

# WEP



## THE PEOPLE'S CHANCELLOR

**LEADING SAN DIEGO CITY, MESA, MIRAMAR  
AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COLLEGES FOR 17 YEARS**





Serving as Chancellor comes with a deep commitment to students, which would not be possible without the work of talented professionals throughout the San Diego Community College District.

# A TIME TO REFLECT

When I reflect on my time in the San Diego Community College District, what stands out is the excellence of the work done by the District's faculty, classified professionals, and administrators. This includes a deep commitment to serving our students and the San Diego community. That commitment is at the heart of the community college mission and it is what distinguishes the SDCCD from other institutions.

In this special issue, you will read about many accomplishments that have occurred during my 17 years as Chancellor and 28 years working in the District. None of these accomplishments would have come to fruition without the work of talented professionals who serve at San Diego City College, at San Diego Mesa College, at San Diego Miramar College, at the San Diego College of Continuing Education, and at the District Office. Chancellors often get credit for accomplishments, but I have never lost sight of the fact that it is our people, the employees of the SDCCD, who are the ones who generate ideas and innovations, and are responsible for all of the instructional and operational achievements.

You are the ones who are teaching our students in classrooms, in labs, or via Zoom. You are the ones who

clean and maintain our facilities to ensure that they are on-par with those at any local university. You are the ones who work diligently so that our students have enough food or a safe place to sleep at night. And, you are the ones who celebrate with our students when they land that better-paying job, earn their degrees and certificates, and/or are accepted for transfer at their dream university.

As I prepare to retire, I have enjoyed reflecting on my years with the District. It is a bittersweet time for me since I will miss my work in the District, but I am also looking forward to the next chapter of my professional journey as CEO of the California Community Colleges Baccalaureate Association, which will enable me to focus on this important effort. I leave knowing the SDCCD is one of the best districts in the country because of its people. Thank you for all you do. It has been the greatest privilege of my career to serve as your Chancellor.

Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.

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COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION PRESIDENT NAMED

# NEXT CHANCELLOR OF SDCCD

Following a comprehensive national search, the San Diego Community College District’s Board of Trustees has hired San Diego College of Continuing Education President Carlos O. Cortez, Ph.D. to serve as the District’s next Chancellor, effective July 1. Dr. Cortez succeeds Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D., who is retiring after 17 years as leader of a district that is the largest provider of workforce training and higher education in the region.



“I love this District and I am honored to be appointed as Chancellor,” said Dr. Cortez. “Chancellor Carroll has established the SDCCD as a national leader in student equity and outcomes. I am committed to working with our student leaders, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators to move the district to the next level of success.”

Dr. Cortez is known for an uncompromising commitment to social justice and educational equity that was rooted when he began his teaching career at Intermediate School 164 in New York’s Washington Heights. Among his numerous initiatives at the San Diego College of Continuing Education, Dr. Cortez implemented the Gateway to College and Career program that offers paid internships, connections to industry, support in securing a high school diploma or equivalency, and an intensive, 40-hour college

and career readiness course aimed at teens and young adults who are neither in school nor working. He also launched the Interactive Competency-based Online Micro-credentialing (ICOM) Academy, a fully online educational program to provide adult learners with fast, free, and flexible job training that takes just five to 10 months to complete in 11 career education options.

Before arriving at the SDCCD in 2015, Dr. Cortez served as Acting Vice President of Instruction and Dean of Academic Pathways, Workforce Development, and Student Success at Berkeley City College, where he drove development of the college’s equity plan, brought students’ voices into the shared governance process, and institutionalized a series of College Town Halls that boosted engagement and community participation throughout campus planning.

He previously served as Director of Education at UCLA Extension and as a teacher and administrator in public schools in New York and Los Angeles. Dr. Cortez also is an adjunct faculty member at Johns Hopkins University, New York University, and the University of California, Berkeley.

He has a bachelor’s degree in history and sociology from Georgetown University, a master’s degree in race and gender politics from New York University, and a Ph.D. in education policy and administration from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Cortez serves on several regional and national nonprofit boards, including the Campaign for Free College Tuition, the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship (NACCE), the Community College League of California Advisory Committee on Legislation, the Jackie Robinson YMCA, and Goodwill, Inc. San Diego.

Coming Soon

Learn more about the SDCCD’s new Chancellor, Carlos O. Cortez in the fall WE magazine.

## WHAT’S IN A NAME? A LOT

Rooted in a 2017 accreditation process that suggested a name change be considered to better reflect its mission, San Diego Continuing Education — the largest adult noncredit educational institution of its kind in the nation — has officially changed its name to San Diego College of Continuing Education.

“The new name, San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) is a better description of the caliber of noncredit curriculum offerings and highly educated faculty experts who teach for the institution,” said SDCCE President Carlos O. Cortez. “With over 75 certificates in nine career technical education pathways, no other district in the state offers the quality, quantity, and caliber of career education programs provided by SDCCE.”

SDCCE is the adult education division of the

San Diego Community College District and serves 40,000 students annually at seven campuses in San Diego from Barrio Logan north to Miramar. The institution has been serving adult students in San Diego since 1914.

“The identity of San Diego Continuing Education has evolved over time and significantly over the past 15 years, largely as a result of career development and college placement efforts, the direct focus on transitioning students to work or college, and also the funding and support for strong workforce programs not only in our region but throughout the state and even the nation,” Cortez said. “The programs we now offer look more and more like community college courses, majors, certificates, and pathways.”

Adding “college” to the name of the District’s noncredit instruction immediately elevates

community understanding of what SDCCE is and does, plus also clarifies that SDCCE is part of the community college system. In noncredit discussions and for system non-credit colleagues, SDCCE already offers four of the five categories of community college programs and a name change legitimizes the status of these education programs as “college” programs.



## MAKING AN IMPACT



City College President Ricky Shabazz, at right, and Vice President of Student Services Denise Whisenhunt, at left, look on as the ribbon is cut to mark the 2018 opening of the ¡SUBIR! Intercultural Center, which acts as a welcoming place for undocumented students and their allies.

San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges have made the “Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics” list published by Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education, rankings that reflect the campus’s commitment to student success among those from traditionally underserved communities.

Both City and Mesa colleges have been designated Hispanic Serving Institutions, and Latinx students comprise 44% of Honors Program students across the District. In addition, the number of Latinx students transferring to a four-year college or university was up 60% from 2013-14 to 2017-18. What’s more, Hispanic Serving Institution grants have funded initiatives such as the Students Uplifted By Institutional Reform (¡SUBIR!) Cultural Center, the DREAMer Resource Center, and a Summer Jump Start Program at City Col-

lege and the STEM Conexiones (STEM Connections) program bolstering instructional and student support to strengthen academic achievement among low-income and Hispanic students at Mesa College.

The “Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics” list was compiled through statistics from the 2018-19 academic year, the last full academic year before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and includes U.S. Department of Education data for enrollment and degrees earned. City College ranked 44th in Hispanic enrollment, followed by Miramar College, which was ranked 100. Mesa College, which offers a bachelor’s degree in Health Information Management, was ranked 48th in the number of Hispanic students enrolled at four-year schools. Had it been placed in the community college category, Mesa would have ranked 33rd.



## A HELPING HAND

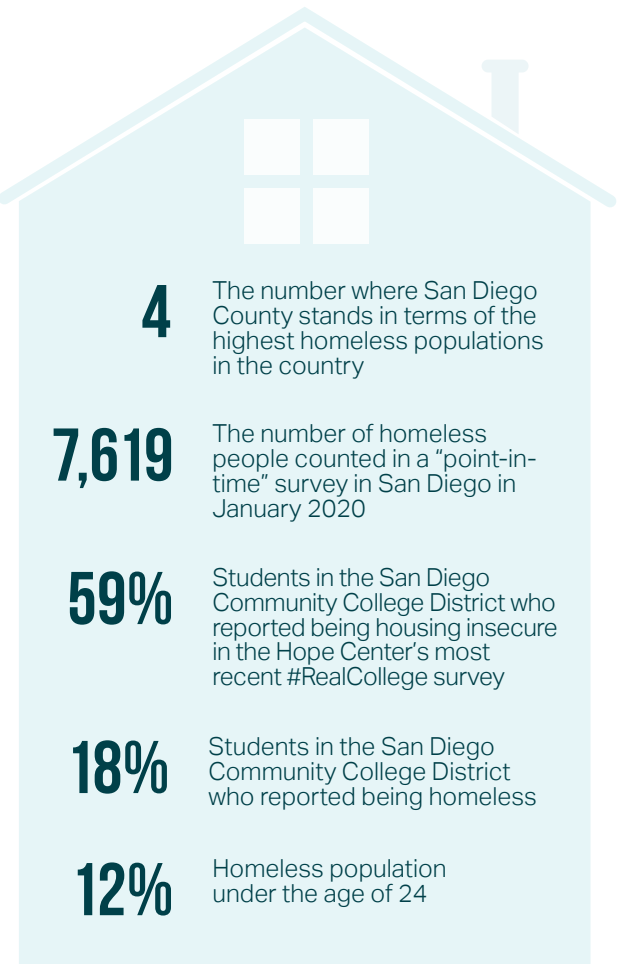
San Diego City College is teaming with the San Diego Housing Commission on what is being touted as a first-of-its-kind program providing the kind of specialized training needed to develop a workforce addressing the city's homeless population.

