

A Promising Future



San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) and San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) leaders and students gathered at Mesa College to officially launch the San Diego Promise program. From left, SDUSD Superintendent Cindy Marten; SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll; San Diego Promise students Tiffany Celzo, Jennifer Medina, Andrew Allen, Liutauras Marciulionis, and Philip Kist; SDCCD Trustee Peter Zschiesche; and SDUSD Board President Michael McQuary.

The San Diego Community College District has joined the national and statewide movement to make community colleges free for deserving students.

In January 2015, President Barack Obama proposed the America's College Promise during his State of the Union Address. Since then, initiatives at the local, state, and national levels have been developed to explore and implement various models, and we are helping to lead the way.

This summer, the District launched the San Diego Promise, an ambitious pilot program to provide a high-quality college education free to 201 incoming freshmen at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges during the 2016-17 academic year. Participants were chosen based on a combination of need and commitment to completing a college degree, certificate, or transfer program.

While there is no cost to students, they must be committed to the effort and enroll in at least 12 units for both fall and spring, contribute eight hours of community service each semester, and maintain a minimum GPA of 2.0.

To help ensure they reach their academic goals, students are required to take part in at least one transition program at City, Mesa, or Miramar College, such as the First Year Experience, Student Success Day, Summer Bridge, and other cohort-based programs.

In return, students who receive some state or federal financial aid will have the balance of the cost of their enrollment fees paid, ensuring free access. Those in need of help who do not receive state or federal financial aid will have their enrollment fees paid outright. All students in the program will also receive up to \$1,000 in grants for textbooks and related supplies.

The San Diego Promise has the potential to transform countless lives. Nearly seven in 10 of our students are working to support themselves or their family while going to school. About one in four students in the District drops at least one class because they cannot afford the required textbooks, and hundreds of students each week turn to campus food banks to ensure they are getting the nutrition they need.

With the pilot program now launched, our next step entails expanding District and college fundraising

efforts so we can support every San Diego Promise student who needs financial assistance. In the coming weeks and months, we will be sharing additional information on how the community can assist us in this worthy endeavor.



Chancellor

Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.

8 Sewing Her Future

María del Mar Hinojosa finds success at San Diego Continuing Education.

10 Jumping Ahead at Mesa College

Brittney Reese, 2012 Olympic gold and 2016 Olympic silver medalist, coaches athletes at Mesa College.



A look at City College's Photography program.

18 Preparing the Fleet

Naval Station Great Lakes is one of four military bases where SDCCD provides instruction to the nation's newest sailors.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CONNECTIONS

- 4 Stepping Out WE Tweet Running Smoothly
- 5 New Heart and Hub on the Mesa Winter Classes
- 6 A Day of Pride
- 7 Innovating in the District We're No. 1!

CAMPUS NEWS

- 22 City College
- 23 Mesa College
- 24 Miramar College
- **25** Continuing Education

SDCCD NEWSMAKERS

26 Serving Students

WE—With Excellence Magazine

San Diego Community College District Communications and Public Relations Office 3375 Camino del Rio South, Suite 335 San Diego, CA 92108

The San Diego Community College District is governed by its Board of Trustees. No oral or written representation is binding on the San Diego Community College District without the express written approval of the Board of Trustees.

Questions, comments? We'd love to hear from you. Email us cpr@sdccd.edu.

Board of Trustees

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

Chancellor

Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.

Presidents

Denise S. Whisenhunt, J.D. Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D. Patricia Hsieh, Ed.D. Carlos O. Turner Cortez, Ph.D.

Executive Editor

Jack Beresford Director, Communications and Public Relations

Cesar Gumapas, Publications Editor and Supervisor

Graphic Design

Brenda Manzelli, Graphic Artist and Photographer

Contributors

Campus Public Information Officers: Heidi Bunkowske Lina Heil Stephen Quis Ranessa Ashton

David Ogul, Writer

Stepping Out



Photo courtesy of Manuel Rotenberg.

San Diego Continuing Education's new César E. Chávez campus in the heart of Barrio Logan takes center stage as the starting point for Trolley Dances 2016.

The 18th annual iteration of Trolley Dances is a production of the San Diego Dance Theater and Metropolitan

Transit System, and it features some of the country's leading choreographers. Trolley Dances begins at the César E. Chávez campus on Main Street before taking audiences via the San Diego Trolley Blue Line to site-specific performances staged in stairwells, rooftops, water gardens, and other stops in the heart of downtown and the East Village.

Trolley Dances is set to run September 24 and 25, and October 1 and 2. The tour will be led by some 75 trained tour guides. More than 1,400 dancers have performed before more than 43,000 audience members since Trolley Dances began in 1999.

