! We love our students! @sdcitycollege #citycollege



Working Together

They meet again.

The governing boards of the San Diego Community College District and the San Diego Unified School District, which have built a close partnership that is seeing strengthened collaborative efforts, is set to hold its sixth joint session since 2011 on April 18, 2017.

Past meetings have focused on promoting student success from pre-kindergarten through college. Through such collaborative efforts, the two districts have seen a fourfold jump in the number of high school students concurrently enrolled in college courses, along with a threefold increase in the number of San Diego Unified graduates enrolling in the San Diego Promise program.

The San Diego Community College District and San Diego Unified educate more than 230,000 students combined. The SDCCD is the second-largest community college district in the state and San Diego Unified is the second-largest K-12 system in California.



Joint Board Meeting
April 18, 2017, at 5 p.m.
Continuing Education Educational
Cultural Complex Theatre
4343 Ocean View Boulevard,
San Diego, CA 92113

Seal of Approval



Accreditation teams are scheduled to visit San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education from March 13 to 16.

San Diego City College, Mesa College, and Miramar College 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.

The colleges and Continuing Education last fall 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 enables for the transfer of credits among colleges and universities and authorizes the receipt of federal and state funding. City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education underwent a comprehensive review in 2010 and their accreditation was reaffirmed.

War Stories

San Diego Mesa College Professor Lisa Shapiro's new book based on thousands of letters from local college students detailing their experiences serving in World War II will be published this year.

Aztecs in Amber is the universal story of struggle and sacrifice in the fight for democracy and the preservation of American values. More than two years in the making, *Aztecs in Amber* evolved from more than 4,500 letters written by students at San Diego State College (now San Diego State University) and their loved ones. The letters are part of the World War II Servicemen's Correspondence Collection, 1941-1945, an SDSU collection originally compiled by SDSU Professor Lauren Post.

About 500 of the letters were written by women who were tasked with everything from communicating in Morse code, calculating the speed and accuracy of bombs, and flying war planes from factories in San Diego to military bases across the country. The book dedicates a chapter to telling the story of women in the war.

Shapiro previously co-authored the book *The Chamber and the Cross*, a contemporary thriller wrapped around a medieval romance. It was a finalist in the San Diego Book Awards.

Nailed It

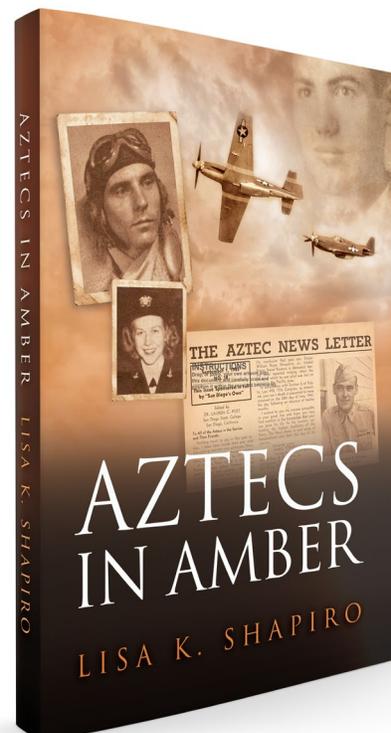


San Diego City College has launched a new program to train nail technicians, which is among the fastest growing professions in California.

City College's Manicuring Program, approved by the Board of Barbering and Cosmetology in Sacramento, places a heavy emphasis on sanitation and safety. The program is aimed at preparing students to pass the State Board Exam and receive their Manicuring License.

Establishing the Manicuring Program comes at an opportune time. The federal Bureau of Labor Statistics foresees an employment growth in the profession of 10 percent in the 10-year period ending in 2024 from the 113,600 jobs in 2014. The California Economic Development Department notes that most employers are looking for candidates with postsecondary vocational training.

The City College Manicuring Program comprises two 10-week sessions beginning March 13.





Celebrating MLK

The San Diego Community College District marched in full force at the 37th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade through downtown San Diego on January 15.

Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff took part in the procession honoring one of America's greatest civil rights leaders.

City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges entered floats to ride in the parade with Continuing Education winning first place in the float division.



**SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT**

**City College • Mesa College • Miramar College
Continuing Education • Military Education**



Straight A's

Local property owners will soon see \$80 million in savings on their tax bills thanks to prudent fiscal management that has led to improved ratings related to the \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N bond program.

The San Diego Community College District recently made the final sales in its Propositions S and N bond program. Before the sales, Moody's Investors Service upgraded the District's bond rating from Aa1 to Aaa, marking the third time Moody's has upgraded the bond rating since 2005. Standard & Poor's reconfirmed the District's AA+ rating and changed its rating outlook from "stable" to "positive."

The higher ratings and an improved financial forecast allowed the District to issue \$524 million in refunded — similar to refinanced — Propositions S and N General Obligation bonds, resulting in a reduction of debt to taxpayers in the amount of \$80 million. Those bonds, along with the final \$122 million in Proposition N bonds, were sold on November 3.

The San Diego County Taxpayers Association has given the District a perfect score of 100 percent for its bond construction project's performance.



On Board

Bernie Rhinerson and Mary Graham were sworn in to new four-year terms on the San Diego Community College District's Governing Board during the board's December 8 meeting. The board also unanimously re-elected Dr. Maria Nieto Senour for a third term as its president.



Trustee Mary Graham being sworn in by SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll.



Trustee Bernie Rhinerson being sworn in by SDUSD Board President Richard Barrera.



Living the Dream

Billy Eppler has one of the coolest jobs in sports. As general manager of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, Eppler has the keys to a club with the best player in baseball, a team that has drawn more than 3 million fans annually since 2003, and an organization with a core of promising and established stars. For Eppler, it all began at San Diego Mesa College.



“Mesa had such a big impact on my life and on my career,” said Eppler, who shined on the diamond and in the classroom while at the Clairemont Mesa campus some 20 years ago. “The growth I experienced there was pretty remarkable.”

A San Diego native who grew up in Allied Gardens, Eppler attended St. Therese Academy in Del Cerro and graduated from what was then known as University of San Diego High School in Linda Vista. Looking to realize his dream of playing Division I baseball at a big-time university, but not quite ready to make the jump, Eppler opted to start his college career at Mesa College.