The Homelessness Program for Engaged Educational Resources (PEER) program, which launched in October, provides students with various enrollment and support services, connects them with volunteer opportunities and internships, and offers job placement assistance with homeless service providers. With the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbating the challenges faced by the homeless and housing insecure population, the program provides students the kind of learning they may not have otherwise experienced.

"We keep hearing about how there aren't any jobs out there because of the pandemic, but homeless services is one area that has lots of jobs and is having a hard time retaining the people it does have," said City College Professor Kirin Macapugay, who teaches a Human Services course that is part of the program.

"Hiring and retaining individuals with the qualifications and the commitment to serve this population is essential to successfully addressing homelessness," said Housing Commission President and CEO Richard C. Gentry. "This pilot program is an innovative step forward to help meet this need in the City of San Diego."

The PEER Program is not the only initiative City College is involved with. City College in 2020 secured a \$1.8 million College Homeless and Housing Insecure Pilot Program grant to help homeless and housing-insecure students find a place to live.



## 5 SDCCD STUDENTS NAMED TO ALL-CALIFORNIA ACADEMIC TEAM



Elisa Dephilippis



Christian Gonzalez Ruiz



Karla Tirado



Garrett Andersen

Five students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges have been named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team. Phi Theta Kappa is an international honor society for two-year colleges, and students are nominated based on their GPA, awards and honors received, leadership abilities, and community service.

Among the award winners:

City College student Elisa Dephilippis, who left Italy at age 21 to pursue a career in nursing in the United States, will be graduating from City College in May with an associate degree in biology and transferring to San Diego State University. Named to the City College Dean's Honor List, Dephilippis has experience in the allied health care field while living in Rome and wants to continue her passion of caring for people.

City College student Christian Gonzalez Ruiz has dreams of working for NASA as a lead engineer. Originally from Oaxaca, Mexico, Ruiz came to the United States at age 19 and enrolled at City College. Ruiz is active in the City College Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, is a member of the Chemistry Club, and is on the Dean's Honor List. Ruiz is scheduled to graduate from City College in May 2022 and plans to attend UC Berkeley or UCLA.

Mesa College student Joelle Schumacher (photo unavailable) is an Associated Students senator and secretary of the Mesa College Environmental Sustainability Committee,

where she helped launch a Green Revolving Fund that invests in sustainable, on-campus initiatives. Schumacher also serves as secretary of Terra Mesa, the student environmental club on campus, and recently completed an internship with the San Diego Audubon Society.

Mesa College student Karla Tirado is an international student from Mexico who serves as Associated Students vice president, president of Mesa College's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, director of service for the campus Honors Club, and is a delegate for the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. In addition, Tirado recently was appointed as an External Affairs Intern at the Office of Governor Gavin Newsom and as a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship semifinalist.

Miramar College student Garrett Stefan Andersen is a history major and Honors Program student who recently presented his research on the Vikings, their motivations, and their impact in Eastern Europe and Islamic Spain at the annual Miramar College Honors Symposium. Andersen is on track to graduate with an associate degree this spring and plans to transfer to a university in the fall to pursue his bachelor's degree. Andersen, a regular presence at many local museums, aspires to become a history teacher.

Schumacher is a First Team member of the All-Academic Team. Andersen, Dephilippis, Ruiz, and Tirado were named to the Second Team.

## A REGION'S FIRST: BUSINESS PROGRAMS AT MIRAMAR COLLEGE ACHIEVE ACBSP ACCREDITATION



Professor of Business David Wilhelm played an integral role in helping Miramar College secure the ACBSP accreditation.

San Diego Miramar College has taken accreditation to a new level. In December, the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs (ACBSP) granted national accreditation to the business degree programs at Miramar College. The achievement makes it the first and only two-year business program in the San Diego region to become nationally accredited by ACBSP.

"We are delighted to have San Diego Miramar College as a nationally accredited business program by ACBSP," said Steve Parscale, Chief Accreditation Officer for ACBSP. "The fact that San Diego Miramar College has achieved ACBSP accreditation demonstrates their commitment to providing the highest quality business education for their students."

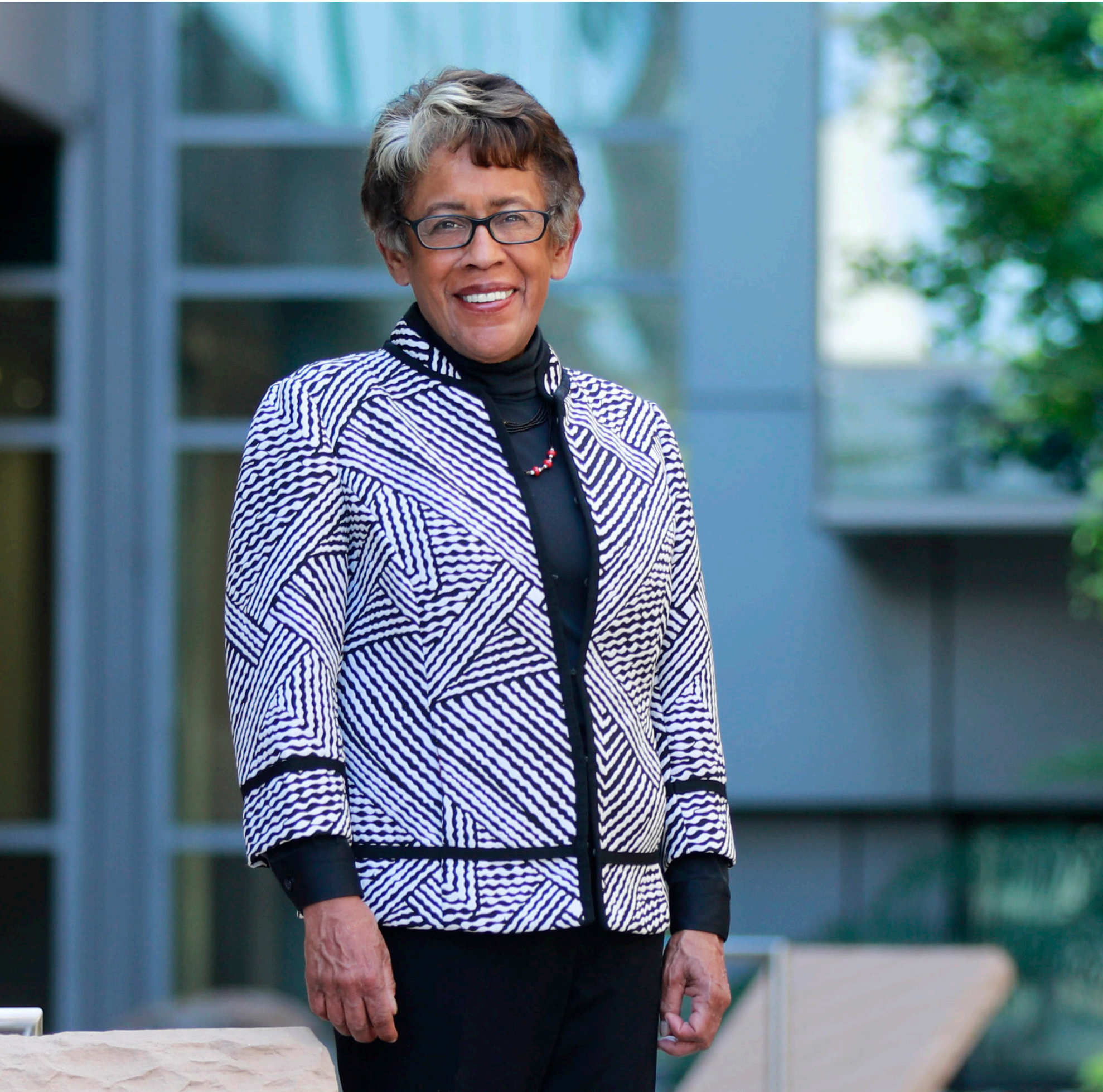
Established in 1988, ACBSP is the only organization offering specialized business accreditation for all degree levels, from associate- to baccalaureate-to doctoral-degree programs. ACBSP accreditation certifies that the teaching

and learning processes within the business programs offered through the Miramar College Business Department meet the rigorous educational standards established by ACBSP.

Miramar College offers more than 21 certificates, associate degrees and transfer programs in business or business-related fields of study.

"San Diego Miramar College is thrilled to be nationally accredited by ACBSP. This accreditation represents the gold standard in measuring the quality of business education at two-year colleges," said Jesse Lopez, Dean of Business, Technical Careers and Workforce Initiatives at San Diego Miramar College. "ACBSP accreditation reflects our faculty's commitment to developing quality programs and curriculum designed to meet the workforce needs of our community. Additionally, this accomplishment affirms our commitment to our students' academic and professional goals, teaching excellence, and continuous improvement."





