

We



City College
Mesa College
Miramar College
Continuing Education

THINK GREEN

San Diego Mesa College wins award for
sustainability practices



THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

George Floyd. Ahmaud Arbery. Breonna Taylor. Dreasjon “Sean” Reed. Tony McDade. Elijah McClain. Philando Castile. Eric Garner. Michael Brown. Oscar Grant. Remember their names. They are but a few African Americans killed at the hands of police in recent years because of the racial injustice that is part of the legacy of slavery.

For the entirety of our nation’s history, Black lives have been devalued. For too long, our community has been demanding justice. Systemic racism exists across society



Chancellor Constance M. Carroll spoke to a crowd gathered at Mesa College’s Rosa Parks Memorial Project and Transit Center to commemorate the civil rights activist’s birthday last year. Mrs. Parks visited the campus numerous times, including in 1995 when Chancellor Carroll was President of Mesa College.

and is deeply embedded in our institutions of government, education, criminal justice, and the military. This can no longer be tolerated, and students, faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and the leadership of the San Diego Community College District are making that message clear. The Board of Trustees, in a recent resolution, stated “the District will affirm its commitment to the value of Black lives by standing in solidarity with those in the struggle to dismantle systemic and institutional racism, including that which permeates our District and the state of California’s Community

College System.”

By providing accessible and affordable educational opportunities for the African-American community, the SDCCD has long been making a difference. Indeed, San Diego City College was one of the first community colleges in the nation to establish Black Studies and Chicano Studies departments.

Examples illustrating the District’s solidarity at recent events include a City College Black Student Forum with participants expressing their feelings of hurt, anger, and fear. A San Diego Mesa College Student Services-hosted “Time to Heal, Feel and Be Real,” provided a space to discuss the impact of the senseless murder of George Floyd. Additionally, Dr. Thekima Mayasa, Chair of the Mesa College Black Studies Department, led a forum encouraging community colleges around the region to do the necessary work of inspiring dialogues on race, racism, and the calls for systemic change. San Diego Miramar College’s Diversity and International Education Committee called on all police and public safety students to complete a course in Ethnic Studies and urged the college to create an Ethnic Studies/Social Justice major, establish a Culture and Inclusion Center on campus, and appoint a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer, among other steps. And Dr. Laurie Coskey, Executive Director of the San Diego Continuing Education Foundation, joined religious leaders throughout the region in developing and distributing “An Interfaith Statement on Solidarity with the Black Community and All Who Seek Justice.”

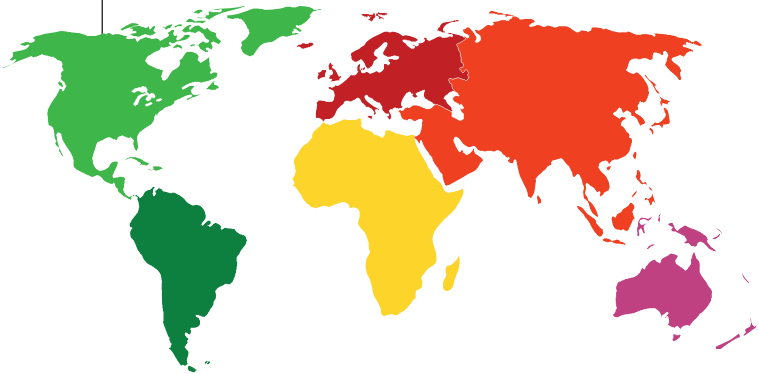
The San Diego Community College District encourages everyone to take a stand for justice and to use their voice while remembering the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: “We will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”

Constance M. Carroll

Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.

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On the cover

For its efforts to help the City of San Diego achieve a goal of Zero Waste by 2040, San Diego Mesa College was recognized with a 2020 Business Waste Reduction and Recycling Award. During 2019, Mesa College composted 16.34 tons of pre-consumer food scraps from campus cafeterias and coffee shops for use in its on-campus garden. An additional 276 tons of single-stream recyclables and 236 tons of green waste were diverted from landfills and all construction projects required 75% diversion of materials.

WHAT’S INSIDE

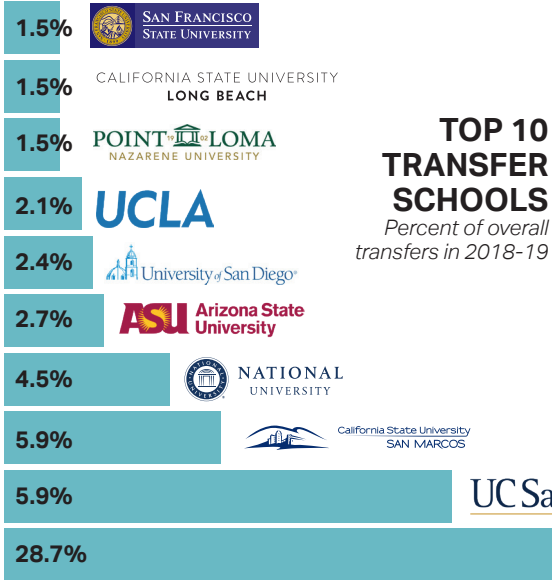
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ONWARD & UPWARD



TOP 10
TRANSFER
SCHOOLS

Percent of overall
transfers in 2018-19

The number of students transferring from the San Diego Community College District to four-year colleges and universities has been increasing steadily in each of the past five years, with approximately two-thirds going to a University of California or California State University campus, according to the most recent District analysis.

The most popular destinations include:

1. San Diego State University, where the number of transfers is up 31% over 2014-15.
2. UC San Diego, where the number of transfers is up 81% over 2014-15.
3. Cal State San Marcos, where the number of transfers is up 250% over 2014-15.
4. National University, where the number of transfers is up 30% over 2014-15.

5. Arizona State University, where the number of transfers is up 76% over 2014-15.

Rounding out the Top 10 transfer institutions in 2018-19 — the most recent year for which statistics are available — are the University of San Diego, UCLA, Point Loma Nazarene University, Cal State Long Beach, and San Francisco State University.

In total, the 4,751 students who transferred in 2018-2019 was up 38% from 2014-15, and 13% over the previous year. Growth was the most significant at Miramar College, which was up 35% over the previous year, compared to an increase of 3% at City College and 8% at Mesa College.



A LASTING PROMISE

A record number 2,045 freshmen enrolled this fall at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges through the tuition-free San Diego Promise, which has now served more than 6,200 students since it was introduced as a pilot program in fall 2016.

“When I found out about the Promise, I’m like, this is a no-brainer,” said Miramar College student Jillian Fortner. “First of all, it helps everyone financially, but also you get a community when you get into college and people are there to help and support you. You have tutors and mentors and it’s overall just a great place to meet people.”

Among the 2020-21 San Diego Promise cohort, 808 students enrolled in at least 12 units at Mesa College, 534 students enrolled in at least 12 units at Miramar College, and 494 students enrolled in at least 12 units at City College. In addition, a total of 209 students

Promise students enrolled in less than 12 units.

They join the more than 1,500 returning students starting their second year as part of the 2019-20 San Diego Promise cohort.

The San Diego Community College District launched the San Diego Promise to ensure that no deserving student is denied the opportunity to earn a college degree or certificate. Besides covering two full years of tuition-free education, the program provides textbook grants, counseling, and the kind of hands-on support that is helping students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges develop an educational plan to help them meet their career and academic goals.

A total of 121 San Diego Promise students graduated with the Class of 2020, and many are now enrolled at some of the top universities in the country.



The San Diego Promise has served more than 6,200 students, including Miramar College student Jillian Fortner, who praised the program for the community it provides.

Mesa College studio arts student Sora Gallagher interned with A Reason to Survive (ARTS), where she worked to help preserve artwork created around San Diego as a result of recent civil rights protests.