“I was a late bloomer and I was young, and that combination didn’t allow me to perform at the level that Division I coaches wanted to see,” Eppler said. “Mesa had a pretty successful program at the time, and a lot of their players had gone on to play at some major college programs across the country. Going to Mesa made sense.”

In his two years with the Mesa Olympians, Eppler posted a 7-3 record, grew a few inches and filled out his frame. In 1997, he was pitching for the University of Connecticut.

“I wouldn’t have had the confidence to go to Connecticut out of high school,” Eppler said. “No chance, but I felt more prepared and confident after going to Mesa.”

Eppler’s baseball career at Connecticut didn’t last; a shoulder injury limited him to just one season on the field. Nonetheless, Eppler — a talented athlete who remains an avid surfer — would go on to play rugby for the Huskies before graduating from the University of Connecticut in 1998 with a bachelor’s degree in finance.

After a stint working as a financial analyst, Eppler, unsure of his future, decided to follow his passion.

“Sometimes you have to take risks to achieve your dream,” he said.

That meant leveraging connections to help land a part-time gig scouting for the Colorado Rockies. Before long, he was hired full-time. That led to a similar position with the New York Yankees. Just one year later, Eppler was named the Yankees’ director of professional scouting, and in 2012 was promoted to the rank of assistant general manager under Yankees front-office legend Brian Cashman. Over the years he has built a reputation as a good communicator who knows how to listen and someone who deftly melds old-school scouting with new-school analytics. In fall 2015, he was named general manager of the Angels.

His former Mesa College coach, Mike Sanchez, said Eppler embodies the mission of a community college.

“Mesa College and community colleges in general provide a great opportunity for a lot of people, whether you’re there for a degree, a certificate, or for



sports," Sanchez said. "Billy represents what Mesa has to offer — a bridge to help a young person reach their dream."

Despite a disappointing season in 2016 in which the Angels finished with a 74-88 record, Eppler, 41, is bullish on the franchise, and why shouldn't he be? Mike Trout just won his second Most Valuable Player Award and is widely regarded as the best player in the game. Andrelton Simmons is a Gold Glove-winning shortstop, and Albert Pujols is a future Hall of Fame infielder.

Eppler's former Mesa College pitching coach, Kevin Hazlett, said he admires Eppler's drive and his ability to keep his priorities in order. "He was one of those players who always found a way to be successful," said Hazlett, acting dean at the School of Exercise Science, Health Education, Dance, and Athletics. "When you sit back and think that there are only 30 teams in the major leagues, and there is only one general manager per team, that's quite an accomplishment to have that kind of position, but he's the same person today that he always has been. Extremely easy going, still easy to talk to. He really hasn't changed."

A resident of Newport Beach, Eppler remains committed to Mesa College.

"Mesa offers a lot, especially to kids who can't afford the four-year college experience," he said. "I found the instructors to be very passionate, and they

were always accommodating. At the end of the day, it's not where you start, it's where you finish. For myself, it was the right decision and I'm glad I made it."



Angels Stadium, above; and Billy Eppler, left, with infielder Albert Pujols. Photo credit: Angels Baseball.



Patricia Grooms-Jones
City College
Cosmetology Program

The Beauty Haven
7742 Herschel Ave., Suite E/F
La Jolla 92037

thebeautyhaven.biz

Minding their Business

A woman with dark hair in a bun, wearing a black blazer and a black dress, stands in a spa or salon setting. She is smiling and has her hands on her hips. In the background, there is a white cabinet with a glass top holding various bottles and jars, and a white Buddha statue on a shelf.

Tiffany Paulino
Continuing Education
Small Business
Management Program

Pure Skin Lounge
3065 Rosecrans Place, Suite 202
San Diego 92110

pureskinlounge.com

Patricia Grooms-Jones runs a successful La Jolla hair salon and cosmetology consulting firm thanks to the expertise she found at City College. Olena Shaber owes her new interior design company to the lessons learned at Mesa College. Tiffany Paulino expanded her skin care establishment thanks to the small business management program at San Diego Continuing Education.

Grooms-Jones, Shaber, and Paulino embody the San Diego Community College District's impact on the growing small business and entrepreneurship sectors in the region, which employed approximately 568,000 people in 2015, according to the San Diego Workforce Partnership.

Entrepreneurs and small business owners educated at the District are a key reason the SDCCD is responsible for contributing \$5.5 billion in spending annually in the regional economy — enough to support more than 74,000 jobs.

“There is a huge demand for programs that provide the tools for entrepreneurial success,” said Mesa College Business Professor Howard Eskew.

Eskew points to a 2011 national survey conducted by the nonprofit group Young Invincibles that found more than half of millennials across the country wanted to start their own business rather than work for someone else. Additionally, the Kauffman Index of Growth Entrepreneurship ranked the San Diego region No. 7 nationally in its 2016 report, ahead of San Francisco.

Fueling San Diego startups is the San Diego Technology Incubator, which is run through the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) at City College. The incubator houses up to 20 startup research and development, and manufacturing companies, which are provided affordable space, administrative support, business development, and technical training. Among the success stories is

Justine Marzoni
City College
Entrepreneurship

Baby Clydesdale Small
Batch Hot Sauce

babyclydesdale.com



*Justine Marzoni and
fiancé David Mead*



Teledyne Seabotix, a world-leading manufacturer of remotely operated vehicles, or ROVs, equipped with cameras that work underwater. Seabotix

got its start at the Technology Incubator, and the company is now at the forefront of manufacturing mini-ROVs, which perform a multitude of tasks, including maritime security, search and recovery, hull and pipeline inspection, and oceanographic research.

At San Diego Continuing Education, the Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management Program has become a leader in more modest startups. Established at the César E. Chávez Campus, the program includes courses aimed at arming entrepreneurs with the essentials to succeed.

Tiffany Paulino was one of the first students to enroll in the program.

"It has definitely helped me tremendously," said Paulino, who recently expanded her Pure Skin Lounge, which offers everything from acne treatment to full-body waxing. Paulino had set up her business in a

small office in Hillcrest when she heard about the Continuing Education program and signed up. "I wanted to make sure I was correctly building a strong foundation and could build an effective business plan."

Grooms-Jones offers another success story. She owns the upscale salon The Beauty Haven in La Jolla, and also makes presentations at both the International Beauty Show in New York and the Cape Town Hair and Beauty Show in Cape Town, South Africa.