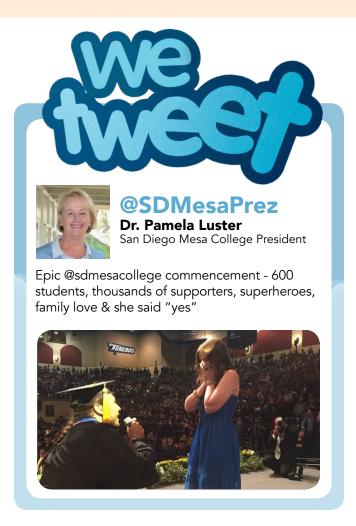
Running Smoothly

San Diego Miramar College's General Automotive Technology Program has been accredited by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF), a coveted endorsement that brings further prestige and recognition.

This is the second automotive technology program at Miramar College to secure NATEF accreditation. The Honda PACT/Toyota T-Ten program received its NATEF accreditation four years ago.

"This is great news for automotive-minded young people and their parents," said Donald Seyfer, former NATEF Chair. "Because this program increases cooperation between local education and industry leaders, it gives added assurance that Miramar College graduates will be employable, entry-level technicians. As a result of the quality education provided by Miramar College, the motoring public will benefit since better repair technicians will join the workforce."

Miramar College offers 14 different automotive technology courses.







San Diego Mesa College has a new center of campus life.

The Mesa Commons, set for an official dedication on September 14, has become the new heart and hub for students at San Diego Mesa College. Adjacent to the new Sunrise Plaza at the east entry to the campus, the 73,000-square-foot facility offers students a place to study, shop, and eat. For students in the Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program, it provides a state-of-the-art learning facility and laboratory.

On the first floor, retail and food service options include the M-Stop convenience store, the Java Jive coffee café, a two-level cafeteria with multiple menu options, and the expansive new Campus Store. Upstairs, the Culinary Outlook houses the Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program's classrooms and laboratory, along with one of the few student-run restaurants on campus. The building is also home to faculty and student lounges, conference rooms, and the college's printing and mail services and stockroom departments.

Mesa Commons is on track to earn Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. The design and construction team comprises Balfour Beatty Construction, SGPA Architecture and Planning, and The Miller Hull Partnership.

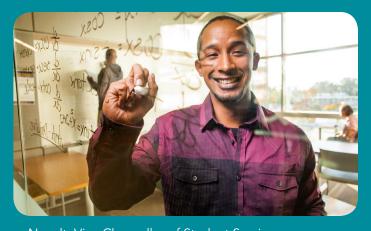
Mesa Commons will be the site of the October 7 Taste of Mesa fundraising event, which supports the Culinary Arts/Culinary Management Program. For tickets and sponsorship opportunities, visit sdmesa.edu or call (619) 388-2285.

Winter Classes

More than 100 course sessions will be available for students between the fall and spring semesters, marking the first intersession since state budget cuts prompted the SDCCD to eliminate the offering in 2009-10.

Between 6,000 and 7,000 students are expected to enroll in courses that will be available from January 3 through 27. Students will continue to pay the low cost of \$46 per unit, and can complete a three-unit class in just four weeks. Most classes meet a few hours daily.

"Intersession will be focused on high-demand courses that students need to complete their degree, and a larger proportion of the classes will be online compared to fall, spring, and summer," said Lynn



Neault, Vice Chancellor of Student Services. "An improved state budget, sound fiscal planning by the Board of Trustees, and growing student demand allowed the District to reinstitute intersession this year," Neault said.





Innovating in the District

Students registering for their classes in the new semester that began August 22 found an array of new degrees, certificates, and classes to choose from.

Among the new programs at City College is a Manufacturing Engineering Technology class that provides students with the skills to build their own electric guitars. The program is aimed at helping students to become highly-skilled manufacturing engineering technicians.

"We're really excited about these guitar-building classes, as they provide yet another way for us to differentiate City College as a forward-thinking and innovative institution," said Interim President Denise S. Whisenhunt. "No other STEM classes end up in a jam session."

Mesa College — which officially opens a new center of campus life with a September dedication of its Mesa Commons — is offering a new Certificate of Achievement and a new Associate of Science Degree in Event Management.

Miramar College's new programs include a Personal Financial Management course to help students understand the many important aspects of and strategies for successful money management.

We're No. 1!

It's official. San Diego Mesa College is No. 1 in the state when it comes to conferring Associate Degrees for Transfer to the California State University system, the largest four-year public university system in the country.