# Honoring a Legend

After breaking barriers and establishing trailblazing programs, Chancellor Carroll says farewell as leader of the SDCCD

Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D., hadn't planned on a career that would see her rise to the pinnacle of her profession, a visionary at the helm of one of the nation's largest community college districts, the driver of a regional economic engine that has conferred more than 150,000 degrees and certificates during her nearly 17-year tenure, a force who has overseen the physical transformation of San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and the San Diego College of Continuing Education, a trailblazer in the national tuition-free Promise movement, and an undisputed leader in bringing bachelor's degree programs to the California Community Colleges.

"I didn't set out to become an educator," Chancellor Carroll said. "I thought I was going to spend my life in art because I'm an artist and enjoy art. As far as a profession, I thought I might go into architecture or something like that. But when I grew up in segregation, those were not options. And so, I sort of stayed with education, went to university, fell in love with the Classics and one thing led to another."

Even after earning her bachelor's degree in humanities from Duquesne University and a master's and Ph.D. in

the Classics (Ancient Greek and Latin) from the University of Pittsburgh, Chancellor Carroll knew little about community colleges. At least not until after she began working as Assistant Professor of Classics and Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Maine, Port-

land-Gorham (now the University of Southern Maine), which was creating a two-year college in York County.

"I read a lot about community colleges and became interested in them, but I thought I would continue my work at the university level. That is what I trained for and had prepared for," she said.

Indeed, when it was time to leave the University of Southern Maine, Chancellor Carroll was eyeing a position as Dean of University College at California State University, Dominguez Hills, in Carson. That post fell through, however, leaving her to go with what was Plan B at the time: the President's job at Indian Valley Colleges in Marin County, where, at the age of 31, she became the youngest community college president in America. "That is where I fell in love with community colleges, their students, their mission, and everything else."

Chancellor Carroll had found her calling. She would later spend one year as Interim Chancellor of the Marin Community College District before being named President of Saddleback College in Orange County. Chancellor Carroll came to Mesa College to serve as President in 1993, continuing — as she did in Marin and Orange counties



Constance is a visionary. She is not only a statewide leader, but a national leader who has rightfully been recognized for getting things done."

— SDCCD Board of Trustees President Maria Nieto Senour





28

Years of service  
at the SDCCD,  
*which includes her 11 years as  
President of San Diego Mesa College*



(Clockwise from left) Actor and Mesa College alumna Annette Bening, left, stands on stage with then President Constance M. Carroll during the college's 2002 commencement ceremony. Chancellor Carroll meets President Barack Obama, who named her to the National Council on the Humanities in 2011 which oversees the National Endowment for the Humanities. Chancellor Carroll, second from left, breaks ground for what would become the Miramar College LLRC building (Library Learning Resource Center) one of many new buildings that were part of the transformative Propositions S and N bonds.



Dr. Carroll, seen here in her official portrait, was President of Mesa College from 1993 until being named Chancellor of the SDCCD in 2004.

17

Years serving  
as Chancellor,  
*the longest tenure of any  
San Diego Community  
College District Chancellor*

— to teach courses in the Classics and humanities. She was hired as Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District in 2004 — the first woman and first African American to lead the region's largest higher education system with more than 100,000 students. "Constance is a visionary," said Board of Trustees President Maria Nieto Senour. "She is not only a state-wide leader, but a national leader who has rightfully been recognized for getting things done."

Getting things done has meant working with then-state Senator and former Board of Trustees President Marty Block to introduce and pass into law the groundbreaking pilot program allowing California community colleges, including Mesa College, to offer baccalaureate programs meeting regional and state-wide workforce needs. The Chancellor also led the effort establishing the tuition-free San Diego Promise program; led the District in joining the successful challenge to the previous federal administration's attempts at excluding immigrants and international students from Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding to help them cope with the COVID-19 crisis; and led the District in joining the fight to protect Dreamers covered by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

Additionally, shortly after becoming SDCCD Chancellor, Dr. Carroll and then Foothill-De Anza Chancellor Martha Kanter forged and co-chaired a coalition of districts to put an end to the inequitable

ble funding of many community colleges within the California Community Colleges system. Working with then California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and then State Senator Jack Scott, the coalition succeeded in changing the funding formula to ensure that all community colleges received equitable funding based on their enrollment, and obtained \$240 million in ongoing funding to support the budgets of "low revenue" districts that were at the bottom of the funding hierarchy. The SDCCD alone received almost \$10 million in continuous funding.

"Our coalition, including the co-chairs, faced enormous opposition," said Chancellor Carroll, "but with strong arguments, persistence, and working together, we got the job done."

Her list of accomplishments also includes being named by President Barack Obama to the National Council on the Humanities, which oversees the National Endowment for the Humanities, and working with UC San Diego to create the Preparing Accomplished Transfers to the Humanities (PATH) initiative boosting the number of community college students transferring to baccalaureate and Ph.D. programs in the humanities, through funding from the The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

In addition, Chancellor Carroll has for 17 years



Dr. Carroll had the pleasure of meeting Coretta Scott King, the wife of the late civil rights activist Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr..

led a district respected for working with business and industry to make sure career education programs are meeting the needs of today's workforce, which has led to an economic impact of more than \$4 billion annually to the regional economy.

"Her contributions and impact will be felt for generations to come," said Mark Cafferty, President and CEO of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation. "I feel both lucky and honored to call her a mentor, colleague, and friend."

#### AMONG THE CHANCELLOR'S LASTING IMPACTS:

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(At left) During Convocation events to kickoff the school year, Chancellor Carroll was known to sometimes dance her way up to the stage. (Below) Shortly after becoming Chancellor, Dr. Carroll, along with then Foothill-De Anza Chancellor Martha Kanter, worked with then California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, right, and then State Senator Jack Scott to put an end to the inequitable funding of many community colleges within the California Community Colleges system.



Rosa Parks, left, and Dr. Carroll met on several occasions, including in 1995 when Chancellor Carroll was President of Mesa College, where in 2010 the Rosa Parks Memorial Transit Center on campus was dedicated to the late civil rights activist.

#### SDCCD LEADERS

##### 1956-1974

Charles W. Patrick, Acting Superintendent

##### 1974-1976

Dale Parnell, Chancellor

##### 1976-1988

Garland P. Peed, Chancellor

##### 1988-1990

William Wenrich, Chancellor

##### 1990-2004

Augustine P. Gallego, Chancellor

##### 2004-2021

Constance M. Carroll, Chancellor





# Student Success

It's difficult to adequately describe the myriad efforts and profound influence San Diego Community College District Chancellor Constance M. Carroll has had on student success. Among the initiatives undertaken during her 17-year chancellorship:

- An expanded Honors Program with more than 2,500 students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges that is sending participants to some of the top universities in the country, including Columbia University in New York, UC Berkeley, and UCLA.
- A second-to-none Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) initiative that is shaping future doctors, computer scientists, and NASA engineers.
- A Preparing Accomplished Transfers to the Humanities (PATH) collaboration involving the UC San Diego Arts and Humanities Division to create and strengthen a pipeline of successful humanities students into becoming future holders of Ph.D.s.