INTERNSHIP PROJECT HELPS PRESERVE A MOVEMENT

Mesa College student Sora Gallagher is part of an effort to memorialize a movement.

Gallagher, a 25-year-old studio arts major planning to transfer to UC San Diego this fall, has been interning with National City-based A Reason to Survive (ARTS), which is working with the Balboa Arts Conservation Center in Balboa Park to preserve protest art created during the Black Lives Matter movement immediately after the May 25 slaying of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

“It’s been impressive to me how

creative people have been,” Gallagher said. “I’ve seen a surfboard with a list of names of Black people who have been murdered. I’ve seen portraits that are more than just pictures on a number of different mediums that are beautiful but really sad at the same time. It’s important to preserve history, and this is a way of remembering the people who have lost their lives.”

The project is part of the Balboa Art Conservation Center’s Preserve Community Art! initiative, which is committed

to ensuring protest works can be accessed by the community for future conversations. Art is being considered on a case-by-case basis and ranges from the more ephemeral, such as Instagram and TikTok posts, to the more enduring, such as portraits on plywood.

Gallagher’s role includes contacting artists and organizations to see if they have or know of anything that can be preserved. Not all pieces are related to the Black Lives Matter

movement. The Preserve Community Art! initiative also is interested in conserving items related to the Kumeyaay protests regarding border wall construction and the outrage over the manner in which children of immigrants are treated by federal agents.

Gallagher, who would like to become a museum or gallery director, says the initiative is fueling her commitment to dismantling museum management from a White perspective.



CONNECTING AT THE JACOBS CENTER

CONNECT ALL @ the Jacobs Center (CAJC) is working to generate employment opportunities by training entrepreneurs, and to help get the job done the organization has partnered with the San Diego Community College District's Corporate Council.

"We are grateful to be part of the Corporate Council because we see it as vital in forging connections to create access and provide resources that can be leveraged by people along their journey to entrepreneurship," CAJC Director Alex Waters said.

CAJC is headquartered at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation in the Diamond Neighborhoods in southeastern San Diego. The organization houses a

4,300-square-foot, co-working facility and is focused on supporting startups and entrepreneurs in diverse, oft-ignored, low- and moderate-income

communities. Its Business Accelerator provides tools to help innovators scale quickly, including expert mentoring, weekly workshops, a community of fellow entrepreneurs, and assistance in learning about different types of capital. CAJC's Business Resource Center provides a space where aspiring entrepreneurs and established small business professionals alike can connect to learn about services and support pro-



The CONNECT ALL Business Accelerator space allows for open collaboration among participants.

grams to move ideas and businesses forward.

In return for receiving no-cost business acceleration services and up to six months of free access to co-working space, founders — as their businesses grow — commit to hiring low- to moderate-income San Diego residents for the jobs that are created.

CAJC launched its first cohort of 13 teams totaling 22 entrepreneurs in April 2019 and a second cohort of 14 teams totaling 17 people the following October. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the CAJC shifted completely to a virtual program for its third cohort and welcomed 14 teams. Some businesses have taken the lessons learned to boost capital, increase revenue, and grow their staffing, Waters said. Among the businesses taking part to date are PromoDrone, which employs drones for advertising campaigns; Access

Trax, which develops mats providing universal access for people using mobility devices, including strollers on beaches; and DocFully, which brings telehealth services to the homeless and underserved.

Raised in Prince George's County, Maryland, and a graduate of the University of Maryland, Waters first came to San Diego to earn his master's degree in philosophy from San Diego State University. After launching his career in Maryland with 2U, an educational technology startup that contracts with colleges and universities to offer online degree programs, he returned to San Diego several years later and launched an education

tech startup. He worked as a consultant with the UC San Diego Design Lab and served as the Program Director at the Downtown San Diego Partnership's Collaboratory for Downtown Innovation. He also teaches at the University of San Diego's Professional & Continuing Education program and serves as a coach with other leadership development firms. He came to CAJC in December 2018 with a mission to grow the program.

"The end goal is job creation," Waters said, "and we can reach that goal by working together with the San Diego Community College District and the Corporate Council."

CAJC is a strategic partnership between the City of San Diego, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation and CONNECT. This program is funded in whole or in part with Community Development Block Grant program funds provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to the City of San Diego. Private funding is also provided by partners MUFG Union Bank N.A. and bkm OfficeWorks.

COPING WITH THE PANDEMIC

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic prompted San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges and San Diego Continuing Education to hold the winter intersession entirely online and move forward with remote-learning platforms at least through the spring.

Science labs and other hard-to-convert classes are the exception. Just 92 of more than 5,000 fall classes were held on campus, and health protocols such as temperature checks, physical distancing, and mask requirements will continue for any in-person spring classes.

All decisions are being governed first and foremost with the health and

safety of students, faculty, and classified professional staff in mind.

"The Board of Trustees, the Presidents, the Chancellor's Cabinet, the governance leaders, and I are continuing to monitor this overall situation, which is lately seeing a surge in COVID-19 cases," Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said in a COVID-19 communication at the end of October. "We are trying to make the best judgment calls possible during this evolving crisis."

Faculty's continuing efforts to provide online instruction, along with the efforts by classified professionals, supervisors, and administrators, have

eased the transition. Campuses have hosted student forums, Welcome Week, and summer Jump Start events via Zoom, moved support services online, and distributed critical Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to students affected by the pandemic's impacts.

Challenges, however, remain. Recent surveys, for example, reveal San Diego Community College District students are facing overwhelming needs caused by the pandemic, including job losses that are making it more difficult to afford rent and a lack of computer and internet access for classes



Students who are part of Mesa College's culinary arts program have resumed some in-person classes, but are required to follow safety protocols, including wearing a mask, when on campus.

that transitioned online. "Some people are really struggling financially and are leaving college or at least thinking about leaving college," said Mesa College student Darien Duong, who, despite the challenges, has resolved to complete his studies,

earn an associate degree in radiology, and embark on a career as a radiologic technician. "You have to be persistent; you have to stay committed and keep your focus. You can't underestimate the value of a good education if you want to get a good job."

A RETURN ON INVESTMENT

The San Diego Community College District's economic impact reached \$4.1 billion in the 2019-20 fiscal year, an amount that is enough to support nearly 42,000 jobs — or nearly 1 in every 52 — in the county, a new study shows.

The report, released in December by Idaho-based labor market analytics firm Emsi, notes the \$4.1 billion in additional income created by the SDCCD is equal to approximately 1.6% of San Diego County's gross regional product, a figure that is nearly as large as the area's entire arts, entertainment, and recreation industry.

Among the report's highlights:

- The accumulated impact of former students who are now employed in the San Diego County workforce amounted to \$3.5 billion.
- The SDCCD spent \$331.7 million on payroll and benefits to 5,400 full- and part-time faculty and professional staff in the 2019-20 academic year, 97% of whom live in San Diego County.
- Taxpayers provided \$457.6 million

**\$4.1
BILLION**
Impact on the local economy
generated by the San Diego
Community College District

in state and local funding to the SDCCD during the fiscal year, an investment that will yield \$568.1 million in added tax revenue from students' higher lifetime earnings and increased business output. When combined with the estimated \$85.3 million savings from lower government-funded social services, taxpayers are receiving an average return of \$1.40 for every \$1 invested in the SDCCD.

The Emsi study relied on a wide variety of data, including academic and financial reports from the SDCCD, industry and employment figures from the Bureau of Labor Statistics and the U.S. Census Bureau, and a variety of published works relating to social behavior.



AND THE AWARD GOES TO...

The San Diego Mesa College Fine Arts & Dramatic Arts building renovation, a \$14.8 million project that houses the college's art gallery and more, was given an Orchid Award for serving "as a gateway to the campus and landmark to create a strong connection for the Mesa College Art Department to the greater San Diego art community."