Mesa conferred 691 Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) in 2014-15, ranking it first among the 113 California Community Colleges in terms of ADT production. Mesa College grew ADT production by 367 degrees from the 2013-14 academic year — an increase of 113 percent and the largest numeric increase of all community colleges in the state.

In 2014-15, the most recent year for which data is available, Mesa transferred 681 students to the California State University system. Mesa was honored as a Champion of Excellence in Transfer by the Campaign for College Opportunity for its achievements.

"It's an honor to be recognized for our efforts to increase transfer pathways and degree completion," Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster said. "This reflects the effort and dedication of faculty and staff in both our student services and instructional divisions, and underscores our efforts to be the leading college of equity and excellence."





aría del Mar Hinojosa enrolled at San Diego Continuing Education to learn how to sew. Now she's stitching together a successful business through her Liberty Station clothing store tailored for the flamenco scene.

"The initial objective was to learn how to sew so I could make my own skirts for flamenco dancing," said Hinojosa, who began her formal flamenco training some 25 years ago and has been teaching the dance form for the past 18. "Flamenco skirts are expensive and there are not really a lot of places here where you can buy them. After I took my first class, I liked it so much and I was learning so much, I just wanted to learn more. So I kept taking classes. I wanted to learn everything."

Within a year, Hinojosa had earned a certificate in Sewn Product Business. In January, she opened The Pure Flamenco Store, a store offering mantones, mantoncillos, flecos, skirts, and more that were stitched together by Hinojosa, who also offers flamenco classes in a nearby studio. She also sells shoes from Spain and other flamenco paraphernalia.

"It's going better than I expected," she said. "The business has been doing great since we opened and we've been adding more products."

Her success has attracted admirers along the way.

"María came to Continuing Education with the full purpose of expanding her knowledge," said Jeanne Reith, who was among Hinojosa's instructors. "When María saw what she was capable of producing, she became more and more inspired. Her dream took shape and she stepped forward and embraced it."

Hinojosa's journey began in Monterrey, Mexico, where she grew up and began studying flamenco while earning a college degree and launching a career as an architect and urban designer for Casas Javer, a planned community development firm. She later tired of the work, though, and used her entrepreneurial skills to open her own stationery business. Her future changed when she married a software developer from Connecticut and the couple settled on moving to San Diego.

That's when Hinojosa decided it was time to learn how to sew. Hinojosa's inspiration to take sewing classes at Continuing Education's West City Campus came from her mother, who long ago had enrolled in community college courses while living in Houston. "She told me to look at the community colleges in the area," Hinojosa said.

Among the courses she completed at Continuing Education's West City Campus: Tailoring (both classic and contemporary); Fundamentals of Pattern Making; Sewing Fundamentals; and Sewing like a Professional.

Hinojosa, who lives in University City, said she met people from a variety of backgrounds enrolled in the sewing courses.

"I found a lot of people who were not happy with their job or what they were doing and maybe wanted to take their hobby and turn it into a career," she said. "And I found a lot of people who were just kind of bored and wanted to learn something new and make new friends."

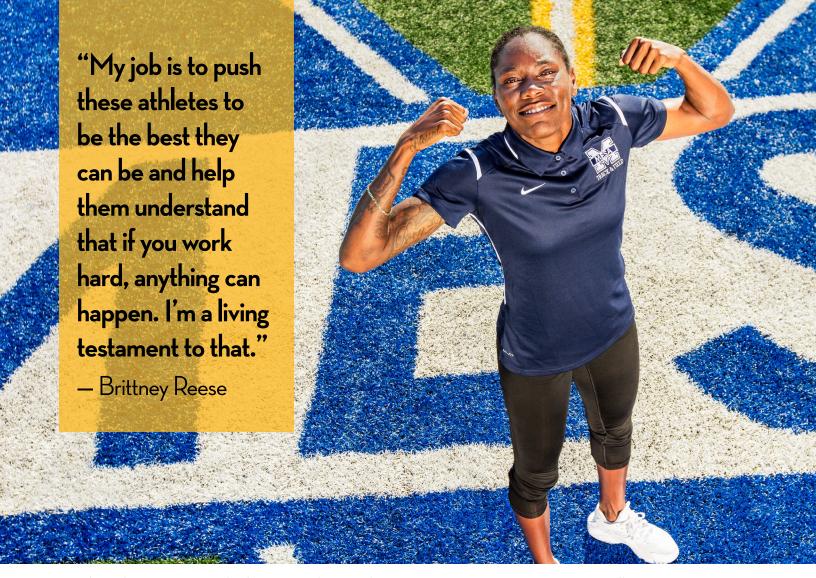






Jumping Ahead at Mesa College

Brittney Reese is a six-time USA Track & Field Outdoor Women's Champion in the long jump, a three-time World Outdoor Champion, a three-time World Indoor Champion, the indoor American record holder, the 2012 Olympic Games gold medalist, and the 2016 Olympic Games silver medalist.