"I was 27 years old and not really sure about my career path, but I always had a knack for working with hair," said Grooms-Jones, who also teaches at City College's Cosmetology Department. "So I looked at City College and found a program that was affordable, an environment that was very supportive, and instructors who were first class. Everyone there helped me see the opportunities to not only work in, but thrive in the cosmetology industry."

Justine Marzoni followed a similar path. Marzoni enrolled in a pair of City College courses to help her and her fiancé, David Mead, navigate their new venture, Baby Clydesdale Small Batch Hot Sauce.

"I didn't have any business background, so I took the Starting a Small Business class that covered creating a business plan, marketing, and financing,"



Olena Shaber
Mesa College
Interior Design

O Interiors
Coronado Kitchen and Bath
225 Palm Ave.
Imperial Beach 91932

said Marzoni. The result: the couple is selling Baby Clydesdale Small Batch Hot Sauce at specialty stores from Uncle Keith's Gourmet Foods in Pacific Beach to the Heatonist in Brooklyn, in addition to farmers markets throughout San Diego County.

Mesa College, meanwhile, is preparing to launch a new Associate of Science Degree and a new Certificate of Achievement in Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship as early as next fall. That follows an online Managing the Small Business course introduced last fall and a Developing a Plan for the Small Business course introduced this spring through Miramar College. Both courses are taught online as well as through a concurrent enrollment arrangement at Scripps Ranch High School.

"We're finding tremendous interest in this pathway," said Miramar College Business Professor David Wilhelm. "Students and the makeup of our economy are demanding it."

Olena Shaber headed straight to Mesa College when changing careers even before plans for the Small Business Management and Entrepreneurship programs were in the planning stages. The Ukrainian immigrant was selling clothes in a Hotel del Coronado store when she decided she'd put her artistic talents to use and work for herself. So Shaber enrolled in the Mesa College Interior Design Program en route to becoming an interior decorator. In December, she opened O Interiors Coronado Kitchen and Bath, an interior design firm and showroom in Imperial Beach.

"Mesa College was accessible, it was easy to enroll, very affordable, and I really loved the program," said the Coronado resident.

"I'm still impressed that I meet people in the business who also graduated from Mesa. What I learned at Mesa College was nothing less than

what people are learning at a university. It was the best decision to go there."

"Entrepreneurship is one of the fastest-growing disciplines in higher education and the reason is today's generation wants more control of their life."

Howard Eskew, Mesa College
Business Professor

Expanding the PROMISE



Free college? It was an offer Romelia Turner couldn't refuse.

Turner, 43, was in the process of earning her high school diploma at San Diego Continuing Education when an instructor encouraged her to apply for the San Diego Community College District's San Diego Promise pilot program in fall 2016. With no tuition or fees, and with no textbook costs to fret over, the choice was easy.

"The Promise program is giving me an opportunity to not only get a college education, but get a college education for free," said Turner, who had dropped out of high school. She is now thriving at City College, where she is president of the Umoja Program and is preparing to transfer to UC San Diego as a psychology major. "Because of the San Diego Promise, I have a better future."

In 2017, the District will quadruple the number of students in the program to nearly 800, the program's second year.

The San Diego Promise pays for enrollment fees and books that are not covered by financial aid. Participants are required to take part in college orientation services and map out an education plan, be enrolled in at least 12 units for both fall and spring, engage in eight hours of community service, and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0.

"Although students in the San Diego Community College District have access to the most affordable, high-quality higher education in the nation, earning a degree or a certificate remains a financial challenge for too many," Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said. "Nearly seven in 10 of our students are working to support themselves or their family, and most receive financial aid to help them get by. Expanding the San Diego Promise program means expanding access to even more deserving individuals throughout our community."

It's working. A recent analysis found that nine of 10 students in this year's San Diego Promise program are from traditionally underrepresented communities, and approximately half come from families with a household income of less than \$40,000 annually. Nearly 70 percent of the students taking part this year plan on earning an associate degree and transfer to a four-year college or university. An additional 5 percent say they intend to transfer without an associate degree.

The program's expansion means up to 600 incoming freshmen will be eligible this fall at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges. That's in addition to the 186 students who are currently enrolled in the program and expected to continue on to a second year next fall.

Of the new San Diego Promise students, 600 will be 2017 graduates from the San Diego Unified School District. Seventy-five will be accepted from San Diego Continuing Education, and 25 freshmen will be admitted from Monarch School, which serves homeless children.

Learn more or make a gift donation at www.sdccd.edu/promise.



City College student Romelia Turner shares her experience of receiving a free college education at a December San Diego Promise press conference held at Mesa College.

Students in Need

For many local community college students, homelessness and hunger are real challenges. That's why San Diego City College, Mesa College, Miramar College, and Continuing Education are collaborating with nonprofits and local government to assist students in need.

Each of the District's colleges and Continuing Education maintains a list of local resources and provides this information to students in need of shelter or a meal. In addition, all of the college's campuses run a food pantry to students in need.

At City College, for example, interns at the Small Business Entrepreneurship Program staff the campus food pantry and distribute food Monday through Thursday to approximately 200 to 250 students per week. In addition, struggling students are provided with gently used business suits for \$10, affording them an opportunity to dress appropriately for an interview. More than 100 students also have received blankets, sheets, shampoo, soap, and towels free of charge. Students from the college's Cosmetology program regularly partner with local charities, providing haircuts to those in need and their families.

The Associated Student Government at Mesa College has a Homeless Outreach Student Transition (HOST) program that provides a variety of services, including Thanksgiving meals to scores of students. Mesa College also has launched The Stand, a food pantry and professional clothing closet supplied through monthly food drives and campus competitions as well as community donations. Meanwhile, the Professional Clothing Closet at The Stand provides

From left: Mesa College Associated Student Government members Ava Fakhrabadi, Tod Tobar, and Jose Quijada serve students on campus at a Thanksgiving luncheon in November.



students free professional and business casual attire appropriate for career fairs, interviews, and the workplace.

Likewise, Miramar Researching Equity, Action and Community for Transformation (REACT), a student-led social justice initiative group at Miramar College, operates the campus' Emergency Food Pantry, which is open five days a week.

