

# WE



City College  
Mesa College  
Miramar College  
Continuing Education

## MUSIC TO THE EARS

Story on page 06



## FIGHTING HUNGER

Food insecurity is a growing problem for students in community colleges, four-year colleges, and universities across the country. The San Diego Community College District views combatting this problem as an extension of its mission, as well as a social justice imperative.

In addressing this growing challenge, City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education are engaging in innovative approaches that are making a difference. Partnerships with local grocers and community organizations, such as Feeding San Diego, have resulted in significant increases in the number of students receiving free food.

150 or more per day who seek out the food pantry for a meal or a quick snack. At Continuing Education, students and residents in neighboring communities can stock up on free fresh produce through a monthly Farm to Family Fair. It is not unusual for thousands of pounds of produce to be distributed in just a few hours. In addition, students with an immediate need for nourishment can drop by the SDCEats! pantry.

All of these efforts were supported by generous donors and by more than \$100,000 in state grant money to bolster emergency food pantry services in 2018. The District's Board of Trustees recently accepted an additional \$390,000 from the state in the current fiscal year.

The need is profound. According to the 2018 Basic Needs Survey Report from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, more than half of community college students are food-insecure and nearly 25 percent of faculty and staff come into direct contact daily with students who are food-insecure, housing-insecure, or homeless. A national survey in 2017 that included more than 700 students in the District revealed that the percent of students facing food insecurities ranged from 36 percent at Miramar College to 44 percent at City College. In addition, studies show that students from communities of color register the highest levels of food insecurity, which demonstrates that this challenge is a matter of equity.

In the San Diego Community College District, students come first. Making sure they have their basic needs met so they can succeed is paramount.



San Diego Mesa College  
2019 Farmers Market

Much of what the SDCCD campuses are doing can be found in this issue of our magazine, *WE: With Excellence*. Mesa College is earning praise throughout the city of San Diego for its campus pantry and clothing closet known as "The Stand" and a free farmers market that feeds thousands on a regular basis. City College offers a monthly, cost-free farmers market and maintains an emergency food pantry, which is operated by student interns and is supported by donations from faculty, staff, community partners, and neighbors. Miramar College's initiatives have more than tripled the number of students served to up to

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Constance M. Carroll". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.



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## CONNECTIONS

### MARCHING FOR DR. KING

Hundreds of San Diego Community College District students, faculty, staff, and administrators marched January 21 to honor the ideals and commitments espoused by the late civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., when they took part in the 39th annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Parade along the San Diego Embarcadero. Weekend celebrations began on Friday, January 18, when District representatives joined others at the Jackie Robinson YMCA Human Dignity Awards Breakfast, followed by the January 19 San Diego County Educators Breakfast at the Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, and the 31st annual All Peoples Celebration in Balboa Park.





**Photos:**

**1** Trustee Maria Nieto Senour and Chancellor Constance M. Carroll

**2** Miramar College marchers and President Patricia Hsieh

**3** City College marchers and President Ricky Shabazz

**4** (from left) Trustees Sean Elo, Mary Graham, Maria Nieto Senour, Bernie Rhinerson, and Craig Milgrim

**5** Continuing Education marchers and President Carlos O. Turner Cortez

**6** Mesa College marchers and President Pamela T. Luster

**7** College Police with Chancellor Carroll

**8** Continuing Education's float





City College A Building

## HOME STRETCH

New and renovated building projects funded through the Propositions S and N bond program are almost complete.

On March 13, San Diego Mesa College dedicated its \$14.8-million transformation of the former “I-300 Building” into a four-story Fine Arts Building, a thriving hub with modern facilities and equipment for programs in drawing, painting, sculpture, and ceramics, not to mention a new home for the Mesa College Art Gallery. This spring, Mesa College also unveiled its new, \$32.2-million Center for Business & Technology, a 57,800-square-foot building that serves as home for Mesa’s business, computer, and fashion design programs. The new building includes technology rich classrooms, computer laboratory classrooms, a fashion design laboratory, and offices for faculty and staff.

San Diego City College recently opened its doors to three renovated and modernized buildings. The upgraded A Building includes 52,000 square feet of student service space, creating new homes for admissions, CalWORKS, counseling, financial aid, peer mentoring, numerous student organizations, and more. Renovation of the D Building includes a new roof that will be transformed with student and faculty gathering areas, outdoor furnishings, and landscaping. The T Building modernization provides a new home for the engineering department and space for machine technology and a technology incubator.