Oh, and Brittney Reese also happens to be a track coach at San Diego Mesa College.

"I love it here," said Reese, 29, who came three-quarters of an inch short of winning a second consecutive gold medal at the recently completed Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro. "Mesa is a great place to be. The campus is beautiful. We have one of the best community college programs anywhere. This has to be among the top community college coaching staffs in the world. I wouldn't want to work anywhere else."

Reese underscores the commitment Mesa College has in setting a standard of excellence, said Renee Ross, Head Coach of Mesa's Men's and Women's Track and Field Program.

"We work very hard to get nothing but top-notch coaches in our program," Ross said. "A lot of people think that just because someone has an incredible background as an athlete, they're automatically going to know how to coach, but that's just not true. In Brittney's case, not only is she a phenomenal athlete, an Olympian with so many U.S. and world records, but she's also a phenomenal coach."

Brittney's journey to Mesa College was a circuitous

Born in Inglewood, California, and raised in Gulfport, Mississippi, Reese dreamed of becoming a professional basketball player before her future took a turn while she was a high school junior. The track coach, in search of a long jumper, marched the girls basketball team onto the field, pulled out an ice-cold Coca-Cola on a muggy Mississippi afternoon, and said "...whoever jumped the farthest would win the bottle of Coke."

"I was thirsty," Reese said. "I had never jumped before, but I wanted that Coke."

Mission accomplished. Reese jumped 16 feet. In basketball shoes. Reese, who had been competing in the high jump and 400-meter dash, had found a new sport in which to excel. She would be named Mississippi's 2004 Gatorade Player of the Year for track and field and enroll at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College before accepting a track and field scholarship to the University of Mississippi.



Reese made the U.S. Olympic Team in 2008 and finished fifth at the Summer Games in Beijing. From 2009 to 2013, she was the No. 1-ranked long jumper in the world. A hip injury during a 2013 competition set her back and caused her to ponder retirement, but this year, Brittney re-established her place as the best women's long jumper in the world and made the U.S. Olympic team for the third time.

Reese jumped into coaching three years ago when she heard that Ross was looking for part-time help. Reese, who lives in Chula Vista, spent her first year as a high jump coach, her second year as a triple jump coach, and her third year as a sprints coach.

What are the ingredients of a good coach?

"You have to be able to listen," Reese said. "A lot of these kids are looking for a mentor. You need to be a true role model."

"Being able to connect with students is among Reese's strengths as a coach," Ross said. "She takes time with the athletes to not only train them, but to also get to know them individually, to get to know them as people, to help develop them into wellrounded individuals."

Reese, who home schools an adopted 8-year-old son, speaks from experience. She says the reason she attended Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College before moving on to Ole Miss is because she didn't have the same commitment in class as she did in sports while in high school.

Reese said she makes one thing clear to anyone who walks onto the track at Mesa College.

"You've got to be a student first. You have to take care of business in the classroom before you can take care of business on the track. We take being a student very seriously over here."

In Locus

A look at City College's Photography Program

Cynthia Sinclair had established herself in careers as both a nurse and an attorney before she decided to pursue her true passion and dive into photography. A graduate of the Photography program at San Diego City College, Sinclair today is among the region's most respected sailing photographers and her business, Cynthia Sinclair Photography, has been hired to shoot everything from the recent College Sailing Championships in San Diego to events for the St. Francis Yacht Club in San Francisco.

"I really didn't have any experience as a photographer before I started taking classes at City, but I decided it was time to go for it," Sinclair said. "I found a supportive atmosphere, the price was right, the teachers were fantastic, and the equipment was excellent. It's just a phenomenal program that taught me so much about things like composition, lighting, editing, and understanding what your equipment can do and what your lens can do."

Sinclair is not the only person who feels that way. Thanks to top-notch facilities and certificate and associate degree programs designed to provide the technical skills needed to thrive in the profession, graduates are flourishing.





"Our responsibility is to create professional-grade photographers, and we're doing an excellent job at meeting our responsibility," Professor David King said.

The program's modern digs don't hurt. Part of being the best means having the most advanced tools of the trade, including 30,000 square feet of darkrooms, digital labs, studios, and the Luxe Photography Gallery, all housed in the recently built, \$72.5 million Career Technology Center on 16th and C streets in San Diego's East Village.