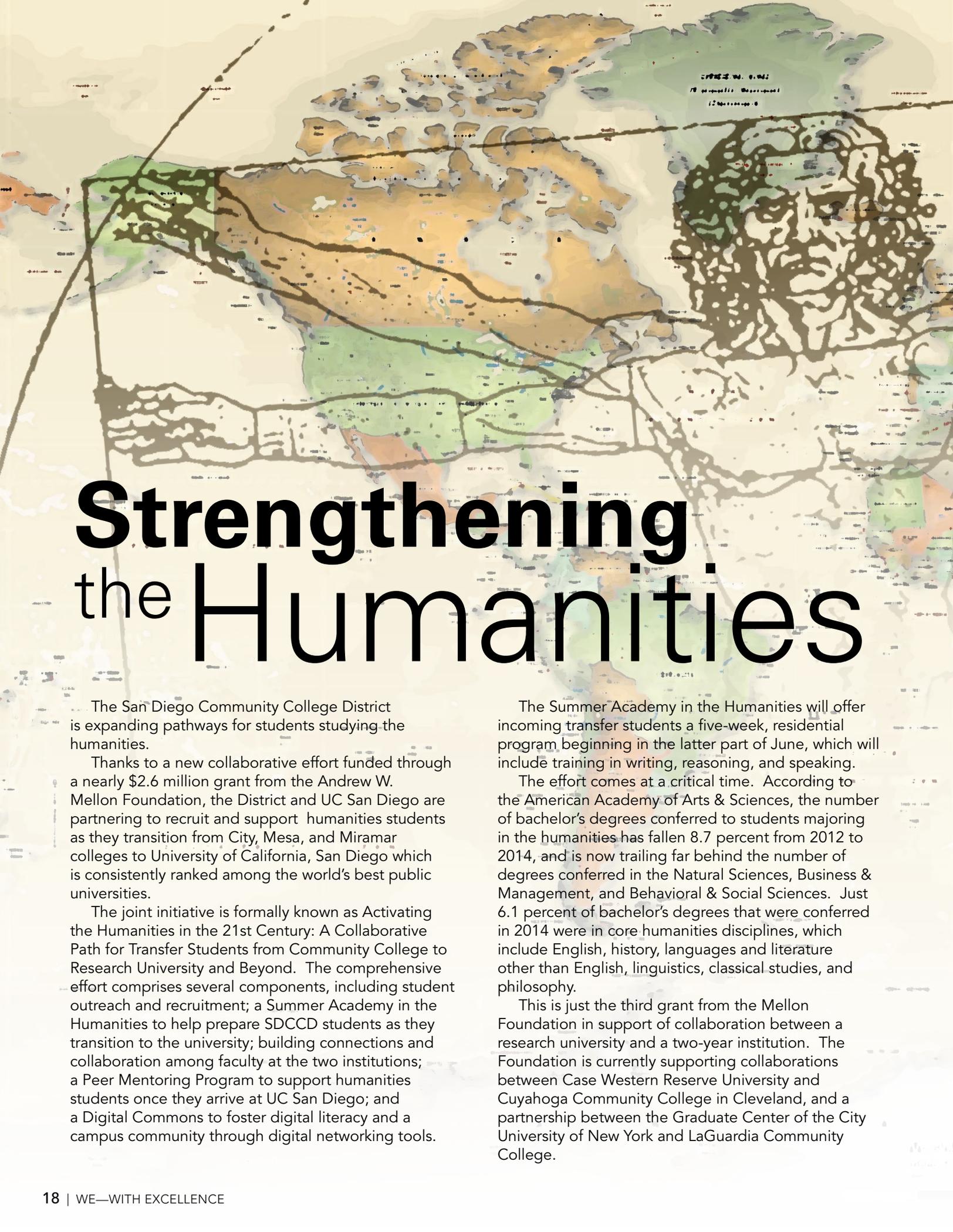
The need is profound. National surveys show that large numbers of college students are skipping meals and going hungry because they cannot afford to feed themselves. A recent report from the National Student Campaign Against Hunger & Homelessness found nearly half of more than 3,700 respondents in 12 states reported instances of food insecurity within the previous 30 days. A 2015 survey by the University of Michigan of more than 4,000 students at 10 community colleges across the nation found that nearly one in four students had gone hungry because of a lack of money.

More recently, a study released in December by the Community College Equity Assessment Lab at San Diego State University found that one-third of community college students in California face uncertain housing and even homelessness while 12 percent sometimes aren't sure where they will get their next meal. Additionally, more than 48 percent of black men said they were facing housing insecurity.

"Students in the San Diego Community College District come from all walks of life and many of them are struggling with hunger and homelessness, which makes it incumbent upon us to do what we can to help them so they can thrive in their studies and contribute to our region and our economy," said Chancellor Constance M. Carroll.



City College and Columbia University alumnus Michael Taylor, right, makes a donation to the City College Food Pantry on behalf of his company NWB Environmental Services LLC.



Strengthening the Humanities

The San Diego Community College District is expanding pathways for students studying the humanities.

Thanks to a new collaborative effort funded through a nearly \$2.6 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the District and UC San Diego are partnering to recruit and support humanities students as they transition from City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges to University of California, San Diego which is consistently ranked among the world's best public universities.

The joint initiative is formally known as Activating the Humanities in the 21st Century: A Collaborative Path for Transfer Students from Community College to Research University and Beyond. The comprehensive effort comprises several components, including student outreach and recruitment; a Summer Academy in the Humanities to help prepare SDCCD students as they transition to the university; building connections and collaboration among faculty at the two institutions; a Peer Mentoring Program to support humanities students once they arrive at UC San Diego; and a Digital Commons to foster digital literacy and a campus community through digital networking tools.

The Summer Academy in the Humanities will offer incoming transfer students a five-week, residential program beginning in the latter part of June, which will include training in writing, reasoning, and speaking.

The effort comes at a critical time. According to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, the number of bachelor's degrees conferred to students majoring in the humanities has fallen 8.7 percent from 2012 to 2014, and is now trailing far behind the number of degrees conferred in the Natural Sciences, Business & Management, and Behavioral & Social Sciences. Just 6.1 percent of bachelor's degrees that were conferred in 2014 were in core humanities disciplines, which include English, history, languages and literature other than English, linguistics, classical studies, and philosophy.

This is just the third grant from the Mellon Foundation in support of collaboration between a research university and a two-year institution. The Foundation is currently supporting collaborations between Case Western Reserve University and Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, and a partnership between the Graduate Center of the City University of New York and LaGuardia Community College.