A BEACON OF HOPE

STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD SHARE STORIES OF HOW THEY FOUND THEIR PATH

SAYEH DEHESTANI: A REFUGEE FINDS A HOME

Abandoned as a toddler on a busy Tehran thoroughfare, married off as a child to an abusive husband, left with traumatic injuries after a fall from a building, Sayeh Dehestani had suffered through unimaginable tragedy and had little hope for a better life when she landed in the United States as a refugee at the age of 28.

That all changed when she found Miramar College.

"I didn't really know what I was doing, I was in a foreign country, I was a single parent living in a cheap hotel," Dehestani recalled. "I wanted to study business because of my disability. I remember it was raining, and when I came to the K Building, I saw a sign in the building that said, 'Welcome to Miramar College. Your Dreams Start Here.' I just felt like the light was turned on, that my life was changing."

Indeed, it had. Dehestani, whose first name means "Shadow" in Persian, would no longer live a life shrouded by darkness.

With the support and encouragement from people such as Student Assistance Technician Sam Shoostary and English Professor Sheryl Gobble, Dehestani would blossom, serving a number of posts with the Miramar College Associated Student Government and becoming a Miramar College delegate for Region X of the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges. A 4.0 student and member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Dehestani secured more than three dozen scholarships at Miramar College and was accepted to every University of California and California State University campus she applied to.

She graduated with eight certificates and two associate degrees and transferred this past fall to UC San Diego to study fine arts with hopes of becoming an arts educator.

"Sayeh was in real bad shape when she came here, you could tell she was suffering from PTSD," said Shoostary, who speaks Persian and whose fluency with the language put Dehestani at ease when she stopped into the EOPS/CalWORKS/CARE office her first day at Miramar. "She told me an absolutely heartbreaking story, but it is a story we hear so often from so many of our students who are refugees or undocumented immi-

grants. When students like Sayeh come to Miramar, we provide them with all the help and all the services we can, and to see her progress over the years has been wonderful and rewarding."

Said Sayeh: "I was nothing when I came to Miramar College. I was a broken woman. But here is where I found myself. I found people who cared. I found inspiration from other students. I found I didn't have to be a prisoner of my past."

"I JUST FELT LIKE THE LIGHT WAS TURNED ON,
THAT MY LIFE WAS CHANGING."



From its unwavering support of Dreamers protected by the embattled Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to joining a lawsuit successfully challenging the federal government's attempts at excluding immigrants and international students from grants to help them cope with the COVID-19 crisis, the San Diego Community College District has taken swift and direct action in support of students and other residents who want nothing more than to pursue their education.

Among the innovative programs the District recently launched is a pilot initiative at San Diego City and San Diego Mesa colleges offering free legal services and confidential consultations covering immigration-related topics. These efforts complement the District's many existing programs in support of immigrants, perhaps none more important than the free citizenship classes offered through San Diego Continuing Education.

Too often, the debate about refugees and immigration status is focused on the macro level. Too often, the personal stories of those reaching the doors of the District's campuses are forgotten.

The stories of Sayeh Dehestani, Jerusalem Davila, Narae Kim, and Gabriel Souza are just four of those students overcoming the odds in order to earn an education through the SDCCD and beyond.

JERUSALEN DAVILA: A DREAMER WITH A FUTURE

Jerusalem Davila was brought to the United States when she was just a year old after her parents determined that the pueblo they called home not far from Mexico City was not where they wanted to raise a family.

"I kind of always knew I wasn't born here, but I didn't really understand what it meant until I was a junior in high school and people were starting to talk about going to college," Davila said. "You realize that your educational path is going to be more challenging and your opportunities are going to be more limited."

Davila's opportunities were anything but limited at City College. A first-generation college student from City Heights who graduated from Hoover High School, Davila came to City College through the tuition-free San Diego Promise program and quickly involved herself with the Puente Project, Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), First Year Services, and the Dreamer Resource Center. She took part in the Price Scholarship Program, joined the Honors Program, and was named to the Dean's List all three years she was at the downtown campus.

She couldn't have found a more supportive environment. Davila graduated with a 3.9 grade point average and transferred to UC Berkeley with an associate degree in sociology and plans for a career in counseling and social justice.

"Being part of the college community and being involved with the different clubs and organizations makes a difference and provides you with a support network. You can't be afraid to reach out. You really have to make the most of your experience. City College has definitely shaped who I am and helped me realize my potential."

Perhaps the biggest source of support came from the SUBIR Dreamer Resource Center. "It was big," Davila said. "You have counselors who understand the struggle, who understand your needs, who help you through the financial aid process, who help you with your AB540 applications, who help you find a support system."

That support system, Davila said, included District administrators and the Board of Trustees. "It felt good knowing the District was taking action and advocating

for us," she said. "To be honest, the political environment can be a little intimidating and you realize that at any moment, your situation could change. It makes you feel safer knowing that the administration is looking out for you."

"CITY COLLEGE HAS DEFINITELY SHAPED
WHO I AM AND HELPED ME REALIZE MY POTENTIAL"



NARAE KIM: LIFE AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

Almost as soon as South Korean international student Narae Kim enrolled at Mesa College, her status as an international student was placed in limbo. Mesa College, like every other community college in California, had moved to virtual learning with all of its classes moving online in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the same time, the Trump administration had just issued a policy directive requiring international students to take at least some in-person coursework in order to remain in the United States.

"It was very scary, actually," said Kim, 27. "But Mesa College reached out right away and said, 'Don't worry about it, we're going to take care of everything.' It made a big difference and it put me at ease."

Less than two weeks after issuing the edict, the Trump administration rescinded its directive. "The whole experience just showed me how much Mesa College cares about and supports its students," Kim said. "It has been a very welcoming experience."

Even without in-person classes, Kim has been motivated to become involved. The business administration student is involved with Mesa College Associated Students, takes part in virtual meetings with other international students every Wednesday, and has signed up for various employment workshops.

"This is my first semester at Mesa College, so I can't really compare the online classes with in-person classes, but so far I'm pretty satisfied," she said.

Kim hadn't even heard of Mesa College when she left her hometown of Seoul more than six years ago for a San Diego-based undergraduate program at what turned out to be an unaccredited private school. The school would later close down, prompting Kim to enroll in a small, private academy, with a goal of earning a bachelor's degree. Her boyfriend, however, encouraged Kim to enroll at Mesa College, which last year had students from 17 different countries in its graduating class.

"I knew Mesa College had a large number of students who transfer each year, and my goal was to transfer, so it appealed to me," said Kim, who began taking classes this fall.

She hasn't been disappointed. "The International Student program's orientation is very well organized and very well prepared," Kim said. "They review everything, health insurance, your visa, transfer opportunities, student life. And they give you an opportunity to meet with an advisor to help you choose your classes. There also are a lot of diversity programs, a lot of opportunities for meet-and-greets among diverse students and diverse student groups. I really like it here."

Kim is planning to transfer to San Diego State University and earn a bachelor's degree in business administration.

"THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE JUST SHOWED ME HOW MUCH MESA COLLEGE CARES ABOUT AND SUPPORTS ITS STUDENTS."



"IT ALL STARTED AT CONTINUING EDUCATION. I ALWAYS FELT LIKE THEY WERE LOOKING OUT FOR ME."



GABRIEL SOUZA: AN IMMIGRANT'S STORY

Gabriel Souza knew next to nothing about the intricacies involved with California colleges and universities when he emigrated from Brazil in 2018. With the never-ending support from Continuing Education, he is now on his way toward his dream of earning a doctorate and working as a clinical psychologist.

"When I got to San Diego, I really didn't have a lot of information about how the education system here worked," Souza said. "The one thing I did know, though, was I had to improve my English to communicate better. I learned about Continuing Education's ESL classes, and so I enrolled, but as soon as I got there, I was bombarded with information about what I needed, for example, to get my GED to go to college, what I needed to get my degree, and what I needed to reach my goals. I received so much help."