"You're not going to find studios like what we have here at any other community college," King said. "You're not going to find a gallery like this. You're not going to find computerized classrooms like this. You're not going to find the kind of gear that students can check out like this."

Photography Professor David Eichinger said City College facilities have a reputation for excellence around the country.

"We've had professors from coast to coast tour our facilities and I haven't had one yet leave without saying this is the finest they've seen anywhere," Eichinger said.

"A focus on fundamentals is another strength," said Walter Wilson, a former student whose La Jolla-based business, Walter Wilson Studios Inc., shoots weddings around the world and has been retained by the likes of Rubio's restaurants, Jack in the Box, Nike, and Home Depot.

"

Anyone can take a nice photo, but when you have a solid grasp of the fundamentals, you're prepared to deal with situations that are less than ideal. You can take photos in bad conditions and make them look good. You can navigate through certain problems that are bound to come up.

- Walter Wilson, former student



All students begin by taking Photo 100, an entrylevel darkroom class that underscores the roots of the trade, including shutter speeds and f/stops. Other beginning courses can include Introduction to Black & White Photography, Photographic Composition & Design, and History of Photography before moving into the more advanced Digital Imaging/Adobe Lightroom, Photographic Lighting Techniques, Advanced Digital Photography, and Photographic Styling. The program offers nearly 50 courses in all.

The curriculum also covers the business side with an emphasis on branding, marketing, and advertising. Gallery and Exhibition Techniques, Photographic Exhibition & Curatorial, and Photographic Portfolio are also included in the menu of options.

"That's key," Wilson said. "About 6 percent of what I do involves photography. The other 94 percent involves running a business."

Veterans of the program such as Wilson are its biggest boosters.

"Everything in that program is state-of-the-art," Wilson said. "It's going to cost you \$100,000 or more to find a private program that is comparable to what City College is offering."

And at just \$46 per unit, courses at City College are less than \$140. King calls it "the deal of a lifetime."

"We want our students to be the best," King said. "In the end, the only thing that matters is the quality of the student when they leave here and start working in the profession."

Do you want to learn more about the photography program at City College? Watch them in action at youtube.com/thesdccd.







In this case the teachers — many wearing City College polo shirts and lab coats — include 26 instructors assigned to the Center for Surface Combat Systems Unit Great Lakes. Instead of English, mathematics, and sciences, they teach classes in electronics, radar systems, communication systems, weapon systems, basic seamanship, firearms, and much more. Their students are sailors — many having just completed boot camp on the other side of the base — who are receiving advanced training at the Center for Surface Combat Systems before being assigned to the fleet.

City College, where the SDCCD Military Education division resides, has contracted with the combat systems center for 25 years. More recently, City College was invited to partner with Lockheed Martin when the U.S. Navy decided to consolidate several contracts into one.

"We provide subject matter experts who can share their experience with the students," said SDCCD Vice Chancellor of Instructional Services Stephanie Bulger.

"All of our instructors have experience in the Navy, at sea, and with the equipment. It's more cost-effective and efficient for the Navy to use our highly trained instructors rather than using active-duty sailors."

The Contract Training Manager (CTM) for the Combat Systems contract is Darrell Himmelspach, more commonly known on the base as "Spock," who manages the program with Instructor Leader Mark Rickey.

Naval Station Great Lakes is one of four military bases where the SDCCD provides instruction. An extension of the District's service mission, the SDCCD Military Education Program currently serves 15,407 Army, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel in four states.

The largest operation is at Great Lakes. Built in 1911, the base continues to play a key role in preparing sailors for sea duty. The base is the Navy's largest training installation and home to the service's only boot camp. The historic base has 1,153 buildings situated on 1,628 acres with 50 miles of roadway connecting various facilities.



Approximately 40,000 recruits pass through Great Lakes' Recruit Training Command annually, with an estimated 7,000 recruits on board the installation at any time.

At the Center for Surface Combat Systems, sailors benefit from state-of-the-art facilities such as the Shipboard Information Training and Entertainment Lab, USS Whitehat shipboard trainer, and Radar and Communications Lab, where they learn the fundamentals and repair of shipboard radar and communication systems. In the Surface Vessel Torpedo Tubes Lab, sailors get training on how modern torpedoes are handled and fired. In the Fire Arms Training Simulator (FATS), they learn to handle a variety of handguns, rifles, and machine guns.