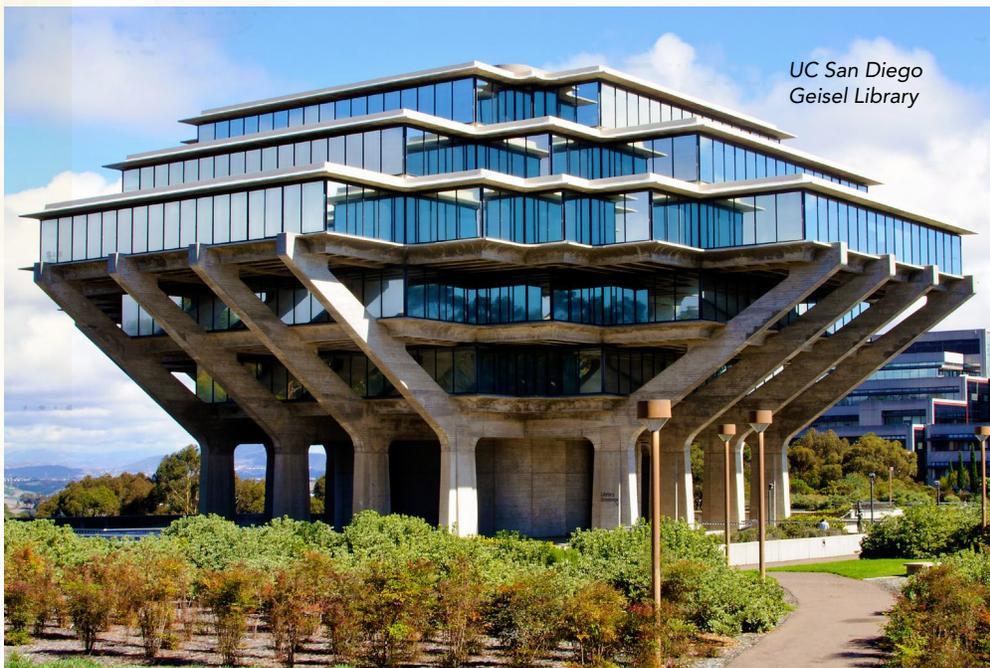


“This grant offers an exciting opportunity for our students to expand their experience in the humanities, which are critical disciplines for understanding our world, past and present,” said SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, a nationally recognized advocate

for the humanities who was appointed by President Barack Obama in 2011 to serve on the National Council on the Humanities. “The grant fosters important faculty interaction, student research projects, and other benefits. We are grateful to the Mellon Foundation for supporting this unique and important collaboration between our colleges and UC San Diego.”

The Mellon Foundation grant is the largest ever received for humanities in SDCCD history. UC San Diego is receiving \$1.42 million and the SDCCD is receiving \$1.17 million.

“Our main goal is to identify potential transfer students in the humanities, develop their talents as creative and flexible thinkers, provide supportive services during their transition, and ensure that they graduate with appropriate and essential skills so they are prepared to choose a stimulating professional career that utilizes their humanities education,” said Dr. Stephanie Bulger, the SDCCD’s vice chancellor of Instructional Services.



UC San Diego
Geisel Library

A Culture Focused on STEM

San Diego Mesa College is creating a new STEM Center and research incubator to help students from underrepresented communities find their way into careers encompassing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. The Miramar College-based Southern California Biotechnology Center works with schools, biotechnology firms, economic development groups, and others to fashion an all-encompassing effort that is upgrading skills in the workforce. At San Diego City College, dozens of students enrolled in the Math, Engineering, and Science Achievement program (MESA) worked as researchers or interns this past summer in six different states.

From new state-of-the-art facilities to groundbreaking educational programs, the San Diego Community College District has placed STEM front and center, and students — along with industry — are reaping the rewards.

"None of our many science, technology, engineering, and mathematics programs is operating in a vacuum," SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said. "The continued growth

of STEM industries is vital to San Diego's future, and the District has responded by aligning our academic programs, facilities, and support systems to expand the pipeline of students moving into these fields."

Indeed, more than 51,000 professionals in San Diego County are working in the life sciences industry alone, according to Biocom, an organization which advocates for California's Life Science sector. Scientific research and development, meanwhile, affects more than 100,000 local jobs and generates more than \$14 billion in economic impact, according to the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp.

Student Emmanuel Gutierrez embodies the excellence of the STEM offerings at Mesa College.

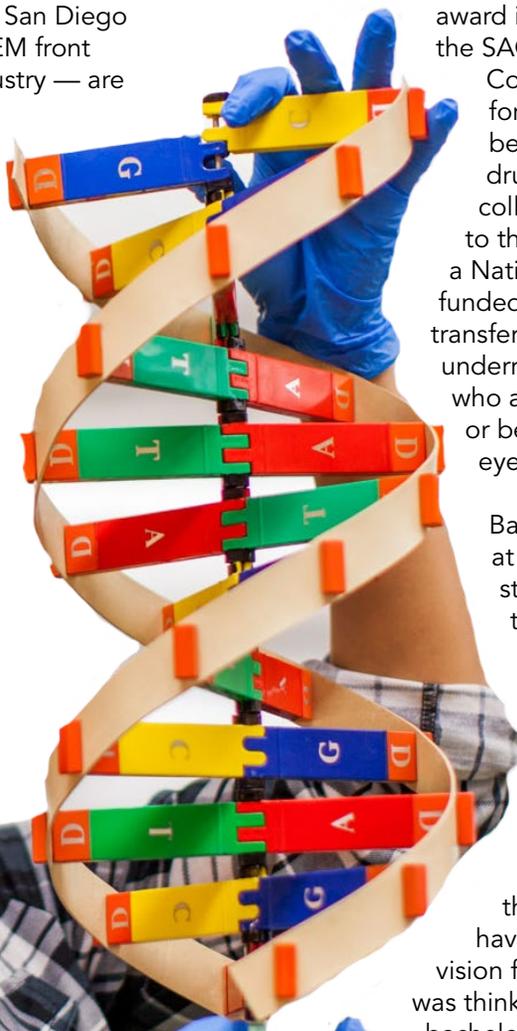
Gutierrez recently earned a top award in Organic Chemistry at the SACNAS National Research Conference in Long Beach for his work on what could become a potential anti-cancer drug. Gutierrez is part of the college's prestigious Bridges to the Baccalaureate program, a National Institutes of Health-funded endeavor that is boosting transfer rates of students from underrepresented populations who are studying biomedical or behavioral sciences and are eyeing careers in research.