Souza says the approach permeates the ranks of Continuing Education's faculty and classified professionals. He was especially impressed by the actions taken by an ESL instructor after learning about Souza's goals.

"He took me to the main office and showed me all the resources that are available. He helped me set up an ap-

pointment with a counselor, he told me about the GED program, he told me about Gateway to College, he told me about all the student resources that were available."

Indeed, Continuing Education has been supporting immigrants and refugees from around the world with services ranging from free ESL and GED courses to a free citizenship preparation program, not to mention regularly scheduled student workshops. Souza found the SDCCD shortly after arriving from Curitiba, one of the largest cities in Brazil.

Among the services that helped turn Souza's life around is Gateway to College and Career, which led to an internship at San Diego Youth Services, which led to a job at the nonprofit as a case manager. Gateway to College and Career also laid the groundwork to City College, where Souza is now enrolled thanks to the SDCCD's tuition-free San Diego Promise.

"Now that I'm in the Promise program, I have a counselor and a peer mentor and all of my professors have been accommodating and helpful," Souza said. "It all started at Continuing Education. I always felt like they were looking out for me." **WE**

Honor Roll

The District's Honors Program continues growth, increases participants from traditionally underrepresented communities

Abdullah Nejati concedes he cannot say for certain that the San Diego Community College District's Honors Program is the reason for his success as a third-year medical student at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine in Miami, but...

"What I can guarantee you is it had a huge impact on the course of my professional and academic development, especially at the most critical early stages," the Miramar College alumnus said. "The Honors Program was one of the most defining factors that allowed me to stand out when applying as a transfer student to the UC system, so much so that not only was I accepted to the University of California San Diego in 2012, but I was also awarded the prestigious transfer Regents Scholarship."

Nejati embodies an Honors Program that has also helped shape the likes of Phillip Smith, a former assistant U.S. attorney who is now a partner at a Las Vegas law practice, and City College alumnus Bryce Schierenbeck, a Senior Program Manager at Facebook who serves as Global Operations Lead for Charitable Giving.

The list is long, but just some of those molded by the Honors Program include:

- Recent Mesa College alumna Hanan Dirirsa, who won the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship and earned a full scholarship to University of California Los Angeles this past fall.
- Evan Neubauer, who, after transferring from City College to UCLA, where he earned a degree in American Literature and Culture, is now a senior recruiter for consulting giant McKinsey & Company in Seattle.
- City College alumnus Michael Roderick, who earned a bachelor's degree from UC San Diego and a law degree from Northeastern University and is currently a deputy public defender in San Diego.

- City College alumna Zulema Diaz, who earned her Ph.D. from UC San Diego and is currently a full-time English professor at MiraCosta College.
- Miramar College alumna Thaimae Le, another recipient of the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship and also the Cooke Graduate Scholarship, who is earning a pair of master's degrees at Northern Arizona University, one in Educational Leadership and Administration, the other in Professional, Technical, Business, and Scientific Writing. She one day hopes to work for a community college in the Student Services Department.

"The Honors Program is one of the jewels in the crown of the San Diego Community College District," said Chancellor Constance M. Carroll. "This is a program that challenges and motivates students to do their best, and it is succeeding by virtually every measure."

Indeed, 2,158 students at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges participated in the District's Honors Program in the 2019-20 academic year with an increasing percentage of participants from traditionally underrepresented communities (more than 72% of Honors Program participants are students of color). Honors students are outperforming their non-Honors peers in a number of academic areas, including cumulative GPA (3.38, compared to 2.83 for non-Honors counterparts), retention rates (94%, compared to 87% for non-Honors students) and success rates (85% of Honors students earned a grade of C or better in their classes, compared to 73% of

non-Honors students), according to a 2020 District analysis.

"The Honors Program allows people like me, a Navy veteran and single parent who came from a non-traditional college background and didn't do so well in high

As a Navy veteran and single parent, the Honors Program at City College helped Phillip Smith to transfer to Stanford University before moving on to Yale to earn his law degree.

"It is an invaluable experience that provides you with a foundation of excellence and confidence to achieve your dreams."

— Phillip Smith

City College and Stanford University alumnus with a 4.0 GPA before earning his law degree at Yale and serving first as a deputy district attorney and then as an assistant U.S. attorney in Las Vegas



While currently working toward double master's degrees from Northern Arizona University, Miramar College alumna Thaimae Le started working for San Diego startup IvyMay & Co. where she creates content for the company's website.

school, to be afforded the opportunity to take classes with the academic rigor needed to prepare you to go to a top four-year college or university," said Smith, who transferred from City College to Stanford University with a 4.0 GPA before earning his law degree at Yale and serving first as a deputy district attorney and then as an assistant U.S. attorney in Las Vegas. "It is an invaluable experience that provides you with a foundation of excellence and confidence to achieve your dreams."



Smith's sentiments are universal. Celeste Clerk was a returning student when she enrolled at City College in 2015 and heard about the Honors Program from her American Literature Professor, Jim Miller, whose wife, Kelly Mayhew, was the Honors Program coordinator at the college. The combination of abundant support while being academically challenged led her to Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, where she received a full-ride scholarship, earned the Newton Arvin Prize, was involved in the Steinem Initiative, and from where she graduated at the top of her class in 2019. She's now a director at Western Massachusetts Recovery Learning Community, which addresses basic needs and advocates for marginalized communities.

"There is no way I would be where I am today without the Honors Program," Clerk said. "Jim and Kelly extended a hand to me when I felt I had no one, no options, and no future. The personal, academic, and ultimately professional growth that began in their classroom imbued in me a defining sense of optimism and social responsibility for others. Jim and Kelly and everyone else involved with the program understand that community colleges traditionally serve a population that is not necessarily of the traditional college-going culture; they comprise immigrants, refugees, non-English speakers, and others who face systemic obstacles and come from a much lower socioeconomic class. They recognize that the Honors Program offers a better shot at class mobility for this population by providing a pathway to a four-year college or university, and that a rising tide floats all boats."

Students can participate in the Honors Program through different avenues, the most popular of which is an Honors Contract, a pact between professor and student to explore subjects in greater depth through assignments that go beyond regular classwork. Other options include Honors courses that are open to any

"The Honors Program is an investment that is going to pay dividends in your future. It creates a community that brings like-minded, ambitious people together who drive each other to do better."

— Abdullah Nejadi
Miramar College Honors Program alumnus and third-year medical student at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine in Miami



student and an Honors Core learning cohort focusing on academic skill-building and a stronger sense of community.