"We are proud to offer high-quality training experiences for active military personnel at the Naval Station Great Lakes. SDCCD's City College is well-known for its Military Education Program through partnerships with the Navy. Its location in San Diego is perfect for offering this type of programming because it is in keeping with our mission of service to the active-duty military and veterans in our local community and beyond."

 Stephanie Bulger, Vice Chancellor of Instructional Services





SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE



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

Patrick and Patrice Reaching Out to Students

Innovation and education don't always co-exist, but when it comes to out-of-the-box thinking, San Diego City College has found a winner in the form of two Nao robots, 18-inch Patrick and his slightly taller sister Patrice. Patrick and Patrice are outreach ambassadors working to increase interest in computer programming among high school students — especially women and minorities — and for in-class demonstrations.

"Patrick has been a real hit everywhere he's gone," said Theresa Savarese, professor of Computer Business Technology, who along with Dr. Leroy Brady, professor of Business, has taken the robot on the road to entertain and engage prospective students. "At our college convocation, he delighted the faculty and staff with his dancing and sharing with the group that he wanted to be the president of City College."

Doing Something Different

Rose LaMuraglia, dean of the School of Business, Information Technology, and Cosmetology, learned about the robots at a conference last year and immediately saw their application at City College. Once a student of computer programming, LaMuraglia was surprised to learn during class visits that not much had changed over the years.

"The traditional goal when teaching programming was to display 'hello' on the screen," LaMuraglia said. "I was amazed that 27 years later, the goal was the same. I thought, there must be something else we can do."

When she saw a demonstration featuring the robots, which are made by Aldebaran, a French robotics company, she knew they could be that "something else." She knew these unique robots would entice students toward computer programing so much more than a static word on a screen, and they could be great marketing tools, too.



"I took a chance and applied for a small grant, using the funds to buy one red and one blue robot," LaMuraglia said. "We named the red one Patrick to honor Patrick Mahoney, a long-time Computer Information Systems (CIS) professor who recently passed away."

Out and About

Patrick's early field trips have included visits to local high schools and San Diego Continuing Education's Educational Cultural Complex, which offers free classes. The charming humanoids bring smiles to students' faces and many of their eyes light up when they see how they can be programmed. They walk, talk, and dance.

"If Patrick and Patrice can motivate one person at a time to be excited about learning to program, they will be doing their job," LaMuraglia said. "We especially hope the robots can interest women and minorities in computer programming, as they are quite underrepresented in the field."

From the basics of humanoid robots to the complex areas of driverless cars, keyless locks, and cashless banking, computer programmers are directing our future. City College's Information Technology classes help students understand the endless career possibilities that emanate from their computer keyboard. Visit www.sdcity.edu/ ComputerInformationSystems for more information, and follow Patrick on Twitter, @PatrickSDCC.

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

New Degree Picks Up the PACE



Eight of San Diego's top student entrepreneurs competed for \$7,500 in prizes earlier this year in the final round of the idea2innovate (i2i) idea competition, the brainchild of Howard Eskew, business professor. The judges included Todd Lane, president and CEO of California Coast Credit Union; Maria Hughes, lead lender relations specialist and Veterans Affairs Officer of the U.S. Small Business Administration; Jim Fitzsimmons, consultant and certified business coach of SCORE; Tina Ngo Bartel, director of Business Programs and Research at the San Diego Workforce Partnership; and Rosalinda Delgado, loan officer at ACCION.

Working adults who want to earn a college degree should look into a new business degree program that launches this fall at San Diego Mesa College. The program offers convenient class times, and puts enrolled students on a sequential path that enables them to complete their degree in three years — and gives them priority admission status to the California State University system.

The Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) in Business is the first to be offered under the college's new Pathways for Accelerated College Education, or PACE program.

"This is a fast, convenient, and affordable solution tailored to busy, working adults," Mesa President Pamela T. Luster said. "Every element of the PACE program adapts to a career schedule and lifestyle, so that working students can balance work and family while earning a college degree to advance their career."

The PACE format is designed with the working and non-traditional student in mind. Students will take no more than two classes at a time, with eightweek courses offered in the evening, online only, or in a hybrid format that combines online and in-class instruction.

Other benefits of PACE include guaranteed class placement; guaranteed classes (no cancellations); online and evening counseling and support services; and meet, greet, and learn events. The cohort model engages a tight-knit learning community of students, who stay together throughout their entire academic program.

"The School of Business and Technology jumped at the chance to be the first to offer the accelerated degree," said Dean Danene Brown, who added that the school has been working on a number of initiatives to partner with local businesses on internships, work experience opportunities, and a new entrepreneurial certificate.