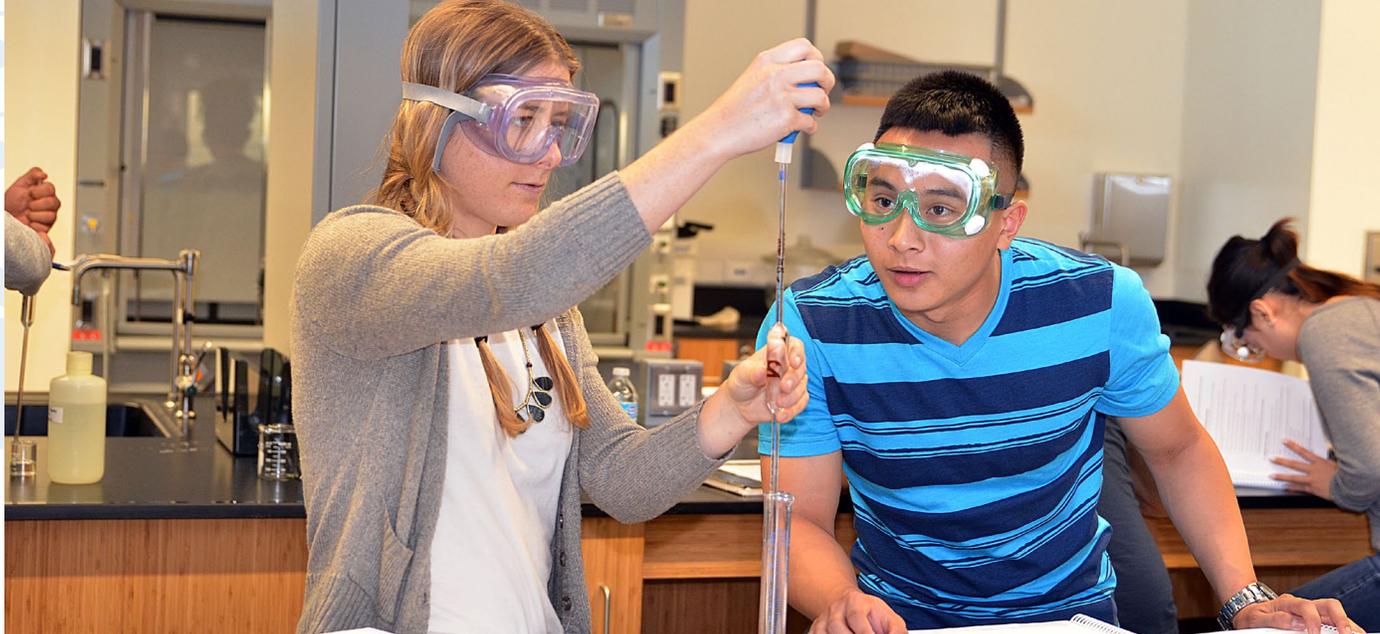
Since the Bridges to the Baccalaureate inception in 2005 at Mesa College, nearly every student in the program has transferred, or is planning to transfer, to a four-year college or university.

Many are pursuing or have secured advanced degrees.

Gutierrez said the atmosphere at Mesa and the college's Bridges to the Baccalaureate program have combined to expand his vision for his future. "Initially, I was thinking only about getting a bachelor's degree and working in the lab as a chemical engineer, but working with the Bridges to the Baccalaureate program and meeting with other people has shown me that it is completely doable to get a Ph.D.

in the STEM field and go beyond my original expectations," he said.





Other campus initiatives include the Mesa College Research Conference, along with “STEM Conexiones” (STEM Connections), which is funded by a \$5 million U.S. Department of Education grant for a new STEM Center, enhanced counseling services, peer mentoring and outreach, and new pathways for high school students to study math and science at the college level. The Mesa College STEM Engagement for Enrichment of Diverse Students (SEEDS) Program encourages students from underrepresented communities to explore STEM fields that are defined as high-priority areas by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including sustainability, global food security, and hunger.

Efforts are similarly being expanded at Miramar College, where the Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Center is working with community colleges statewide in developing programs and training instructors to educate students on alternative fuels technology.

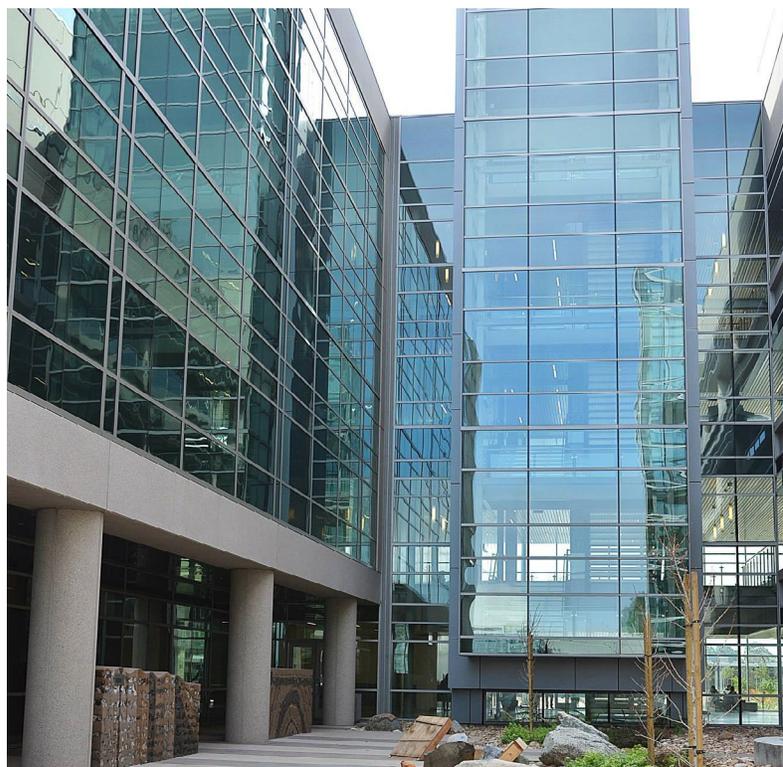
Also at Miramar is the Southern California Biotechnology Center, whose flagship programs include a Life Science Summer Institute where high school students spend weeks earning college credits while working in research labs; a Biotech Employment Skills Training initiative designed for job and internship seekers and those already employed in the sciences; and registered life sciences apprenticeships. For those already working in the industry, the Biotechnology Center coordinates a Biotech Employment Skills Training Program, a 20-hour, hands-on workshop designed for job and internship seekers and those already employed in the sciences.