Mesa College Center for Business & Technology

Mesa College Fine Arts Building





# EXPANDING THE PROMISE



Financial support provided through the San Diego Promise program could be expanded thanks to California Governor Gavin Newsom’s \$40-million proposal to add a second year to the state’s free community college initiative.

The San Diego Promise program, which has collected more than \$900,000 in contributions, already waives tuition and enrollment fees for first-time, full-time students’ first two years of study toward an associate degree while also providing other support, including textbook grants. With the California College Promise now moving closer to covering a second year of tuition, the San Diego Promise could expand to include such things as larger grants for books and transportation funding.

The governor’s proposal was included in his preliminary budget for fiscal year 2019-20.

About 2,220 students enrolled through the San Diego Promise in the 2018-19 school year, up from 661 students last year and an initial cohort of approximately 180 students during the program’s pilot year of 2016-17.

“We applaud Governor Newsom for expanding free tuition to two years for first-time, full-time community college students,” said Chancellor Constance M. Carroll. “In addition to serving more students, this will allow many districts to fundraise to help cover the cost of textbooks and other education expenses, which are frequently a barrier to students trying to complete their academic programs.”

## SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

Military veterans at City and Mesa colleges are getting even more help in reaching their career and educational goals, thanks to \$400,000 in new grants to bolster services at their campus Veterans Resource Centers.

The awards are aimed at increasing the numbers of veterans earning a degree or certificate or transferring to a university, and they are part of \$8.5 million in additional funding for 59 Veterans Resource Centers at community college campuses throughout the state.

These are the second grants City and Mesa colleges have each received in the past year from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to expand their Veterans Resource Centers. In all, City College secured \$302,000 and Mesa College received \$340,000.

More than 90 of the 115 California community colleges have a Veterans Resource Center that offers everything from peer mentoring to career counseling and a gathering place to build community.

California is home to an estimated 1.8 million veterans, and California community colleges enroll approximately 80,000 veterans and active-duty members annually. More than 3,500 active and non-active duty military, military veterans, or military spouses and dependents are enrolled at City College, and more than 4,800 are enrolled at Mesa College.



## ON COURSE FOR FIRST RESPONDER TRAINING

A partnership involving the San Diego Community College District tasked with building a new regional Emergency Vehicle Operation Course is shifting into high gear with the purchase of 40 acres in Otay Mesa.

The site near the Otay Mesa Detention Center is being purchased with almost \$21 million in funds from the District, the County of San Diego, and the City of San Diego. After escrow closes as expected this spring, construction of the course and an administration building will commence. In all, the project to train first responders with the skills needed to deftly maneuver emergency vehicles will cost approximately \$40 million.

The District is contributing \$5 million to the effort through Proposition N, an \$870-million bond measure approved by voters in November 2006. In exchange, the District will retain a 50-year lease on the property as part of the Miramar College School of Public Safety and its San Diego Regional Public Safety Institute.



**Dr. Nesha Savage**  
@nsav



Our President @ DrRickyShabazz and VP @Knightsdw1 imparting knowledge to the young men from Lincoln High School. Wow! #cityproud @sdcitycollege





# MATH

I LIKE M  
I LIKE H  
I LIKE M  
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$$\frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

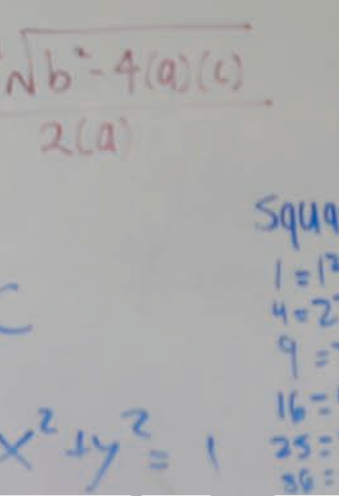
$$y - y_1 = m(x - x_1) \quad ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$2x^2 - 17x - 9$$

33%

H U A





# JAM

MUSIC TO THE EARS

San Diego City College mathematics professor Dr. Roberto Rubalcaba isn't afraid to think outside the box. He's chopped up sushi to reinforce the concept of Riemann sums, incorporated music to hit the right notes in explaining the squeeze theorem, and used spray paint to illustrate continuous fractions. His latest venture, Math Jam, is proving a hit with both math geeks and those who struggle with the subject.