"PACE is a great example of how we, as educators, can tailor our traditional programs to meet the demands of today's students and workforce," Brown said.

The ADT degree fulfills the general requirements for transfer to a California State University. Students with this degree will receive priority admission with junior status to the California State University system.

The college has plans to launch similar accelerated programs targeted to working adults in the future. More information can be found at www.sdmesa.edu/pace.



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

Aspiring Firefighters Put to the Test

The first few steps for any aspiring firefighter can now officially be taken at San Diego Miramar College. Before one can even apply for a position anywhere in the state, a recruit must pass the arduous Candidate Physical Ability Test (CPAT).

The rigorous test measures a candidate's capabilities in the following areas: stair climb, hose drag, equipment carry, ladder raise, forcible entry, search, rescue, and ceiling breach and pull. Pass the challenges in the allotted time and one can proceed with an application. Through CPAT, firefighting candidates can take written and physical ability testing and be certified for hiring eligibility at departments throughout the state.

Twice a month, candidates descend on Miramar's state-of-the-art Fire Technology and Emergency Medical Technology facility to undergo testing. There is also a practice and orientation session held two weeks before testing. The cost of the test is \$150.

A \$44,000 Neighborhood Reinvestment Program Grant, provided by the County of San Diego, helped provide the necessary infrastructure for the college to become the State of California's fourth testing site. Previously, firefighter candidates had to travel to Orange County, the Bay Area, or Sacramento to undergo their mandatory CPAT training. The agency that administers the CPAT examinations is the Firefighter Candidate Testing Center (FCTC) and not the college.

San Diego Fire Chief Brian Fennessy, who graduated from the October 1990 Miramar College Fire Academy, believes in the importance of having a testing site in San Diego County. "We are always looking for new recruits," Fennessy said. "It will be much easier now that this training facility is open here at Miramar College. The certifications firefighters can receive here can help aspiring firefighters compete for positions in San Diego County as opposed to neighboring counties. That is good for us and it is good for public safety."

"Since our county has such a high fire threat, it's imperative that we have the most advanced facility and resources to protect and train our firefighters," County Supervisor Dave Roberts said. "That is why in 2014, I recommended an initial county grant to fund specialized equipment for the Miramar College Fire Technology Program. These enhancements have allowed us to bring the CPAT testing center to San Diego County."

The new, \$16 million firefighting and EMT training facility at Miramar College opened in fall 2014, and includes a five-story rappelling tower, command simulators, a roof prop for cutting ventilation holes, and classroom space. The facility was paid for through Proposition N funds.



Carlos O. Turner Cortez, Ph.D. President San Diego Continuing Education

Port of San Diego Employees Benefit from Customized Training

San Diego Continuing Education is providing a series of customized training classes to the Port of San Diego through a new contract relationship with the Employee Training Institute (ETi). ETi provides customized workforce training to businesses and organizations in San Diego through individual contracts based on business needs.

"The port came to us with topics they believed were important to their employees," said Cassandra Storey, director of ETi. "Then we organized a needs analysis with management from each group in order to create a training program."

Specifically, the employees in the General Services department at the Port are enrolled in the training programs. "This customized training helps employees in areas specific to their day-to-day jobs," said Marco Cromartie, director of General Services at the Port of San Diego. "It also serves as a healthy dose of motivation, which supports internal morale."

General Services is made up of five areas, and represents about 90 of the 518 total employees at the Port of San Diego. The weekly training continues every Wednesday through August, and is mandatory for employees at the Port. "We've already seen the benefit in employee engagement," said Karen Porteous, vice

president of Administration at the Port of San Diego. "Our long-term goal as an organization is to maintain a culture and environment that maximizes professional development opportunities for our employees and we're already looking into the next phase of training options."

ETi provides expertise and skill development to organizations that ultimately contribute to the economic development of the San Diego region. Training is generally offered in areas that complement programs and services within the San Diego Community College District. The customized training for the Port of San Diego is a collaboration with the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

General Services Divisions and Training Initiatives

Electrical: Safety and Training

Gardening: Water Wise Landscaping and Irrigation

Maintenance: Introduction to Lean Operations

Operators: Safety and Training

Sanitation: Hazardous Waste Management





SERVING STUDENTS

It didn't take long for Daron Woods to get involved at San Diego City College. In just his second semester at the downtown campus, Woods ran unopposed to become the new President of the Associated Students Government (ASG), and now serves as a student representative on the San Diego Community College District's Board of Trustees. Woods, 26, hails from Trinidad, is majoring in Political Science and is hoping to transfer to either UCLA or UCSD en route to a career in academia. We asked Daron a few questions about his experiences.