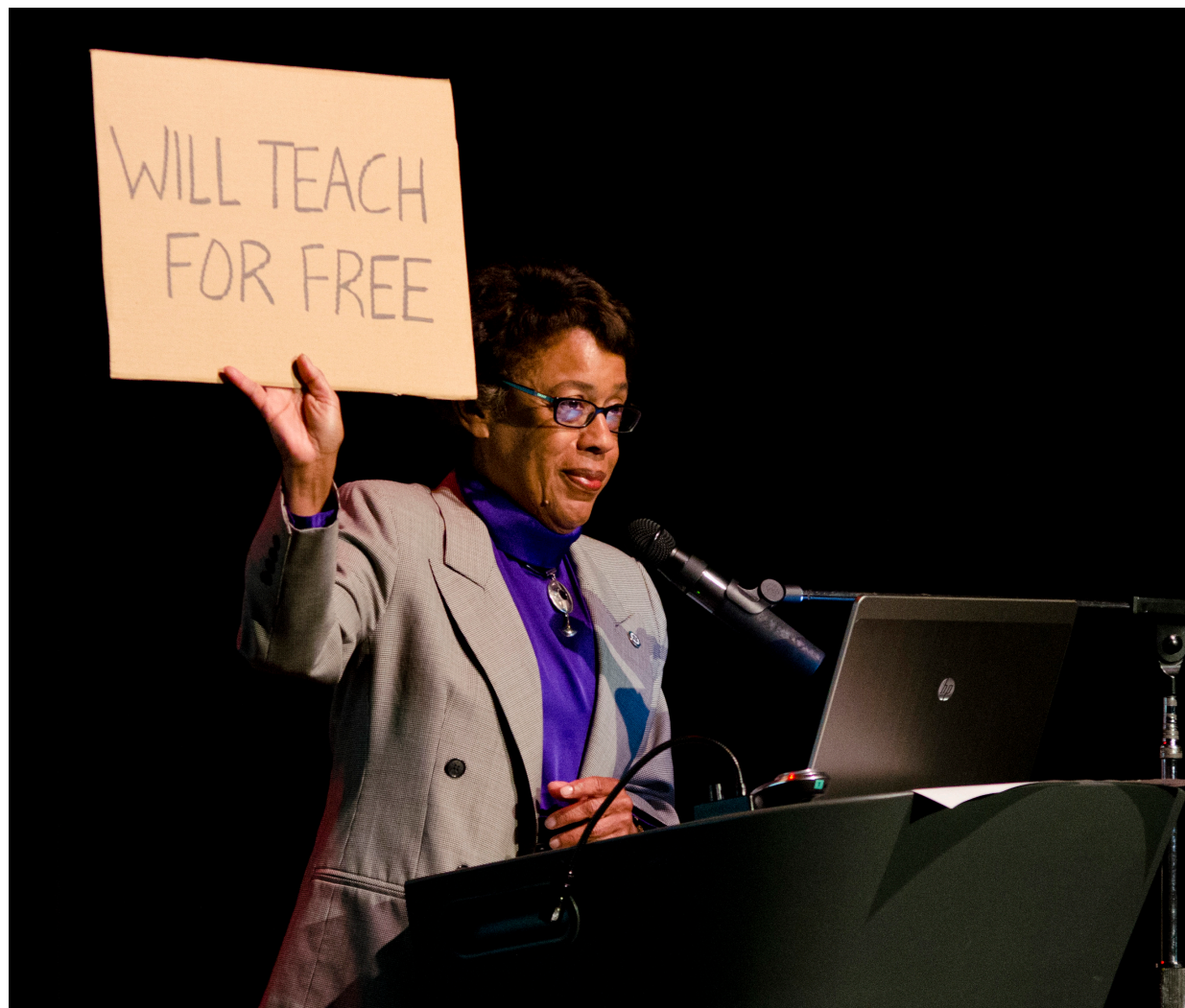
"Student success is first of all defined by the goal that the student has," Chancellor Carroll said. "Not all students want to transfer, for example, but if a student does want to transfer, a successful transfer is student success. If a student wants to train for a job, a career, and succeeds in doing that, that's student success. I define student success in terms of outcomes based upon the student's goal. And students are very different in those goals. I'm an outcomes-oriented educator."

Outcomes can be measured by the record 15,000-plus degrees and certificates awarded in 2019-20, and again in 2020-21, or by the more than 150,000 degrees and certificates awarded during the Chancellor's tenure. Outcomes also can be measured by the 27% increase in Black students transferring to a four-year college or university from 2015 through 2019, or the 45% increase in Black students enrolled in the district's Honors program. And successful outcomes can be measured by the more than 6,400 students served by the tuition-free San Diego Promise, many of whom may not otherwise have been able to attend college



Uncompromising in her commitment to student success, Constance Carroll is a force. She has been consistent and unwavering in using that force to advocate on behalf of community colleges."

— Walter G. Bumphus  
President and CEO, American  
Association of Community Colleges



(At left) The Miramar College Fire Technology Program offers specialized degrees and certificates in a number of fields with many graduates becoming first responders in San Diego County. (Above) College of Continuing Education welding student Sharla Knight found early success through her program as one of 18 women in the nation selected to complete a pre-apprenticeship at the Ironworkers Training Center in the Bay Area.



(Clockwise from left) During City College's 2013 Convocation, Chancellor Carroll lets faculty know she is more than willing to serve as a guest lecturer. Through Miramar College's Southern California Biotechnology Center, Tracy Naputi learned the skills necessary to start a new career in the San Diego's booming biotechnology industry. Commencement speaker Cristina Rosas earned a certificate in Business and Accounting, while as a DACA recipient also received targeted support from the College of Continuing Education. The Academic Success Center at Miramar College provides students with one-on-one tutoring, group tutoring, review sessions, and student success workshops, which all transitioned to online during the COVID-19 pandemic for continued support.



and are transferring to the likes of UCLA and UC Berkeley.

"When it comes to Constance, students have always come first," said former Board of Trustees President Rich Grosch.

The Chancellor's commitment to placing students first was illustrated by the District's efforts at providing thousands of laptops for students on the other side of the digital divide during the transition to online classes amid the COVID-19 pandemic. And it is visible through the expanding programs at the San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE), which awarded more than 6,000 diplomas and certificates to adult learners at its 2020 commencement, and which has earned praise for the growing numbers of students transitioning to for-credit colleges.

"What happened at Continuing Education under the Chancellor's watch is beyond compare," said Grosch, referring to the physical transformation of SDCCE campuses and myriad initiatives that include the ICOM Academy and the Gateway to College and Career. "Continuing Education had always been on the back burner, almost an afterthought. But now look at it. We have what is probably the best continuing education program in the country."

The Chancellor's motivation is clear. The diverse population of community college students are determined to succeed, and it is up to educators to make sure they reach their goals through efforts that include Student Equity Plans calling for professional development in cultural competencies, career and education counseling for all first-time college students, and targeted student engagement programs to disproportionately impacted groups that are narrowing achievement gaps.

"It was not until I left the university world and came to a community college where I discovered two things: that community college students were not privileged, and that they viewed their education as a great, great transformational gift in their lives," Chancellor Carroll said. "You could see that in our commencements; they're not bouncing beach balls and being disrespectful during the commencement ceremonies. They're dead serious and proud of their achievements. Community college students are different. Community college faculty are also different. Professors in community colleges love teaching and love students, so much so that some of our faculty members have been known to fly to the graduations of some of their students who have transferred to universities. The faculty members are really all about teaching and all about students."





After completing their studies through the San Diego Promise program, students have gone on to continue their education in aerospace engineering, art therapy, sociology, and more at such universities as UC Berkeley, UCLA, and locally at San Diego State and UC San Diego. Miramar student Jillian Fortner (pictured at right) says she is thankful for the support she received from the Promise program, which helped her get accepted into her dream school, UCSD, where she will attend in the fall.

## The San Diego Promise

“Chancellor (Constance M.) Carroll has been a visionary in her approach to creating more opportunities for our students and it is thanks to her leadership that the San Diego Community College District was one of the first in the state to develop a Promise program,” said SDCCD Board of Trustees President Maria Nieto Senour, who also credited the Chancellor’s high regard in which she is held for the more than \$1.9 million raised to date for the initiative.

Indeed, Chancellor Carroll recognized early on how expanding opportunities for students was critical in not only building the region’s economy, but also in addressing a projected shortfall of up to 1.1 million skilled workers with some college education but less than a bachelor’s degree by 2030. Expecting students to take on more debt to pay for a college education was a non-starter; the Federal Reserve Bank says there is nearly \$1.5 trillion in outstanding student debt nationwide.

Chancellor Carroll’s involvement with the San Diego Promise, which serves students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, has been hands-on since its inception. Building partnerships — including with the San Diego Unified School District — has been critical, as has relying on her vast personal network and close relationships with alumni. Chancellor Carroll was the reason Mesa College alumna and four-time Oscar-nominated actor Annette Bening headlined a 2018 San Diego Promise gala that raised more than \$200,000 for the program. In addition, the Chancellor has advocated for legislative successes that have expanded state funding so that all California high school graduates who enroll full-time are eligible to attend community college tuition-free for two years.

6,407

Number of students who have participated in the San Diego Promise

free community college program since its inception in 2016

The need is profound. While SDCCD students have access to some of the most affordable, high-quality, higher education in the nation, earning a degree or certificate remains out of the reach for many because of the high cost of housing, food, transportation, and essentials. Seven in 10 students in the District are supporting themselves by working while attending college, and the vast majority receive some form of financial aid to help them pay for tuition and registration fees. Approximately half of San Diego Promise students come from families with a household income of less than \$40,000 annually, and 15% come from families making less than \$10,000 each year, according to a District analysis.

A unique aspect of the San Diego Promise is that it accepts adult students who complete their high school education at the San Diego College of Continuing Education.

But getting students into college isn’t the only focus of the San Diego Promise. Making sure they succeed is the goal, which is why the program includes book grants, peer support groups, and academic counseling to help students develop an education plan meeting their career and academic goals.

In all, the San Diego Promise, which began as a pilot with a cohort of 186 students in 2016-17, has served more than 6,400 students to date — including some 3,900 in the current academic year.

“Everything we do is about changing lives.”

— Constance M. Carroll

Gergio Ricacho is a believer. The Miramar College and San Diego Promise alumnus graduated in 2020 and transferred last fall to UCLA from Miramar College, where he was active with the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, the LGBTQ-support group Club SPECTRUM, and the campus social justice organization Miramar REACT. “The San Diego Promise really helped me get involved in school, and it helped me save enough money to do Study Abroad twice,” Ricacho said. “I’m super thankful for how things worked out.”