Among the biggest benefits of the District's Honors Program are enhanced transfer rates to top four-year colleges and universities. Improved transfer rates are being boosted by the Promoting Accomplished Transfers in the Humanities (PATH) initiative, a partnership between the District and UC San Diego

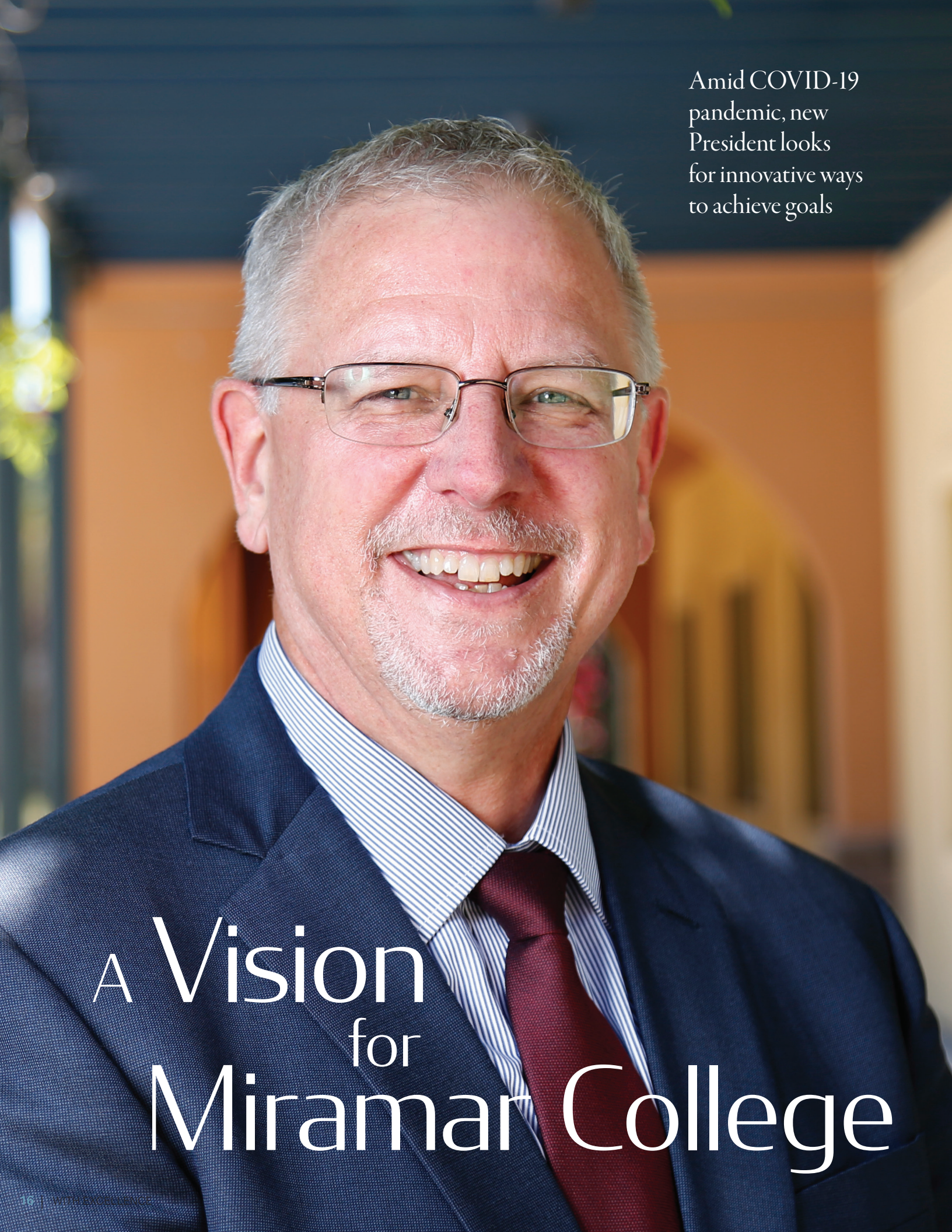
involving the Honors Program that identifies potential transfer students in the humanities, provides a range of supportive services during student transitions to the La Jolla campus, and ensures participants graduate with the skills and education needed to enter the workforce.

"The Honors Program is an investment that is going to pay dividends in your future," Nejadi said. "It creates a community that brings like-minded, ambitious people together who drive each other to do better." **WE**

Abdullah Nejadi's path from the Miramar College Honors Program led him to UC San Diego before becoming a medical student at Florida International University's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, where he's currently in his third year.

2,158

Number of students at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges who participated in the District's Honors Program during the 2019-20 academic year.



Amid COVID-19 pandemic, new President looks for innovative ways to achieve goals

A Vision for Miramar College

San Diego Miramar College's new President, P. Wesley Lundburg, Ph.D., couldn't be happier. Not only is Dr. Lundburg back in his hometown, he's also leading one of the fastest-growing campuses among the California Community Colleges — a campus where equity, social justice, and service to the community aren't just slogans. ♦ The outdoor enthusiast who grew up exploring the vast, then-undeveloped tracts of semi-wilderness around Black Mountain says Miramar College is at an important juncture of growth and managing that growth comes at a time when resources are very limited. ♦ WE sat down with Dr. Lundburg to ask some questions and learn more about the longtime educator and Coast Guard veteran who came to Miramar on July 1 after five years as Executive Dean and CEO of the Ammerman Campus at Suffolk Community College on Long Island, New York.

Q. Who is Dr. P. Wesley Lundburg?

A. I'm driven by integrity and compassion. This has been the core of everything I do, including my professional life. I have always been keenly empathetic, and developed a strong desire to see everybody treated fairly at a very young age. It was the desire to make a difference in others' lives that drew me into the community college branch of higher education — largely due to the fact that it was at a community college that I discovered a love of learning and growing. My desire to see fairness play out has formed me into an administrator who is focused on the mission of the college, and the importance of cultivating an environment of inclusion. Over time, I have also learned that doing so brings more smart people to the table, and the best outcomes always come from collective problem-solving and planning.

Q. How did you begin your journey into higher education and what was the defining moment that drove you to becoming a community college administrator?

A. My journey as an educator in higher education began at an Alaska Native organization, Cook Inlet Tribal Council. From there, I moved into a tenured English professorship, and then into academic administration. My defining moment for pursuing a career at community colleges was when I was a community college student. There, I discovered that I had a passion for learning, and knew that I wanted to be a part of others discovering in themselves an aptitude for higher learning. I was driven to go into administration because I wanted to see more change in how community colleges meet their collective mission, and I saw an administrative role as a way of having a positive social impact on a macro level.

Q. What are some of Miramar College's biggest strengths?

A. Even in the short time I've been here, the answer that springs to mind is the faculty and classified professionals. These are the core of people who are in place to help students become prepared for the future. I am impressed not only with the strength of their credentials, but also their creativity and dedication to the mission of the college. These people are genuinely committed to and passionate about what they do — and it shows in every meeting I attend. Already, we're charting a course for taking the college to its next levels. And that brings me to the next greatest strength: a collaborative spirit. Even with some rough spots in its past, Miramar is a college where faculty, administration, and staff work together toward mission fulfillment.

Q. How does COVID-19 impact your vision for the college?

A. Less than you would think. To me, the remote environment is a medium, not a controlling factor in what we do. We are focused on the same things, but we need to do them differently. Clearly, we need to plan for continued instructional delivery and providing services to students remotely, and that becomes a factor in any planning, but in terms of "vision" per se, COVID-19 is more in delivery planning than vision. That said, COVID-19 has likely had a permanent impact on everything we do. I anticipate a continued increased demand for online instruction, so part of my vision is to meet that need if it materializes. This includes more professional development and allocation of resources to support this change.

Q. What sort of opportunities does the COVID-19 pandemic present?

A. It presents an opportunity for us to examine why we are here.

Crises always carry with them the necessity to hone in on specifics in terms of what you're doing and why. So I am encouraging the Miramar community to look at the mission as we move forward, with an eye on how we fulfill that mission in a remote setting. What we do — why we're here — doesn't change because of the pandemic, but how we fulfill it likely does. This means we're re-thinking what our goals are and how to get to them, as opposed to falling into routine.

Q. What is one thing most people don't know about you?

A. I served on a Coast Guard cutter in the Caribbean in the mid-1980s, and was on scene for the rescue and recovery efforts after space shuttle Challenger exploded

“What we do — why we're here — doesn't change because of the pandemic, but how we fulfill it likely does.”

—P. Wesley Lundburg, Ph.D., President of Miramar College

in January 1986. My ship, USC-GC Diligence, was one of the first responding units. We were in port at Port Canaveral, watching the launch from a few miles away, when the shuttle exploded. We were ordered to respond immediately and got underway with a skeletal crew. Over the next several days, we stood extended watches — in some cases up to 72 hours — while the on-board helicopter ferried the rest of the crew on board from shore, all while participating in the search-and-rescue efforts. When the cabin of the shuttle was located, we were on scene guarding the perimeter while the cabin was raised. This, among many other experiences I had while in the Coast Guard, instilled in me a sense of duty and service over and above my own personal needs. **WE**



LEAVING THE PAST BEHIND

City College student
James Phillip.