City College’s MESA program is drawing attention from throughout the California Community Colleges system thanks to an impressive number of students who take part in research around the country.

“Success doesn’t just happen at the City College MESA program,” said Rafael Alvarez, who serves as the MESA program director. “It’s cultural. All of our students are trained in a culture of learning, and they take that culture to create success everywhere they go.”

MESA isn’t the only program steering its students toward success. The San Diego Institutional Research and Academic Career Development Award (IRACDA) program provides training and support from mentors at UC San Diego to increase the number of students from underrepresented populations engaging in research and entering graduate programs in the biomedical sciences.

“City College has created a community of students, faculty, and staff that is turning out a number of scholars in the STEM field,” said Dr. Minou Spradley, dean of Engineering Technologies, Mathematics, Sciences, and Nursing. “My office window is plastered with pictures of students who have graduated from City College and gone on to earn a Ph.D.”



Mesa College Math+Science Complex



Denise S. Whisenhunt, J.D.
Interim President
San Diego City College

Barry Cordero: 2016 CCLC Distinguished Alumnus

When Barry Cordero returned to school at San Diego City College after six years in the Navy, he wasn't certain how to get where he wanted to go. Now, a dozen years later, he attributes his career and life success to the experiences he had at City College — and he's delighted to be named a Distinguished Alumnus for 2016 by the Community College League of California (CCLC).

"It's an honor to be recognized by the California community college system," Cordero said. "This recognition is humbling when I consider the hundreds of thousands of people who have been the recipient of the value of a community college education. I feel the weight of responsibility to ensure I maintain a positive image and represent the state well."

Cordero said City College provided him a safe learning environment and the opportunity to build the skills and habits he needed to pursue his bioengineering degree at UC San Diego.

Now with a clear focus on his future, Cordero began using his engineering skills to improve medical devices in a range of therapies, including spinal implants, cardiac devices, neurostimulators, and more recently, glucose monitors and insulin pumps. The majority of his career has been with Medtronic, where he is a Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt and now leads the continuous improvement strategy for Medtronic Diabetes as the director of Global Operations Excellence.

Cordero also noted that City College and its MESA program, which supports students in math, engineering and science majors, introduced him to the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). "SHPE was my first experience in community work and it changed my whole career and life afterward," Cordero said.

Following SHPE's mission, Cordero continues to dedicate his life to empowering youth in the Hispanic community to realize their full potential and to impact the world through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Barry says that the concept of social impact means a lot of different things to different people.



San Diego City College MESA Program Director Rafael Alvarez, left, with City College alumnus and 2016 CCLC Distinguished Alumnus Barry Cordero.

"It means making kids aware of a better life through an engineering degree. It means convincing a young engineer or scientist that they have to dream bigger and higher and showing their companies how to think differently about diversity in leadership," Cordero said. "It also means supporting someone who, although they are not a citizen, wants nothing more than to give back to the country that allowed them to dream."

Cordero advanced through the ranks of the SHPE national organization. He started as a regional student representative in 2006, then became the national vice president in 2011, the national president/interim CEO in 2013, and now has served as interim CEO since October.

"Barry's accomplishments reflect our ultimate goal: to help students achieve their educational and professional goals and serve their communities," said Denise Whisenhunt, City College interim president. "We're proud he got his start here and join the Community College League of California in saluting him."

Cordero has been featured in *U.S. News & World Report*, ABC News Blog's Second Tour, *Hispanic Executive*, *La Voz Latina*, *SHPE Magazine*, *Kids Ahead*, and *Science Matters* for his passion for diversity in STEM.



'Soldiers Who Salsa' Dancing Up a Storm



Veteran students at San Diego Mesa College have been finding a new sense of community on campus through free social dancing classes on campus this semester.

Soldiers Who Salsa (SWS), a nonprofit organization that brings salsa dancing lessons to veteran and active-duty military personnel, has made its way to Mesa College and has been met with great enthusiasm.

Created as a way to enhance and enrich the lives of wounded or ill active-duty and veteran service members of the U.S. armed forces and their families, the organization aims to help heal soldiers through the use of therapeutic social dancing.

"Being able to dance is a great way for your mind, body, and soul to heal," said Rebecca Lee, adjunct professor in Student Health Services at Mesa and a licensed marital and family therapist. "With salsa dancing, you partner with another person and it's the idea of safe touching that is expected. The community aspect helps to resolve the feeling of isolation and displacement that soldiers and veterans often experience upon returning from combat."

Student veteran Juan Ortiz, a psychology major at Mesa College, is responsible for bringing the Soldiers Who Salsa program to the campus. After participating in the classes at other schools and VA hospitals, Ortiz pitched the idea of bringing SWS to Mesa to the Veterans Advisory Committee for approval.

While he said that some students take the dance class as a fun way to break up a hectic week of studying and school, others embrace the therapeutic benefits of dancing.

"Everybody gets something different out of it. Some people do it because they're extremely shy and they have trouble interacting with other people, which might be symptoms coming off of their PTSD," Ortiz said.

Counseling Department Professor Ramiro Hernandez, who specializes in academic counseling for veterans, said that SWS not only helps to develop bonds between veterans but also helps to connect veterans to the wider Mesa College community.

"It has allowed student veterans to network with each other," Hernandez said. "Dancing in general creates a positive vibe. It has created opportunities to build healthy and positive relationships with other student veterans and other people on campus."

Classes are taught every Wednesday at 5 p.m. by Serena Cuevas, an Army veteran and professional dancer who was made famous during her tenure on the television show *Dancing with the Stars*. Cuevas, owner of Alacrity Fitness and Dance Academy in San Diego, is the 2012 Australian Latin Open Champion, and has been a finalist in the Puerto Rico World Salsa Open and World Salsa Summit in 2013, and the 2011 World Latin Dance Cup.