The Chancellor will remain committed to expanding Promise opportunities in her retirement. Her unsurpassed advocacy led her to her recent appointment to the College Promise campaign’s National Advisory Board.

“Having led the successful design and implementation of the San Diego Promise, even today through the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Constance Carroll’s Promise leadership team is enabling thousands more Californians to earn a college

degree or certificate without the burden of runaway college debt,” said Dr. Martha Kanter, former Under Secretary of Education who now serves as the national College Promise campaign’s CEO. “Dr. Carroll brings deep knowledge and front-line expertise to the national Promise movement that will help the more than 300 local communities strengthen, sustain, and keep the promises they have made to hardworking students preparing to lead us forward in the decades ahead.”



(Below right) Mesa College Promise student Harley Sobreo celebrates his completion of the Promise Program in 2019. (Below left) Partnerships and Chancellor Carroll’s relationships with alumni like Mesa College alumna and actor Annette Bening have been critical to the success of the Promise program. In 2018, Bening was the keynote speaker at a gala event, one of the many fundraisers that have helped push monies raised to more than \$1.9 million since the program’s inception.







# Propositions S and N

When Chancellor Constance M. Carroll first stepped onto the San Diego Mesa College campus as President more than a generation ago, she didn't know what to think.

"When I first saw the Mesa College campus, I was depressed. I thought, 'Have I made a mistake?' Not only did it have these little, one-story bungalow-type buildings that were cheap and rickety and just embarrassing, but it was also very dirty. The trash cans were dirty. The buildings had soot stains on them. It wasn't air-conditioned. It was just terrible. A great college, with great faculty and great classified professionals and administrators, who were not well-served by the environment — the physical environment — that they inhabited."

It was the same across the rest of the San Diego Community College District. But things soon began to change. Even after voter-approved Proposition S, a \$685-million bond passed in 2002, more needed to be done. Chancellor Carroll led the effort to pass a second measure, Proposition N, an \$870-million bond, in 2006, despite strong opposition from The San Diego Union-Tribune editorial pages.

"Passing Prop. N was a huge challenge," said former Board of Trustees President Rich Grosch. "This was right after Prop. S had passed and the Union-Tribune, which at the time was a major influence in the city, was against it. If it were not for the Chancellor, this would not have passed. Who would have led the charge? Who would have done the arm twisting? Who would have made sure that everyone educated themselves about the issue? Who would have motivated people to go out and vote?"

The change has been beyond profound.

"City College looks nothing like it did before," Chancellor Carroll said. "The same with Mesa. Just

(Clockwise from top) Ribbons rain down on Chancellor Carroll's outstretched arms during the 2015 grand opening celebration of the Social and Behavioral Sciences building at Mesa College. Scaffolding surrounds the LLRC Building at Miramar College during construction in 2011; the new building, completed in 2012, was one of many that completely transformed the campus under the Propositions S and N bond programs. Students gather inside the entry to the César E. Chávez Campus, a new College of Continuing Education campus that opened in the Barrio Logan in 2015. Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster (left) and Chancellor Carroll take aim at some of the last remaining single-story buildings on campus to make way for a new quadrangle project, one of the last from the Propositions S and N bond programs. Miramar College's Fire Technology and EMT Training Center opened in 2014 and now trains many of the area's first responders in high-tech classrooms and lab spaces.



“One of my most meaningful moments, other than attending community college graduation ceremonies, was standing at Election Central in 2006 watching our bond measure pass and realizing that that was going to bring in an unheard of amount of money that would allow us to transform our campuses.”

— Constance M. Carroll

gorgeous, handsome facilities. Miramar College had no facilities to speak of, except one building, really, and a lot of little Quonset huts and bungalows, but is today a gorgeous campus. And, of course, the College of Continuing Education did not have the kind of state-of-the-art campuses it does now."

The District has been lauded for its prudent spending practices during the transformation, securing perfect marks on the San Diego County Taxpayers Association annual scorecard in 2016, 2018, and 2019, and near-perfect scores every other year. A 2016 bond refunding — or refinancing — yielded \$80 million in taxpayer savings; a refinancing effort three years later yielded an additional \$158.4 million in savings. Furthermore, small and historically disadvantaged businesses make up the majority of consultants hired by the District to work on Propositions S and N projects.

Propositions S and N projects are also environmentally friendly. The District is on track to obtain a total of 42 Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certifications, including 14 Gold Certifications; Miramar College's police station was the first higher education facility in San Diego to earn the highest award, a Platinum Certification. Other highlights include a solar panel installation on the Career Technology Center at City College that is generating more than 67,000 kilowatt hours annually and the vertical façade on the south side of the structure is the largest of its kind in the nation; the Mesa Commons project that was the first building on Mesa College's campus to house a group of cisterns providing 100% of the site's irrigation needs; and the College of Continuing Education's new César E. Chávez campus in Barrio Logan, where low-flow and waterless plumbing fixtures reduce water consumption by 40% compared to a typical building its size and drought-tolerant landscaping and high-efficiency irrigation has reduced landscape-related water use by at least 50%.

The impact of modernized campuses goes far beyond taxpayer savings and energy efficiency.

"How can you inspire individuals in San Diego to become tomorrow's engineers if they're going to be learning at campuses that looked like nothing more than glorified high schools?" said SDCCD architect Lance Lareau. "The change has been transformational, and it may not be coincidental that student performance has improved along with the modernization of the District's campuses."

It is also fitting that the final building of the bond program, the City College Child Development Center, was completed just months before Chancellor Carroll's retirement.



# A Transformation of the SDCCD

## COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION CÉSAR E. CHÁVEZ CAMPUS

**Funding source:** Prop. S  
**Project budget:** \$48.8 million  
**Construction dates:** 2013-2015

This project started with land acquisition in the Barrio Logan neighborhood for a newly constructed César E. Chávez building that now houses consolidated programs from the former Centre City and Chávez campuses. The nearly 68,000-square-foot facility incorporates 22 classrooms for vocational training, English as a Second Language (ESL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), Parent Education and Emeritus (age 55+) programs, as well as a space for a Small Business Incubator. The energy-efficient design exceeds state building efficiency standards by at least 14% and is one of the reasons it was awarded a Silver LEED certification in 2016.



## COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION NORTH CITY CAMPUS

**Funding source:** Prop. S  
**Project budget:** \$43.4 million  
**Construction dates:** 2012-2013



This two-story, 42,000-square-foot facility is designated as the Campus of Excellence for Multimedia and Innovation for the College of Continuing Education. It has state-of-the-art technology classrooms, computer labs, multipurpose areas, and administrative offices to support the business technology curriculum, and houses Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS). Along with the land acquisition for the educational facility, a two-story parking structure was constructed. Some of the sustainable features of the campus include building materials with high recycled content, a green roof, and daylight sensors that automatically dim lights to help reduce energy consumption. The building was awarded LEED Gold certification in 2014.

## MESA COLLEGE MATH + SCIENCE COMPLEX

**Funding source:** Prop. N  
**Project budget:** \$109.3 million  
**Construction dates:** 2011-2013



The four-story, 296,000-square-foot Math + Science Complex at Mesa College received a LEED Silver rating for sustainability features such as globally-themed gardens, including Australian and South African gardens, and all-wood surfaces made of caramelized bamboo, a 100% sustainable resource. The building houses biology, chemistry, physical sciences, and mathematics programs with support classrooms, computer classrooms, teaching lab classrooms, and faculty, classified professional, and administrative support spaces, as well as specialty spaces for a greenhouse and an observation center. The north entrance of the building has a Geo Garden display featuring ornamental walls depicting the Earth's various layers.

## MIRAMAR COLLEGE STUDENT SERVICES

(Cafeteria, bookstore, and student/campus center)

**Funding source:** Prop. N  
**Project budget:** \$39.5 million  
**Construction dates:** 2011-2013

The Student Services building encompasses 76,600 gross square feet across three stories with a cafeteria, bookstore, multi-purpose room, convenience store, coffee shop and café, and meeting rooms and offices. Student support services, such as admissions, counseling, financial aid, and student activities offices, are housed here. Several courtyards and exterior balconies were incorporated into the building with the aim of engaging students from the outside. In 2015, the building, which is 35% more efficient than required by California's Title 24 energy efficiency code for construction, received a Silver LEED certification.



## MESA COLLEGE MESA COMMONS

**Funding source:** Prop. N  
**Project budget:** \$44.3 million  
**Construction dates:** 2014-2016

Mesa Commons at Mesa College is a 73,000-square-foot, two-story building that acts as a student hub on campus. It houses two cafeterias, the campus bookstore, a convenience store, and coffee café, plus culinary arts management labs and classrooms, faculty and student lounge spaces, conference rooms, the campus stockroom, mail and reprographics services, and the student-run M Fusion Dining Café. In early 2021, Mesa College was in the process of obtaining a Silver LEED rating for sustainable building practices that include an organic roof garden, which provides produce used at M Fusion Dining Café, and a 37% reduction in water use with low-flow toilets, urinals, and restroom and kitchen sinks, which saves about 148,000 gallons of water annually.