Formerly incarcerated students find new path through education

After spending more than 10 years in prison, James Phillip had barely just transferred to a transitional living facility when the President of San Diego City College's Urban Scholars Union stopped by during an outreach event and encouraged Phillip to enroll at the downtown campus. Less than a year later, Phillip, is on the Dean's Honor List with plans to transfer in the fall to San Diego State University with an associate degree in Alcohol and Other Drug Studies.

"City College is phenomenal," said Phillip, who grew up in the southeast area of San Diego. "You are being taught by people who look like you, who sound like you, and who accept you for being you. I've received nothing but support here."

It's not just City College and its Urban Scholars Union, a group comprising some three dozen or so formerly incarcerated students, which also has a chapter at San Diego Miramar College. Formerly incarcerated and justice-impacted students throughout the San Diego Community College District credit counselors, professors, administrators, and fellow students for providing the tools and creating an environment that enable them to reach their potential. Alumni have transferred to some of the top universities in the country and are writing new chapters as hard-working professionals.

San Diego Continuing Education partners with the San Diego County Probation Department in organizing outreach events and providing services prior to inmate release. Its campuses include Rising to Success (R2S) Resource Centers that provide one-on-one counseling to address the unique challenges re-entry students can face.

The District also supports formerly incarcerated students through DSPS, the Umoja Community, Hermanos Unidos/Brothers United, and the Puente Project.

Joshua Kimble is among the successes. Kimble enrolled at San Diego Mesa College almost as soon as

he was released from Centinela State Prison in Imperial County last November and moved back to San Diego after serving 11 years for armed robbery. He quickly was introduced to Project Restart for the formerly incarcerated, and hasn't looked back since.

Project Restart, offered through the Mesa College Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) office, offers academic, career, and personal counseling, financial aid, referrals to on- and off-campus resources, student-led support, and various workshops and events.

"Mesa has been phenomenal," Kimble said. "Project Restart and EOPS have been very hands-on and very supportive and provide you with the structure you need. They sat me down as soon as I walked in and helped me work out my education plan so I would know what I needed to do to get to where I wanted to go. They have been with me every step of the way. When you've been down so long, you convince yourself

“City College is phenomenal. You are being taught by people who look like you, who sound like you, and accept you for being you. I've received nothing but support here.”

— JAMES PHILLIP

it's never going to change, it's always going to be that way. It can be intimidating. Not so at Mesa. They've been welcoming since the first day I stepped on campus. They've pushed me, they've made me get involved, they've welcomed me with open arms."

An English major aiming to transfer to either UC San Diego or SDSU, Kimble said his goals include earning a master of fine arts in English and working with prison-based educational programs.

City College (class of 2020) graduate Alonzo Harvey had his choice of several University of California

campuses to attend before transferring this past fall to UC Berkeley and continuing a journey he envisions leading to law school and a career as a criminal justice lawyer. Harvey’s motivation? He came out of prison convinced the system is rigged against people of color and determined not only to dispel the notion of being another statistic, but rather a change agent.

City College, which he calls the “Mecca of social justice,” was a perfect match.

“City is a progressive campus with a raw and authentic community-based culture,” said Harvey, who was active with Umoja, City Scholars and the A2mend. “The counselors, the professors, they’re all invested in you, they’re all personal mentors, they understand the politics that you’re dealing with and what’s going on in today’s world. The faculty are accessible and understanding, and it was a great decision to come here.”

The focus on restorative justice comes as both the public and policymakers are being made increasingly aware of the injustices of the justice system. According to the Public Policy Institute of California, in 2017, the year of most recent data, 28.5% of the state’s male prisoners were African American — compared to just 5.6% of the state’s adult male residents, and the imprisonment rate for African-American men is 4,236 per 100,000 people — which is 10 times the imprisonment rate for white men. The imprisonment rate for Latino men is more than double the rate for white men. Similarly, among female prisoners, 25.9% are African American compared to only 5.7% of the state’s Black female population.

With the COVID-19 pandemic straining the state’s jails and prisons, demand for restorative justice programs is certain to grow. During the early days of the pandemic, the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department granted early release to approximately 1,200 inmates

incarcerated for nonviolent misdemeanors or with fewer than 60 days remaining on their sentences. The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, meanwhile, expedited the release of approximately 3,500 inmates who were not a registered sex offender or currently serving time for a violent crime or domestic violence, and in August predicted as many as 17,600 California inmates could be freed early due to the pandemic.

Education is the key to a new path forward. According to a 2012 report by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, more than 65% of those released from California’s prison system return within three years, many unable to succeed because they lack the high school or college education that can lift them into a more sustainable socioeconomic situation.

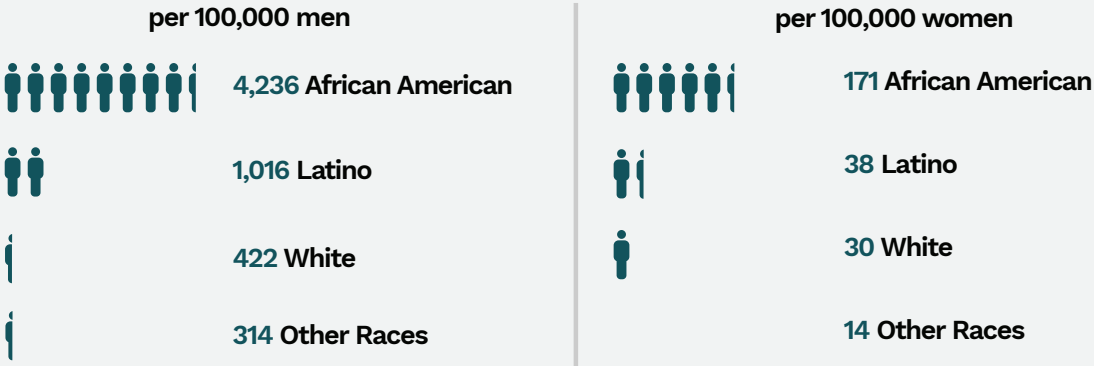
When looking at education versus incarceration, the cost speaks for itself. According to 2017 data, the cost per inmate in California totaled about \$75,560, which is more per year than tuition, fees, room and board, and other expenses to attend Harvard, a cost far greater still than at a California community college.

“There’s a need to support this population,” said Andre Jones, who serves as faculty advisor for the Urban Scholars Union and counselor for City Scholars at City College. “There’s a need to help these students connect, integrate, and navigate, help build a community so they don’t feel like they’re alone.

“The formerly incarcerated are as passionate and motivated as any student on campus to succeed, and we’re here to remove any barriers keeping them from getting the education they are seeking as a passport to a better life. We encourage all our students to take advantage of the services that are out there, because there are a lot of services out there.” **WE**

California’s Imprisonment Rates

African Americans continue to be overrepresented in California’s prison populations. In 2017, the year of most recent data, the imprisonment rate of African-American men was 10-times the rate of white men. Similarly, African-American women were imprisoned at a rate of more than 5-times that of white women.



“
WHEN YOU’VE
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CAN BE
INTIMIDATING.
NOT SO AT
MESA.

– JOSHUA KIMBLE

Mesa College student
Joshua Kimble.



SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE



SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE



City College welcomed members of Kumeyaay and Nahua tribes from Mexico to speak during Indigenous People's Day in 2019.

DEAN OF EQUITY TO OVERSEE VARIOUS SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEES

Dean of Equity Roberto C. Valadez couldn't be more clear: "Our mantra at City College is social justice," he said. "Social justice is at the core of what we do."