Held before mid-terms and finals, Math Jam is a giant study session aimed at improving math outcomes that attracts more than 200 students at a time and features Rubalcaba, who moonlights as a DJ at Bluefoot Bar and Lounge in North Park, using his skills at the turntable to reduce stress before the learning begins.

"Math Jam is a community event where we come together and help each other pass math," Rubalcaba said. "We have Calculus 3 students, Calculus 2 students, Calculus students helping out each other,

helping out Trigonometry students, helping Statistics students, helping Algebra students. The Algebra students are helping the elementary Algebra students out, and everybody's just helping each other out."

It's working.

"The music draws a crowd," said math tutor Kelly Giang. "People walk by and they're just like, 'What's this music? What's the hoopla? Why are all these people around here? Why is this professor DJing? Like, what's going on?'"

Math Jam began evolving when Rubalcaba, sought to make his office hours less traditional and more of a cooperative affair infused with students helping students. Before long, more than two dozen students, including several serving as tutors, were dropping by his office to tackle binomials, coefficients, and linear equations.

With finals approaching in fall 2017, Rubalcaba and





**Math Jam City College  
campus Quad, Fall, 2018**

**This page clockwise from above:** Professor Rubalcaba encouraging students to partake in Math Jam; Algebra student and tutor; Dr. Roberto Rubalcaba posing for a selfie; students gathering at the Tutorial Center.

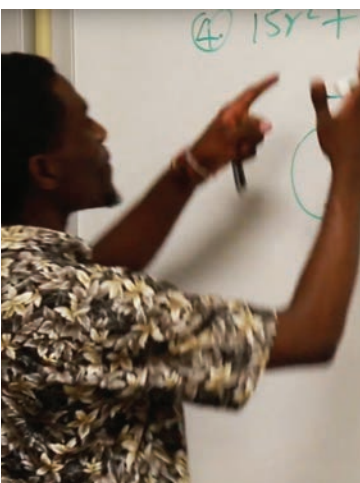
Umoja, the latter of which sponsors the event, decided it was time to take the next step and launch the first Math Jam.

“We really didn’t know what kind of turnout we were going to get,” Rubalcaba said. “We ended up getting more than 100 people and filled up the entire Tutorial Center. We had music, people were dancing. It was a big party, really. I was blown away by how many tutors came out. I was expecting maybe 10 or so, but more than 40 showed up. It was more than a tutoring service, though. It was an event. We all looked at each other and said, ‘We have to do this again.’”

Math Jam starts with a “pre-jam” with Rubalcaba setting up his DJ equipment in the quad area and taking requests for music. Students are greeted by faculty, staff, and tutors as they sign up for the evening’s activities and are treated to pizza or snacks. Some break out into dance; others take advantage



**This page clockwise from below:** Dr. Rubalcaba defining and charting mathematical rhythms in his Algebra class; student reviewing answers with tutor; mathematical equation for Math Jam success; tutor revealing steps of the equation; Rubalcaba addressing over 100 attendees



of the free tutoring to immediately tackle math homework. The formal Jam begins about an hour later when the Tutorial Center closes for the night and students start streaming in, grouped into clusters based upon their math course or courses.

“It’s really a way for math students to all come together and have a big study session,” said math student and tutor Alante Fishel.

Data showed students who took part in a Math Jam in spring 2018 were passing intermediate algebra and geometry at a rate twice that of students who did not participate.

“I volunteer my time at the Math Jams because I love math and it is an incredible feeling to help those who are struggling with it,” said Dylan Morse. “I know that many of my peers in the higher math classes at City feel the same way, and Dr. Rob has given us an opportunity to help others by setting up these Math Jams.”

As a child growing up in Encanto, Rubalcaba, 43, never saw himself as a math instructor, let alone a college professor. Indeed, Rubalcaba dropped too many classes at San Diego’s Morse High School to earn a diploma, but he returned to school when enrolling at San Diego Continuing Education’s Centre City Adult

School to begin a journey he was hoping would lead to a career as an architect. After moving on to City College, he discovered a niche for math and served as a math tutor.

“I loved explaining math to other students, and I found it rewarding for students to come

in confused and needing help but leave confident and happy,” he said. “That’s when I realized teaching math was what I wanted to do.”