## MIRAMAR COLLEGE LIBRARY/ LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER (LLRC)

**Funding source:** Prop. N  
**Project budget:** \$39 million  
**Construction dates:** 2009-2012



This three-story, 105,000-square-foot facility features an iconic archway entrance that leads to an open-air atrium with space for students to relax or study outdoors. The inside houses a library, classrooms, computer labs, tutoring services, a media production facility, and offices and work spaces for faculty and classified professionals. The building is LEED certified and features high-efficiency plumbing and a high-efficiency irrigation system that uses reclaimed water, and 75% of construction waste was diverted from local landfills.

## CITY COLLEGE ARTS AND HUMANITIES BUILDING

**Funding source:** Prop. N  
**Project budget:** \$94.6 million  
**Construction dates:** 2010-2014



The 128,000-square-foot Arts and Humanities Building at City College houses visual arts, English, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), speech and foreign languages, Honors, world cultures and City Works programs and supports them with new classrooms, a lecture hall, computer labs, and studio spaces for drawing, ceramics, and graphic design. A 100-seat black box theater with drama classrooms and exterior space for a kiln yard, sculpture garden, and display area add to the creativity of the students, faculty, and classified professionals who use the building. The Arts and Humanities Building, which received a LEED Gold certification, mixes drought-tolerant landscaping with streetscaping treatments that help blend the college campus with the surrounding East Village neighborhood using guidelines from the Centre City Development Corporation (CCDC).

## CITY COLLEGE SCIENCE BUILDING

**Funding source:** Prop. N  
**Project budget:** \$57.4 million  
**Construction dates:** 2011-2013



The Science Building at City College is 98,000 square feet built in an L-shape with four stories. It houses programs such as life sciences, physical sciences, and astronomy, and features new classrooms, labs and state-of-the-art technology, a teaching garden, rooftop observation deck, and a planetarium. The building has an exterior composed of a special fiber cement panel "rainscreen" system and the surrounding landscape uses native and drought tolerant plants, which are some of the many sustainability features that helped earn a LEED Silver rating in 2017.





Participation in the annual MLK Day Parade has been a tradition at the San Diego Community College District since the inaugural event in 1981, with each of the colleges now creating their own float, some of which have been recognized for awards from event coordinators.



Chancellor Carroll points to the unparalleled role community colleges play in providing a pathway for upward social mobility through accessible and affordable educational opportunities.

## Equity and Access

Chancellor Constance M. Carroll's unyielding commitment to equity and access is rooted in her upbringing in a segregated Baltimore. Pimlico Junior High School, which Chancellor Carroll attended, was among the first Baltimore public schools to open its doors to a handful of African-American students.



Scholarships are just one of the many tools that Chancellor Carroll and the SDCCD use to make sure all students have access to a first-class education.

Her experience underscores the Chancellor's perseverance in ensuring a first-class education is available to all.

Mission accomplished. More than two-thirds of San Diego Community College District students come from minority populations. Hispanic Serving Institution grants at San Diego City and Mesa colleges have helped boost the number of Latinx students transferring to a four-year institution by 60% over a recent five-year period. The number of African-American students transferring to a four-year college or university was up 27% over a four-year period through 2019. And 28% of all students are the first in their family to go to college.

"Constance Carroll put 'community' back into community college," said former SDCCD Board of Trustees President Evonne Seron Schultze. "One of the biggest changes that occurred under her watch has been in adult education. She had a huge impact on expanding

programs and getting first-class, Continuing Education campuses across the city, into the neighborhoods that had been neglected."

Within the SDCCD, students from such varied backgrounds are provided with valuable programs and support services that have grown during Chancellor Carroll's leadership. Programs such as Puente, Umoja, Hermanos Unidos/ Brothers United, and Restorative Justice are sending those seeking a solid education to pursue various degree programs around the country.

"Chancellor Carroll aimed her heart at kids like me, who felt we were not destined to succeed in school and never imagined attending college," said Rachael Ortiz, the longtime Executive Director at Barrio Station, a youth community center in Barrio Logan that offers outreach programs for San Diego's underserved communities. "The equity now seen throughout the

District is a testament, within itself, to the tireless work of 'The People's Chancellor.' Staff and students alike reflect the populations that are now experiencing true inclusiveness, opportunities, and justice."

More than half of the District's employees come from underrepresented communities and 56% of those working at the District are women.

"Chancellor Carroll has diversified our faculty, classified professionals, and administration over the years, making sure our students see role models they can relate to," said Board President Maria Nieto Senour. "Chancellor Carroll has been a visionary in her approach to creating more opportunities for our students and staff, especially those from the most vulnerable populations."

Chancellor Carroll was at the forefront in advocating on behalf of students protected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, advocating for approximately 560 DACA students at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and the College of Continuing Education. And when the U.S. Department of Education decreed that Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding could not be spent on DACA students, the Board of Trustees, at the Chancellor's urging, authorized the District's becoming a plaintiff in a successful lawsuit challenging the directive.

"Few people have done more for education, equity, and inclusion than Dr. Constance Carroll. San Diego is truly a better place because of her work," said President

and CEO at San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation Mark Cafferty.

Chancellor Carroll has received numerous honors and recognitions for her efforts. For example, in 2015, Dr. Carroll was honored with the prestigious "Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Human Dignity Award" by the YMCA of San Diego County. And in 2019, the Central San Diego Black Chamber of Commerce recognized her contributions with its Lifetime Leadership Award. During a virtual event earlier this year, she received the Cesar E. Chavez Humanitarian Award from Barrio Station.

Asked how the District can further impact the fight against the kind of systemic racism often ignored by larger society that has fueled Black Lives Matter demonstrations following the killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police, Chancellor Carroll pointed to the unparalleled role community colleges play in providing a pathway for upward social mobility through accessible and affordable educational opportunities.

"Community colleges also are, in many cases, very committed to multicultural education," she said. "In the San Diego Community College District, for example, (among) the very first Black Studies departments at a community college in the nation was initiated at City College. The very first Chicano Studies program was also initiated at City College. So, community colleges have been part of the movement to bring about equity and the egalitarian spirit, as well, to all students, especially African-American students."



My focus on access, inclusion, equity, and diversity comes from my direct experiences, and seeing the impact of limited access, lack of support, and low expectations has made me absolutely devoted to making sure that doesn't happen to other people. We have to fight for human rights for all people in America."

— Constance M. Carroll  
*Diverse Issues in Higher Education*  
June 24, 2020





# Community College Baccalaureate Program

California is now among 25 states that have authorized community college bachelor's degree programs, a milestone achieved through the years-long advocacy of Chancellor Constance M. Carroll. It is because of such leadership that bachelor's degrees ranging from Airframe Manufacturing Technology at Antelope Valley College to Dental Hygiene at Foothill College to Respiratory Care at Skyline College and Health Information Management at San Diego Mesa College are being offered — at a fraction of the cost of a typical bachelor's degree — to meet regional and statewide workforce demands.

"Years ago, when I first heard about community colleges offering bachelor's degrees, I, like many people, was opposed to it," Chancellor Carroll said. "I thought, what are they doing? They're expanding their mission. As I learned more, I found there are fields — workforce fields — that no longer feel that the associate degree level of instruction is sufficient, and they prefer bachelor's degrees. At the same time, universities, particularly public universities, don't offer these programs. This became an apparent niche to me for community colleges."

The bottom line: "The community college mission is not just about transfer. It's also about workforce preparation."

Chancellor Carroll deftly chaired the statewide legislative efforts and California's community college baccalaureate program has been a success since Governor Jerry Brown in 2014 signed Senate Bill 850 allowing 15 colleges, including Mesa College, to offer bachelor's degrees on a pilot basis. That bill, authored by Senator Marty Block (a former SDCCD Board President) was followed by Senator Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) introducing 2018 legislation, later signed into law, extending the program's sunset date from 2023 to July 2026.

Chancellor Carroll was there on August 25, 2015, when Mesa College opened its doors to 32 freshmen enrolled in the college's four-year degree program in Health Information Management (HIM), thus becoming the first community college in the state to offer upper division classes that lead to a Registered Health Information Administrator (RHIA) certification. And she was there on May 19, 2018, when the college presented bachelor's degrees to its first class of HIM graduates. Since then, the number of students



On May 19, 2018, Chancellor Carroll presented bachelor's degrees to Mesa College's first class of Health Information Management (HIM) bachelor's degree graduates.



Senator Marty Block (center), a former SDCCD Board President, authored SB 850, which was signed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2014 to establish California's baccalaureate pilot program. Judy C. Miner (left), Chancellor of the Foothill-De Anza Community College District is working with Dr. Carroll on future statewide efforts to expand the program.



Community college baccalaureate degree programs are helping students find good-paying jobs, and in a manner characterized by high-quality instruction, with excellent faculty members, excellent facilities, low cost, and accessibility."