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

Alumna Named Ms. Asian North American

It took plenty of convincing, but Miramar College alumna and current staff member Kaanchan Farkiya, reluctantly agreed to run for Mrs. Asian San Diego last January. Little did she know, six short months later, standing on a stage in Las Vegas, she would be named Ms. Asian North American. This past July, what she could have never expected became a reality.

Farkiya's journey to American beauty queen started in her native India, where after winning a state level beauty pageant, she worked as a television actress and model before moving to the United States. She was encouraged to run for Mrs. Asia San Diego in January 2016. Farkiya finished runner-up, and in the process won five additional titles: Mrs. Role Model of the Year, Mrs. Elegance, Mrs. Congeniality, Mrs. People's Choice, and Mrs. Cultural of the Year. Next stop was the Ms. Asian North America pageant.

Farkiya arrived in the United States in 2005 with a bachelor's degree and a master's degree she had earned in India. With a desire to help children, she enrolled at Miramar College and earned an associate degree in child development and one in computer business technology. "I enrolled my preschooler in the Child Development Center at Miramar College and then decided to take classes, and even though I had a master's degree, I discovered myself again."

Through countless challenges and commitment, she served students as vice president of Associated Student Council in 2012. During her time at Miramar College, she earned many scholarships and other awards such as The Outstanding Student Leader of the Year.

In 2013, Farkiya moved from student to employee and started working as a supplemental instruction coach with the college's Child Development Center. She currently assists students pursuing course work in child development.

"I am out there doing my duties now as Queen and my platform is education and helping children, so it is a natural fit to be affiliated with Miramar College's Child Development Center. Winning the beauty pageant has allowed me to give back to the community and that's what I love to do."

She is now exploring ways to meet with local leaders and state senators to introduce programs designed to wipe out child trafficking and child abuse. On December 5, the first politician took notice. San Diego Councilman Chris Cate was so excited to hear the news that he presented Farkiya with a commendation in front of the Mira Mesa Town Council.

If you would like to invite Farkiya to a special function anywhere in the United States, please reach out at info@msasiannorthamerica.com.





Building on Success Through Expanding Resources



SDCE Counselor Lisa Carulli (center) coaches students in the new San Diego Gateway to College and Career Resource Center.

San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) is expanding services to opportunity youth in San Diego through the new San Diego Gateway to College and Career program at SDCE.

Opportunity youth are sometimes referred to as “disconnected youth” and are defined as people between the ages of 18 and 24 who are neither in school nor working. These men and women represent a social and economic opportunity to communities because many are eager to complete education and obtain employment. According to the San Diego Youth Development Office, there are more than 53,000 opportunity youth in San Diego County.

“SDCE is already serving this population of students,” said Carlos O. Turner Cortez, Ph.D., president of SDCE. “Many are enrolled in our High School and Adult Basic Education programs, but they need additional services to be successful beyond the classroom, and that’s where the Gateway model makes sense.”

Gateway to College is a national network that supports communities in building sustainable pathways for disconnected youth. The Gateway model began at Portland Community College and is now successfully implemented in more than 40 community college settings throughout the nation. The San Diego Gateway to College and Career at SDCE is the first model in San Diego and intends to serve hundreds of students in its first year of implementation, with that number growing to thousands within three years.

“This initiative utilizes a collaborative approach that ensures youth will receive the types of supports that are necessary for them to succeed not only in education and career, but also in life,” said Ian Gordon, Director of the San Diego Youth Development Office, and one of the many community partners supporting this initiative.

Beyond education in the classrooms, the new San Diego Gateway to College and Career program is allowing SDCE to expand services to include coaches in a case management structure to provide more individualized attention and mentoring, customized job searches, paid internships, and community service opportunities.

“Offering paid internships is one of the most significant new initiatives we can offer our students,” said Star Rivera-Lacey, Ph.D., vice president of Student Services at SDCE.

Faculty who support San Diego Gateway to College and Career students have received specialized training to help them understand the new program and how to best serve this population of students using the Gateway model. A new resource center opened at the Educational Cultural Complex in January and plans to serve hundreds of students in spring 2017.

SDCE’s Partners in the new San Diego Gateway to College and Career

- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- San Diego Youth Development Office
- San Diego Unified School District, Office of Secondary Schools, including the Adult Education and TRACE programs
- Rise San Diego
- San Diego Green Building Council
- GRID Alternatives
- Electrical Worker Minority Caucus
- Junior Achievement
- KRA/South Metro Career Center
- Second Chance
- Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation

From the Marines to Miramar

Courtney Wade spent nearly five years as an aviation electronics technician in the U.S. Marine Corps working on F/A-18 Super Hornet combat jets before leaving the armed services and enrolling at San Diego Miramar College in 2014. A member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) community who joined the military during the “Don’t ask, don’t tell” era, Wade, 26, is now on track to graduate in the spring, attend Cal State San Marcos next fall, earn a bachelor’s degree in criminal justice, and launch a career in law enforcement. We asked Wade a few questions about what makes Miramar College special.

Q. Why Miramar?

I chose Miramar because I really like the campus. I really like the layout and landscaping. I feel so relaxed when I come on campus and it doesn’t have that cramped feeling and you don’t have to see cement everywhere.

Q. How well are military veterans served here?

The veterans programs are really nice. The Vet Center on campus is a great place to get away and just catch your breath and relax in a quiet area for a bit. Personally, it is really nice to be able to chat with fellow veterans and reminisce about being in the military. Miramar has a large number of veterans and active duty attending and it makes me feel a part of the college.

Q. Favorite spot to hang out?

The second floor of the K1 building, outside at the tables. I like the fresh air, the shade that the building provides, and the fact that not many students hang out in that area. It’s nice and quiet.

Q. How do you relax before an exam?

I’ve found that when I overthink an exam and try to cram right before the test, after already studying, that I tend to have a block while I’m taking the exam. So I’ll listen to music and think about something other than school, something pleasant.

Q. How’s the food?

Honestly, the food on campus is pretty good. You can’t go wrong getting a slice of pizza or some chicken strips.

Q. What will you remember most about Miramar College?

The staff. If I’m lost or confused by anything, there is always someone there with a smile on their face willing to offer a helping hand.

\$10

SD Gulls
tickets!



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Saturday
March 25, 2017

AlumniFest Pre-Party at the Bud Light Tailgate: 5 p.m.

Game Starts: 7 p.m.

Valley View Casino Center, 3500 Sports Arena Blvd., San Diego, CA 92110

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