Upon earning his doctorate in mathematics from Auburn University, Rubalcaba returned to San Diego and began teaching at City College. He is the first to concede math can be a challenge, but he added, it shouldn’t be that way.

“A lot of the problems people have with math goes back well before college,” he said. “It goes back before high school, back before junior high school. There’s a lot of, ‘Why should I care? I don’t see any way that this will impact my life’ going on. But math isn’t an abstract subject, and a lot of my job involves teaching students why they should care and making math interesting to them. It means showing them how math is relevant to everything, including politics, polling, gerrymandering, elections. Once you see how important it is, the motivation follows.”

“I really feel that I and all of the dozens of amazing

student volunteers are making great strides in social justice to help so many students overcome their anxiety and struggles with math,” Rubalcaba continued. “As a bonus, this semester we have two new math majors who both used to hate math with a passion, and now they are majoring in it. One day, they will be teaching youth and changing lives.” **WE**



**Watch the coming together of music and math:** <http://bit.ly/MathJam>

“We all looked at each other and said, ‘We have to do this again.’”

— Dr. Roberto Rubalcaba, Mathematics Professor at City College







# BUILDING THE ECONOMY

*Beyond the Numbers*

The numbers don't begin to tell the story, at least not when it comes to the economic impact of the San Diego Community College District. Sure, the District was responsible for contributing an estimated \$4.4 billion to the regional economy during the 2017-18 fiscal year, an amount equal to 1.9 percent of the county's gross regional product and enough to support nearly 46,000 jobs. But the District's footprint can best be seen through the programs offered through San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education.





**SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE'S** Center for Applied Competitive Technologies is fueling advanced manufacturing in San Diego and Imperial counties through specialized industry training, technical assistance, and educational workshops. Among the industries of focus are advanced manufacturing; aerospace, navigation, and maritime technologies; biomedical devices and products; and cleantech. In addition, the Center houses a 19,000-square-foot San Diego Technology Incubator featuring office space, laboratories, and manufacturing facilities to support early-stage and emerging new technology ventures. Up to 20 startup research and development and manufacturing companies are housed on the City College campus.



**SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE'S** Radiologic Technology Program trains students for certification as diagnostic radiologic technologists – a profession in which the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics says the average annual salary exceeds \$76,000 in the San Diego region. The 24-month Radiologic Technology Program is among Mesa College's most intense workforce training initiatives and is filling a critical need for health care specialists in San Diego. The program includes clinical training at Rady Children's Hospital San Diego, UC San Diego Medical Center, Sharp Memorial Hospital, Scripps Mercy Hospital, and more.



**SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE'S** Advanced Transportation and Renewable Energy Program and its Advanced Transportation Technology and Energy Center work with industry and community colleges statewide in developing curriculum to educate students and faculty about clean fuels technology. Miramar College is also home to the Southern California Biotechnology Center and the San Diego Regional Public Safety Institute, which comprises the San Diego Law Enforcement Academy and the Fire Technology & EMT program. Since 1969, the college has provided training for nearly all law enforcement and firefighters in San Diego County.



**SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION'S** Certified Nursing Assistant Program, which can be completed in as little as 12 weeks, provides skills needed to care for those who are unable to care for themselves. Best of all, the job training program is free, though there are expenses of approximately \$400 for books, uniforms, and a state certification exam. Nursing assistants earn an average annual salary of more than \$33,000 in San Diego County, and approximately 9,000 people are working in this field in the region, with job growth forecast at 11 percent nationally through 2026. **WE**



# Opening *the* Doors *of*



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**Above:** San Diego Continuing Education counselors celebrate with the first San Diego Gateway to College and Career cohort at the Educational Cultural Complex.



# Opportunity



## Gateway to College and Career Program

A former high school dropout, Beverly Ladezma is now looking at a career as a substance abuse counselor. Lakenya Rose Foster was out of school and out of work, but is now wrapping up a job-training program setting her on a path toward becoming a carpenter. Jahir Costelo was facing an uncertain future just a couple of years ago, but now he's working two jobs and is determined to enroll in college.

Ladezma, Foster, and Costelo are among those whose lives are being transformed through San Diego Continuing Education's Gateway to College and Career program, which serves so-called opportunity youth, defined as people ages 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor working. The initiative 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 determining and creating viable pathways to a productive future.