As part of that mission, City College is bringing several social justice committees — including Social Justice, City Voices, Diversity, and World Cultures — together under the Dean of Equity's umbrella in large part to help prevent an overlap of programming and to streamline oversight.

Each faculty-led committee

will retain its independence and mission. The Diversity Committee, for example, will continue to take a lead role in fostering a campus environment that welcomes and respects diverse life experiences and is committed to promoting diversity among the faculty and staff that reflects the diversity of the City College student population. The World Cultures Committee will continue to promote and support the experience of global culture through film, drama, literature, expert speakers, and the arts.

Nearly 80% of City College's students are racial or ethnic minorities, and the college — designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution — has a Latinx student population of 52%. Since 1914, City College has been at the forefront in offering generations of students from diverse backgrounds access to education and the support to succeed as they strive for upward mobility. Highlights include initiatives ranging from the annual Social Justice & Education Conference to the Urban Scholars Union of formerly incarcerated students.

ENVISIONING THE FUTURE

Equity and excellence lead the way for institutional planning efforts of the Mesa 2030 Master Plan

San Diego Mesa College has a proud reputation for being a leader in educational innovation. As the college enters the next decade, its guiding principles of equity and excellence lead the way for institutional planning efforts. During the 2019-20 academic year, the Mesa College Master Planning Task Force met throughout last fall and the spring to continue the development of the Mesa College Educational and Facilities Master Plan. To support meaningful integration of equity and pathways into the development of the plan, Mesa College was awarded a grant through the California Community Colleges Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative.

During fall 2019, with the guidance of consultants from Gensler, the Task Force expanded its membership and charge to ensure broad representation and a shift in focus. It was during the Task Force expansion kickoff meeting that Mesa College renamed the plan to Mesa 2030, to emphasize the 10-year vision for the college. Throughout the fall term, the campus community participated in engagement events such as the spring President's Cabinet Retreat, joint governance meetings, focus groups, and sharing sessions where information was gathered and presented for review.

With the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic in the spring, the Task Force was challenged to pivot in order to ensure that

the important work being done to create the Master Plan continued to include the Mesa College community, albeit virtually. During that time, Mesa College held the first virtual meeting with the Institutional Effectiveness Partnership Initiative (IEPI) Partnership Resource Team, and received a series of recommendations to address during the fall 2020 follow-up meeting. In response to the pandemic, the Mesa 2030 Master Plan timeline was extended to spring 2021 for review by the Board of Trustees and final approval.

The Mesa 2030 Task Force meetings resumed this fall, with the objective of continuing its work to integrate equity and pathways into the Mesa 2030 Master Plan. Over the next several months, the Task Force will continue to engage both internal and external communities through virtual interviews, focus groups, and surveys. Focus groups that include students will concentrate intentionally on those groups who have been

most disproportionately impacted, including Black/African-American students and Latinx students. With this explicit focus, the Task Force hopes to continue to highlight the ways in which the next 10 years can support racial equity for Mesa College students.

Along with the establishment of college-wide goals that will help guide the college for the next 10 years, Mesa 2030 also will serve as the college's facilities master plan. The facilities planning process begins with an assessment of the inventory, age, and condition of current spaces. The initial assessment will then be coupled with input from campus stakeholders via interviews and surveys to better understand how facilities can support departmental needs in the future. When the final plan is presented to the Board of Trustees in the spring, it will include conceptual designs of the physical spaces and how those spaces can support Mesa College in 2030 and beyond.



Before COVID-19 forced campuses to close, the Mesa College Master Planning Task Force was hands-on in its approach to develop a vision for the school's future in 2030 and beyond. Since then, virtual sessions have been instated.



SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

AMBULANCE DONATION ADDS DIMENSION TO FIRE TECH/EMT TRAINING

The San Diego Miramar College Fire Tech/ EMT program accepted a donation of a Mercedes-Benz ambulance from Falck Emergency Services in remembrance of fallen first responders during its 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony. Miramar College offers an accredited Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program that prepares students for the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians-EMT examination. Falck presented the keys with leaders from the company personally delivering the vehicle to the college.

“This is really going to add on another dimension to our students’ training,” said Mary Kjartanson, EMT program director at San Diego Miramar College. “It will allow us to contextualize their learning more by providing a legitimate experience and doing assessments in the back of an ambulance. So, we are delighted and grateful for all that Falck has done for us.”

The donated vehicle will provide students pursuing a career as a first responder with interactive and firsthand experience in emergency medical transportation scenarios.

“Falck is dedicated to enhancing the education and development of the future EMT and Paramedic workforce, and acknowledging the responsibility and sacrifice of all first responders,” said Falck’s Director of Clinical Operations, Dannie Wurtz. “Having more experienced students and instructors will not only benefit the college but the San Diego region at large. These ambulances will help ensure that students are

trained on the latest equipment and graduate their programs prepared to address patients right away.”

The ambulance is stocked with basic equipment to bring realistic training to the classroom, expanding training from the classroom to an action-based setting. The vehicles will be used for hands-on simulation training with students as they gain an understanding of the life-saving equipment and techniques used by professionals in the limited space inside an ambulance.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Miramar College has implemented remote learning platforms, with opportunities for in-person and safely distant hands-on training. The vehicle is expected to generate excitement among the students and become a vital component in their education. As a global leader in emergency medical and ambulance services, Falck is committed to safeguarding the health of patients, members of the public, and its workforce of paramedics, EMTs, registered nurses and physicians.

The delivery of the ambulance included a brief and safely distanced ceremony, incorporating CDC guidelines in accordance with appropriate protocols. As part of its annual 9/11 Remembrance event, the Miramar College program included a speech from retired San Diego Fire Department Captain and Urban Search and Rescue Task Force 8 Member Ron Edrozo. Prior to his speech there was a flag lowering, ceremonial bell ringing, and the playing of live bagpipes.

Miramar College President P. Wesley Lundburg (center) and Dean of Public Safety Gail Warner (far left) pose with members of Falck Emergency Services during a Sept. 11 ambulance donation ceremony.



SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION



FIRST IN REGION AMONG STRONG WORKFORCE PROGRAMS

San Diego Continuing Education has proudly ranked first in the San Diego-Imperial Counties Region for Strong Workforce Program (SWP) outcomes due to investing SWP funding to create “more and better” programs to help students become skilled workers and achieve upward economic mobility.

Between 2016-17 and 2019-20, Continuing Education received more than \$4 million in local share funds and more than \$1 million in regional share funds that helped the SWP better meet the needs of training students for high-demand industries.

Additionally, instructional programs and student services have been expanded as a result of increased funding. Examples include ICOM (Interactive Competency-based Online Micro-credentialing) Academy certificates and new innovative career training programs, such as Health Unit Coordinator, Data Management with Python, and Programming with Python, as well as Career and College Transition Centers, which support students by providing access to full-time assistance in applying to college and sustaining employment.

These investments are supporting a Continuing Education strategic initiative of enrolling and retaining individuals in immediate need of higher education and workforce training. With the support of SWP funding, Continuing Education can significantly expand resources under its 7 Pillars of Student Success.

Continuing Education’s state and regional rankings for SWP funding are reflecting growth in its student outcomes from 2014-15 through 2018-19 including: retention, students who attained a noncredit workforce milestone in a single year, completion, students who earned a certificate or attained apprenticeship journey status, and employment in the field of study.

Brian Yamase moved to San Diego to become a nurse practitioner, finding a head start at Continuing Education where he recently completed an Acute Care Nursing Assistant certificate. “The lectures given at SDCE were very conducive in helping us work in a hospital,” he said. Following a career presentation, Yamase, who was also a student speaker at Continuing Education’s spring commencement ceremony, gained



employment with Sharp HealthCare.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, unemployment rates for San Diego County have hit historic highs, resulting in more students working to obtain short-term vocational training that is provided at Continuing Education.