Q. What do you like best about City College?

I love the diversity at my school. I have met so many people with so many different experiences. This is reflected in our ASG Board and the richness of the ideas we come up with.

- Q. Why did you become involved in student government? My friend and current ASG Vice President Suma Massaley suggested I join the ASG during international student orientation. She is from Liberia and suggested that it was a good way for international students to get involved on campus. I joined because I thought that sounded like a good idea that would keep me out of trouble.
- Q. What are your goals as Associated Student President? I want to continue to advocate for students on the issues they care about most, like school fees and campus safety. I want to further develop campus life to build a stronger sense of campus community. I want to continue to help our students achieve their goals.

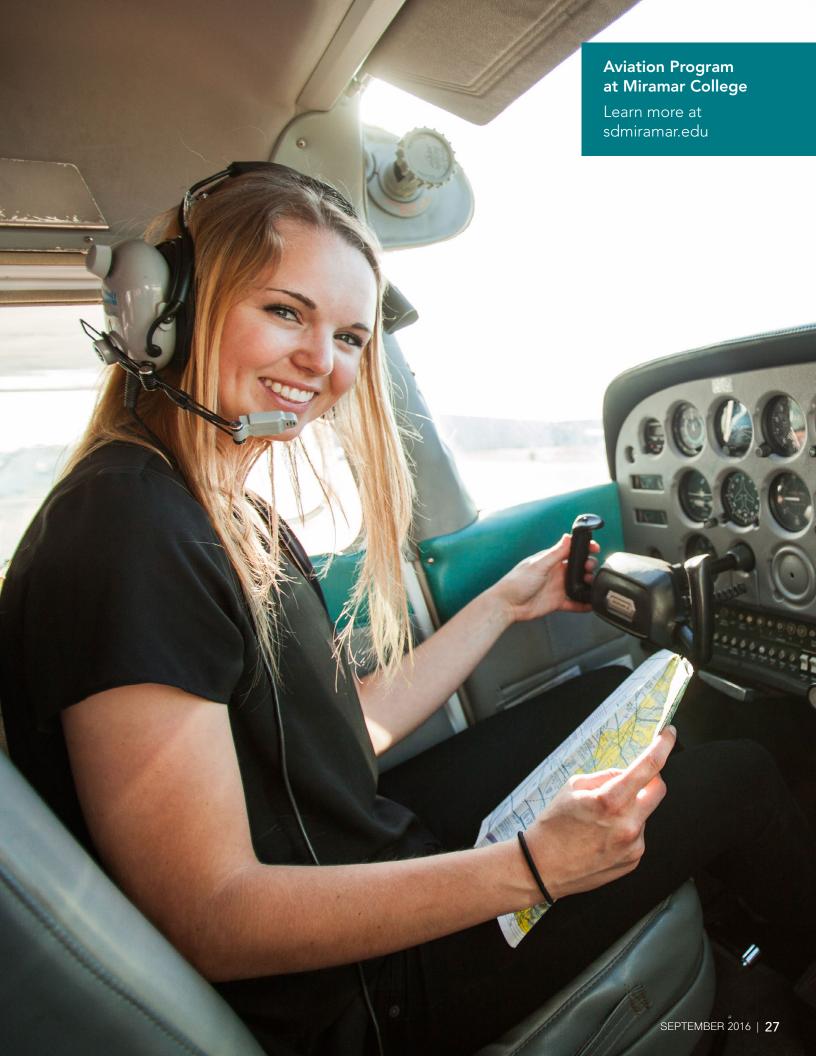
Q. What's your favorite spot on campus?

City has a lot of little parks and green spaces dotting the campus, and there is a nice one with rolling hills right near my office.

Q. How do you relax before an exam?

The only way I can relax before an exam is if I feel like I'm well prepared. I try to maintain healthy study habits and then everything usually falls into place.

Q. What are some of your favorite tunes on your playlist? "Untitled 2," Kendrick Lamar; "That Part" and "Man of the Year," Schoolboy Q; "It's a Carnival," Bunji Garlin and Major Lazer; "Disparate Youth," Santigold; "Look at Wrist," Father; "You Can't Always Get What You Want," The Rolling Stones.





3375 Camino del Rio South San Diego, CA 92108-3883

www.sdccd.edu

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube!







www.facebook.com/sdccd www.twitter.com/sdccd www.youtube.com/TheSDCCD

Free Community College An Investment in Our Future



The San Diego Promise has the potential to transform lives. You can support this effort with a tax-deductible gift.

Visit: www.sdccd.edu/promise

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