— Constance M. Carroll



(Above) A freshman class of Health Information Management (HIM) baccalaureate students are welcomed to the Allied Health Education and Training Facility at Mesa College. (Above right) Each year, Chancellor Carroll and President Pamela T. Luster honor HIM graduates during a completion ceremony.



and graduates has continued to grow, not only at Mesa College, but throughout the state.

And for good reason.

The California Legislative Analyst's Office concluded the most common benefit of the program cited by students was its relatively low cost, adding that more than half of students surveyed would not have pursued a bachelor's degree if their community college program had not been offered.

In addition, graduation rates among those in community college baccalaureate programs are higher than graduation rates among those transferring from a community college to a California State University campus. Programs are meeting workforce objectives, and approximately 60% of enrolled students are minorities, more than two-thirds are women, and students are paying less than \$11,000 in tuition and fees for their four-year degrees, a fraction of what it would cost them at private institutions. On average, students who graduated in 2018 were earning a salary \$28,000 higher than their salary before enrolling in their bachelor's degree program.

"I do not believe that California Community Colleges would have a baccalaureate program were it not for Constance," said Foothill-De Anza Community College District Chancellor Judy Miner, who co-founded the California Community College Baccalaureate Association with Chancellor Carroll and serves as the chair of the Board of Directors. "Her vision and relentless energy continue to carry all of us along to one of the most important pathways for our students, business, and an equitable California economy. I am beyond thrilled that I have the privilege of working with her and learning from her even in her retirement. I am in awe of the impact of her contributions on behalf of community college students and believe I can best honor her by standing for their access and success."

Efforts now turn to new legislation being carried by state Assemblymember Jose Medina, chair of the Assembly Committee on Higher Education, that would eliminate the 2026 sunset date on existing baccalaureate pilot programs in workforce fields where there is high demand and unmet need and allow for the number of such programs to grow throughout the state. Chancellor Carroll is co-chairing the statewide advocacy campaign in support of Assembly Bill 927, which was introduced in February.

"This legislation is essential for California's future, as it will allow all community colleges to prepare students for good-paying, in-demand jobs requiring baccalaureate-level education," said Chancellor Carroll. "These programs do not duplicate any programs offered by California's public universities and they are high-quality, low-cost, and locally accessible. We are grateful to Assemblyman Medina for his vision and leadership."





SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

## A LEGACY OF EXCELLENCE



The Business & Technology Building, along with several other new and renovated projects at City College, was funded through Proposition N, which Chancellor Carroll rallied support for when taxpayers approved the bond in 2006.

Transformational. That's the term most often used to describe retiring Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D., by those who have seen the changes she sparked at San Diego City College during her 17 years as chief executive officer of the San Diego Community College District.

"Dr. Carroll has been transformational for both the college and for the community," said City College Vice President of Student Services Denise Whisenhunt, who credited the Chancellor for rallying support for Proposition N, a 2006, taxpayer-approved, \$870 million bond measure that has resulted in a wholesale modernization of the campus. A new Business & Technology Building, Arts & Humanities Building, the M Classroom Building, numerous renovations, and more — all funded through Proposition N and all complementing the myriad projects financed by Proposition S.

Whisenhunt pointed to the Proposition N-funded, 98,000-square-foot Science Building as symbolic of the profound change. "That planetarium illustrates how our students today can literally see and reach for the stars, and it represents how our entire community can dream," Whisenhunt said of the Spitz SciDome HD planetarium housed inside the Science Building. "The bottom line is Dr. Carroll made sure a significant investment was made in the most cul-

turally diverse community college in the region, the flagship of the District, and that investment speaks to who she is."

Acting Dean/Athletic Director Aaron Detty saw the transformation as both a student and as a professor.

"I started at City as a student in 2000, back when the campus was nothing like it is now," Detty said. "The faculty was great but the campus was outdated. It was very different and nothing like today. Now, it's a high-tech mecca and you really have to credit the leadership of Dr. Carroll."

The Chancellor's impact, though, goes far beyond brick and mortar. Whisenhunt noted that the Chancellor's commitment to increase opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses and contractors through the bond was an important message for the San Diego community. And above all else, Chancellor Carroll's leadership has played a critical role in increasing student success and access for all students at City College. That insistence on inclusion permeates the hiring and professional development of amazing faculty, classified professionals, and administrators. Under the leadership of City College President Ricky Shabazz, the college continues to enhance its responsiveness to those it serves.

## AN ODE TO OUR FORMER PRESIDENT, OUR PEOPLE'S CHANCELLOR

Chancellor Carroll speaks during the Feb. 6, 2020, march to the Rosa Parks Transit Center at Mesa College. She had a close connection with the civil rights activist, who visited the campus on multiple occasions.



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D., served 11 years as President of San Diego Mesa College, from 1993 to 2004. During that time, her impact was widely felt, and she definitely made her mark in turning Mesa College into one of California's top-performing community colleges.

The impressions she has made on the Mesa College campus and the San Diego Community College District are undeniable. English Department Chair Chris Sullivan shared that when he began working for the college, a mentor recommended he attend a meeting of the Board of Trustees. At the meeting, the Chancellor at the time waded deeply into a complex issue with disparate elements. Dr. Carroll, who had been sitting near the front of the room listening intently, was called upon to comment.

"When she spoke, she wove together a narrative that was both assessment and analysis; the elements that had ap-

peared disparate were fused in a way that, when she was finished speaking, left a moment of silence in the room while those in attendance caught up," Sullivan said. "That's when she had me."

From a personal perspective, President Pamela T. Luster had this to say: "I have learned so much from Constance — how to be a leader, how to be tough but kind-hearted, and to always see the positive in situations when there may not be much to observe." President Luster recalled with fondness how much she has enjoyed dancing with Dr. Carroll at events, and has appreciated the opportunity to learn the "dance of leadership" under Chancellor Carroll's mentorship.

Chancellor Carroll has indeed provided Mesa College with many legacies. Among them are her devotion to civil rights and her connection to Rosa Parks. The civil rights activist first visited Mesa College on her 79th birthday,

Feb. 4, 1992, with repeat visits in 1993 and 1995. At Mesa College, Mrs. Parks was recognized with the Rosa Parks Transit Center, which honors her legacy and teachings.

"Mrs. Parks was not only an iconic figure of the civil rights movement, she was a warm and caring presence to many people," Chancellor Carroll recalled. "Our students and faculty looked forward to her visits to Mesa College, and all of us were overwhelmed by her combination of humility and courage."

While at Mesa College, Chancellor Carroll's commitment to the humanities was unwavering. The Mesa College Humanities Institute, originally established in 1990, was generously supported by Dr. Carroll upon her appointment as President of Mesa College in 1993, and it has continued to be in the forefront of her work during her tenure with the District. In 2020, Mesa College announced the renaming of its Humanities Institute to the Dr. Constance M. Carroll Humanities Institute. Like Chancellor Carroll, the Humanities Institute supports the work of faculty and staff to bring diverse programming and events to Mesa College, and serves as an internal vehicle for cultural, interdisciplinary, and Mesa College community priorities and activities that are intended to increase student engagement, recruitment, and retention.

The Institute aims to honor and continue Dr. Carroll's legacy, and is a way for the Mesa College community to show its thanks and gratitude for her amazing leadership.

SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE







SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

## A PATH FOR GROWTH, SUCCESS

Portable classrooms and a lot of dirt. That was pretty much the defining character of San Diego Miramar College when Chancellor Constance M. Carroll took the helm as Chief Executive Officer of the San Diego Community College District some 17 years ago.

How times have changed.

Today, Miramar College is defined not only as a modern campus with amenities that make it the envy of community colleges throughout the nation, but Miramar College also is home to groundbreaking programs and facilities such as the Southern California Biotechnology Center, the Heavy Duty Advanced Transportation Technology Center, and a public safety training center that is preparing nearly every first responder in San Diego for successful careers.

No longer 120 acres comprising sagebrush and trailers, thanks to the transformative power behind Propositions S and N, Miramar College is marked by a new Mathematics &

Business Building, an Arts & Humanities wing, a Career Technology Center, a Student Services facility with a spacious cafeteria and bookstore, an Automotive Technology Career Instructional Building, a state-of-the-art Fire Technology and EMT Training Center, the Hourglass Park Field House, and more.

“Dr. Carroll’s impact can be found throughout Miramar College. Her support and advocacy has led to not only a physical transformation of the campus, but also a complete evolution into a comprehensive community college with diverse course offerings,” said Miramar College President P. Wesley Lundburg. “Her legacy here will live on long after her retirement.”

Chancellor Carroll’s legacy will live on, President Lundburg and others agree, through more than the modernization of the campus. During her tenure, she’s consistently advocated

for growing the college’s enrollment and for making the investments necessary for it to ensure the quality of education is second to none inside and outside the classroom. This included support for expanding co-curricular activities such as athletics, associated students, and clubs and organizations. It also included boosting important equity initiatives such as the college’s highly regarded Honors Program.