Continuing Education recently launched the ICOM Academy in order to reach students of all socioeconomic backgrounds, especially those who lack resources or support to go to school and achieve a professional certificate in an online environment. Among the 16 career education options currently offered are Cybersecurity Analyst, Virtual Datacenter, and Programming with Python.

ICOM Academy’s virtual ecosystem offers the most dynamic set of online tools and resources for faculty and students statewide, including a virtual library, tutoring, mental health counseling through Cranium Cafe, and financial aid.

Due to the rapid growth and success of ICOM Academy, in January, Continuing Education joined a statewide collaboration of virtual colleges in California. This collaboration will increase student access to, and success in, high-quality distance learning courses. Continuing Education will lead the development of a new noncredit course adoption rubric, with ICOM Academy courses being the first to be included.

Continuing Education’s classrooms mirror manual labor industries, like the Healthcare Careers certificate programs that provide a hospital setting. (File photo)



Brian Yamase earned an Acute Care Nursing Assistant certificate from Continuing Education before being hired at Sharp HealthCare.

Destined to Effect Change

The first day Destiny Gallegos-Muñoz stepped onto the San Diego City College campus as a freshman in 2018, she spotted an Associated Students Government (ASG) flyer promoting the organization on a wall outside the L Building and resolved to learn more.

“I wanted to get involved,” Gallegos-Muñoz said. “So I signed up.”

Gallegos-Muñoz has been involved at the campus ever since. This year, she’s also the ASG President and City College student representative on the Board of Trustees.

“This is a big step in my life, but I want to leave an impact at City,” Gallegos-Muñoz said. “I want to make a difference and I want to make sure student government makes a difference, especially during this pandemic.”

WE recently asked Gallegos-Muñoz a few questions about her experiences at City College.



Q Why did you come to City College?

A My cousin told me about his experience at City College — before I graduated high school — and it pushed me to continue my education at City College.

Q What is the strangest thing that you’ve seen on campus?

A I wouldn’t say strangest thing, but the coolest thing I’ve seen on campus is how a lot of dance students practice outside and it’s really fun to see!

Q What is your vision for City College?

A My vision for City College is to hopefully get a football team and a cheer team. I hope the college expands more; also gets more diverse foods offered at the cafeteria.

Q Best professor you’ve ever had and why?

A I can never choose just one, but a few professors would be Jose Luis Perez, Paul Lopez, María-José Zeledón-Pérez, Hector Martinez, and Rob Rubalcaba because they all teach their students with their heart and give us real perspectives. All of these professors go above and beyond their job for their students to make sure we know the necessities we need to reach our educational goals.

Q Funniest moment at City College?

A When I took communication with Dr. María-José Zeledón-Pérez for Puente Project, she made each of her students choose an object from a bag to do an improv speech on. A few fellow classmates made this experience unforgettable. One that stood out was my friend Jessica’s speech about a rubber unicorn duck that I had brought. I loved how open that class was; it made it easy to be yourself and enjoy each other’s company while being confident in saying our speech.

Q What does City College mean to you?

A Hope. Coming into college after high school was incredibly scary, but if it wasn’t for being involved with Puente Project or ASG, I don’t know what I would’ve done because both of those organizations really push for student success.

Q When you’re able, what’s your favorite place to hang out on campus?

A In the M Building and the S hub. Both are beautiful places on campus with the best view!

Q What is the most memorable event you’ve experienced as a City College student?

A Puente Noche de Familia. We all had a cohort that created a theme for this event (Night Under the Stars) which celebrated our first year at college and we all got to invite our families to share our successes for that year. It was really fun decorating and setting up because it was something that was really special to all of us. We would all stay late on campus almost every day painting decorations for that event.

@A Glance



**SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT**



Year Founded

The San Diego Community College District was established in 1972. However, both City College and Continuing Education date their starts to 1914 and celebrated centennials in 2014. Mesa College and Miramar College opened in 1964 and 1969 respectively.

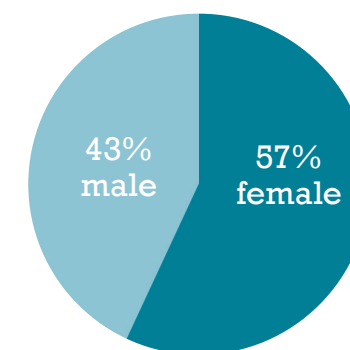
Overview

The SDCCD is the largest public institution of higher education in San Diego — serving approximately 100,000 students annually. The District’s three colleges, City College, Mesa College, and Miramar College, offer associate degrees and certificates in occupational programs that prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities, and to enter the workforce. Mesa College also offers a bachelor’s degree in Health Information Management

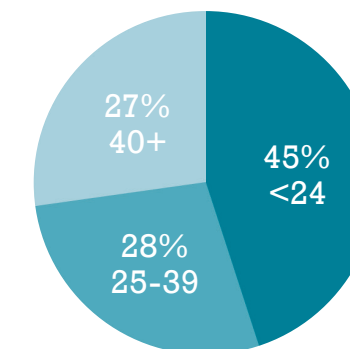
Location

The District’s service area is approximately 196-square miles in the city of San Diego. The SDCCD is composed of three colleges and seven Continuing Education campuses.

Districtwide student population by gender



Districtwide student population by age

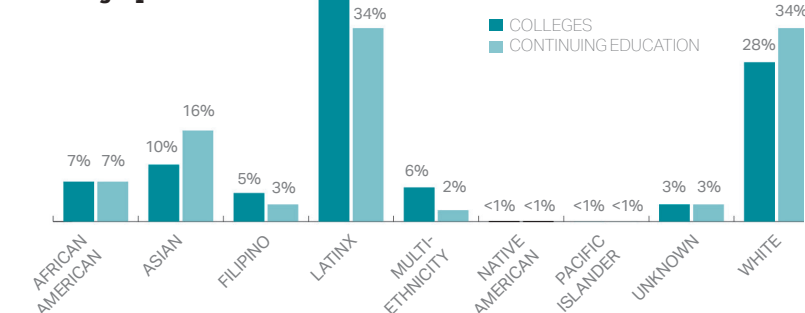


The mission of the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) is to provide accessible, high-quality learning experiences to meet the educational needs of the San Diego community.

San Diego Community College District Rankings and Distinctions:

- The SDCCD awarded a record 15,304 degrees and certificates to students graduating from San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges and Continuing Education in 2019-20. Twenty-four students were awarded bachelor’s degrees in the Health Information Management program at Mesa College.
- The District is the largest provider of workforce training and university transfer in the region. It’s one of the largest districts in California and ranks among the nation’s largest community colleges.
- The District has consistently earned some of California’s highest bond ratings and annually contributes \$4.1 billion to the region’s economy.
- The SDCCD is deeply committed to student access and success. Approximately 52% of its students transfer to four-year colleges and universities — higher than the statewide average.
- The District’s two successful bond measures — Proposition S (passed by voters for \$685 million in 2002) and Proposition N (\$870 million in 2006) have funded new, state-of-the-art facilities and instructional equipment at all of the District’s campuses.

Student demographics



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

Questions, comments? We’d love to hear from you.

Email us cpr@sdccd.edu.



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DISTRICT

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A Legacy of Achievement

A Tribute to Chancellor

Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.,

Benefiting the San Diego Promise

Please save the date for a celebration of Chancellor Carroll's legendary career. All proceeds from the event will benefit the San Diego Promise.

Saturday, September 18, 2021

San Diego Mission Bay Resort,
1775 E. Mission Bay Drive, San Diego

For more information about the event,
visit sdccd.edu/promise-gala



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

Please note: All planning will take into consideration safety guidelines relating to COVID-19.