“Dr. Carroll has been a key force for a more equitable and just education from a culturally affirming and aspirational perspective,” said English Professor Carmen Carrasquillo, who coordinates the Miramar College Honors Program that has grown exponentially since Chancellor Carroll became the District’s Chief Executive. “Chancellor Carroll has powerfully affirmed our richly diverse identities in inclusive and compassionate ways. Using an expert equity lens, she has increased justice within institutional procedures and processes through her investment in professional growth and leadership development. The tangible result is greater support for our students’ aspirations, for their hopes and dreams.”

All these efforts have resulted in a college that is a model for student success and retention; a college that has been recognized as among the fastest-growing in the nation; and a college that has earned the nickname “UC Miramar” for the high percentage of its transfer students who earn acceptance to the University of California.

“Dr. Carroll is an institution who has not only established the standard for student success, but has provided the tools and professional development programs that ensure that success endures,” said President Lundburg.



When Chancellor Carroll arrived at the SDCCD, Miramar College was little more than 120 acres of dirt, sagebrush, and trailer classrooms. Today, it is a beautiful, state-of-the-art campus that has been recognized as one of the fastest growing colleges in the nation.



SAN DIEGO COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



## IN SUPPORT OF NONCREDIT EDUCATION

San Diego College of Continuing Education’s (SDCCE) profile has grown tremendously since Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D., arrived and the institution has thrived under her leadership and support for 17 years.

Chancellor Carroll knew early on the importance of noncredit adult education and was ready to make SDCCE successful.

One of her first actions as Chancellor in 2004 was making the decision to keep the noncredit organization as a fourth and distinct institution within the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD). This bold decision created a solid foundation for SDCCE to lead the way for the future of noncredit organizations throughout the state.

“Her unwavering belief in academia to change and enrich lives has inspired an infrastructure to create what SDCCE is today — a national model to serve adult learners who need an untraditional pathway for education,” said SDCCE President Carlos O. Cortez.

Next, in 2006, an increase in critical state funding for career development and college preparation (CDCP) classes meant that SDCCE was in a prominent position to gain traction due to the number of CDCP classes already being offered — more than 70% of all offerings — and it was with Carroll’s encouragement and guidance that the state made this permanent decision with the passing of Senate Bill 361.

At the encouragement of Carroll in 2012, state leaders came to understand that the long-standing partnership between and SDCCD and the San Diego Unified School District to offer a joint high school diploma program exemplified a model that could be mirrored throughout the state for neighboring districts to align curriculum in basic skills, workforce needs, or transfer opportunities. Her advocacy with the independent state oversight agency Little Hoover Commission led to the formation of the Adult Education Block Grant in 2015 and what today has become the California Adult Education Program, which is positively impacting and promoting collaboration in communities across every noncredit classroom in the state.

“In our opinion, community colleges have



Chancellor Carroll has been a staunch advocate of noncredit education at the state level and leaves behind a legacy of opportunities for often underserved and misrepresented communities who rely on such programs to move them toward higher learning and the workforce.

the most expertise in educating the adult population, from pedagogy to support services,” Chancellor Carroll and then-San Diego Continuing Education President Anthony Beebe told Commissioners as part of the Serving Students, Serving California: Updating the California Community Colleges to Meet Evolving Demands report. “As a long-term goal, it would seem appropriate to assign this function to community colleges, along with appropriate funding.”

Chancellor Carroll’s direct support for SDCCE has ranged from budget allocation to hiring faculty. When SDCCD distributes state funding to the colleges within the District, SDCCE receives an equal allocation. Such categorical funding includes Strong Workforce, Student Equity, Student Success and Support Programming, and most recently, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Many districts in California do not support noncredit instruction within their organizations in this critical way.

When faculty contracts are available, Chancellor Carroll pushes for equity within noncredit instruction. Where many districts within California hire only adjunct noncredit faculty, at Chancellor Carroll’s direction, the SDCCD hires some full-time faculty to teach in noncredit classrooms. This practice is implemented for other classified professional positions as well, including within facilities, student services, and institutional effectiveness departments. These are just some of the examples of her longtime commitment to hire full-time positions to support

noncredit operations.

“Chancellor Carroll is an integral part of my career in public service and in SDCCE’s long-term vision. I am profoundly moved by her mentorship, outstanding achievements, and leadership,” Cortez said.

In 2014, another critical decision by the state marked an important milestone for noncredit instruction when CDCP classes were to be fully and equally funded as they were for credit college CDCP courses. Again, Chancellor Carroll’s leadership and ability to communicate and emphasize the importance of noncredit CDCP funding made the difference.

Most recently, Assembly Bill 421, formerly AB 1727, was created to further strengthen noncredit organizations by changing the way noncredit attendance is recorded and thereby change the way noncredit organizations are funded. By allowing census date attendance versus daily positive attendance, AB 421 will drive yet another critical permanence for the credibility and sustainability of noncredit instruction. Chancellor Carroll’s direct influence and advocacy encouraged former Assemblymember Shirley Weber and others to support this legislation, and the SDCCD awaits the paramount outcome of this decision.

Chancellor Carroll leaves behind a remarkable legacy. Her life’s work changed the face of noncredit education beyond SDCCE and her mark continues to advance the opportunities for underserved and misrepresented communities who rely on noncredit education to move them toward access to equity in higher learning and the workforce.





# Looking forward to continued service

Leading nonprofit, enjoying music, hiking top list of post-retirement life



Chancellor Carroll (center) collaborated often with former San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer (left) and former San Diego Unified School District Superintendent Cindy Marten to make sure higher education in the region was accessible to all.



My life is about service. Anyone who knows me well knows that. I'm not looking forward to going on big trips in Winnebagos. I'm interested in finding different ways to serve."

— Constance M. Carroll

Now, even while preparing to officially retire on June 30, Dr. Constance M. Carroll is far from slowing down as she guides the District through what she admits has been her most challenging year with the COVID-19 pandemic, a national struggle for racial justice, and an uneven economy. In the midst of these events, Dr. Carroll is preparing to assume a post-retirement role as President and CEO of the California Community College Baccalaureate Association, a new nonprofit, to advocate making permanent and expanding baccalaureate programs at the community college level.



"The community college baccalaureate will be a vital component in growing and sustaining California's economy by providing relevant job training in an affordable, high-quality, and accessible manner, and my work with the California Community College Baccalaureate Association will be my focus in the coming years," she said. "We will be providing assistance to community colleges in developing

baccalaureate programs, engaging in legislative advocacy, professional development, conferences, and the like — whatever it takes in California to get this particular program expanded and more fully developed than it currently is." Chancellor Carroll also will remain busy as a member of the National Advisory Board for the College Promise Campaign; the National Council on the Humanities, and several local boards. An opera aficionado and former San Diego Opera Board member, she also plans to enjoy music —

the Chancellor plays guitar and piano — and remain an active hiker during her free time. In addition, she will continue working on her Spanish, a language she has studied for more than five years. And, as a student of the Classics, she will remain a voracious reader. "The Classics have messages in the poetry — great poetry, great art, tragedy and the like — that are very, very rich and fertile territory for anyone who is a student of humanistic issues. And certainly, I am a student of humanistic issues."



"I cannot thank Dr. Carroll enough for her leadership and guidance on regional workforce/economic development efforts, and I am forever grateful for her mentorship and friendship."

— Mark Cafferty, President and CEO, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation



Thank you, Dr. Constance Carroll, for serving as our region's champion on education, equity, and community engagement. Your leadership at the San Diego Community College District, as well as with The San Diego Foundation Board of Governors, has helped generate hope, opportunity and purpose for all San Diegans and future generations."

— Mark Stuart, President and CEO, The San Diego Foundation



## "Que viva The People's Chancellor."

— Rachael Ortiz, Executive Director, Barrio Station

"Thank you for being the living embodiment of servant-leadership as an enlightened, Catholic leader. Your unwavering support of the humanities and liberal arts, as well as your steadfast commitment to access and inclusion in education, is inspiring. We are grateful for your service to USD, and your impact on the entire San Diego community is immeasurable."

— James T. Harris III, D.Ed., President of the University of San Diego



"With heartfelt appreciation for keeping students first and foremost throughout your extraordinary list of achievements, thank you, Dr. Carroll, for opening the widest doors possible to enable each and every student to forge a unique path to the American dream."

— Martha Kanter, CEO, College Promise (National); U.S. Under Secretary of Education (2009-2013)



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# Thank You Chancellor Carroll!

Please join  
the San Diego Community College District  
in celebrating

**"The People's Chancellor," Dr. Constance M. Carroll,**

on her 28 years of service to the District  
including 17 years as its longest-serving Chancellor.

Best wishes on your upcoming retirement!  
Chancellor Carroll will be honored during a  
gala fundraising event on Sept. 18.

For more information, visit: [sdccd.edu/promise-gala](http://sdccd.edu/promise-gala)