"Getting opportunity youth back at school and back at work is among our primary social justice responsibilities," said Laurie Coskey, Executive Director of the Continuing Education Foundation. "We cannot continue to let a generation of young people fall through the cracks."



**Laurie Coskey**  
Executive Director, San Diego Continuing Education Foundation.

In only its second year, San Diego Gateway to College and Career is having a profound impact. Eighty-six students enrolled in the inaugural year, and all were facing overwhelming barriers that included hunger and homelessness. Many were former foster youth. Some were former gang members. Yet, of those original 86 students, 45 are now employed, 37 are taking part in paid internships, 31 have earned a credential, and 19 are now college students.

"A student's academic success can be tied to the support available to them beyond the classroom," said Continuing Education President Carlos O. Turner Cortez, "We do everything we can to ensure that our students are ready for the workforce and we help them establish career pathways that pay living-wages."



150

Approximate number of students enrolled in the Gateway to College and Career program in 2019.



**Above:** A student participates in an on-site electrical training program.

**Right:** San Diego Gateway to College and Career Graduation 2018.

**Below:** San Diego Gateway to College and Career graduate, Marcos Martinez transitioned to Mesa College with a San Diego Promise Scholarship.



20%

Percentage of Gateway students currently enrolled are experiencing homelessness.

The challenge can seem daunting. Nearly 41,000 opportunity youth are struggling to survive in San Diego, and almost all live in and around the neighborhoods served by Continuing Education.

Gateway's success is attributed to its partnerships with community organizations such as Pillars of the Community, Gompers Preparatory Academy, the Southeast Collaborative Group, the Malcolm X Library, and more. The Gateway program is open to anyone 18 to 24 years old who has not finished high school, lives in one of six southeastern San Diego neighborhoods, and who is looking to embark on a new career.

Approximately 150 students are currently enrolled in the program, 20 percent of whom are experiencing homelessness.

The Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, with support from the James Irvine Foundation, is providing \$300,000 in additional funding to the San Diego Continuing Education Foundation to extend programming to serve an additional 45 students living in southeastern San Diego.

The initiative is modeled after a national Gateway to College network and is funded primarily by a Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act grant administered through the San Diego Workforce Partnership. Students begin their Gateway journey by completing an online vocational assessment to identify career interests. They then meet with a program coordinator to establish needs and identify barriers while developing a pathway to help them reach their goals. Bi-weekly, one-on-one sessions are scheduled, attendance is tracked, and progress is closely monitored.



*Under President Turner Cortez' innovative leadership, San Diego Gateway to College and Career launched its first pre-apprenticeship pilot program, a three-month, 40-hour-per-week effort, in 2018.*

San Diego Gateway to College and Career launched its first pre-apprenticeship pilot program, a three-month, 40-hour-per-week effort, in 2018. The initial cohort of students attended class twice each week at the Educational Cultural Complex, with the other three days devoted to installing heating and air conditioning systems, doing various carpentry work, applying stucco, and installing doors and windows at an 18-unit apartment building under construction off 53rd Street in the San Diego neighborhood of City Heights.

Every student in the pre-apprenticeship cohort completed the program. One is now in the United Association of Plumbers & Steamfitters Local 230's registered apprenticeship program. Three are in the San Diego Chapter of the Associated Builders and Contractors' apprenticeship program. One, Lakenya Rose Foster, is with Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Local 1506. Another is working full time at the Navy Exchange.

The latest 12-week apprenticeship readiness program, in partnership with the San Diego Building and Construction Trades Council, began in mid-March.

The San Diego Gateway program, President Turner Cortez said, is the only Gateway model program in the nation that includes paid work experience. In all, students have 75 job-training programs to choose from.

Critical to the program's success are the wrap-around services that help opportunity youth find their footing by getting the support they need.

"Our students are accustomed to not finishing. One of our strengths here is helping them persist," Coskey said. "We try to take away the barriers from our students that prevent them from persisting in both learning and working. Among them are transportation barriers. Food barriers. Emotional barriers. Daycare barriers. We are supporting people in figuring out what their dreams are and how they are going to achieve them."

Beverly Ladezma is a believer.

"I was a dropout. I went to four different schools throughout my teenage years, and I was in the point of my life where I was not ready, until now. I'm much more mature, and with all these people and this great support in this class, I feel really enthusiastic and willing to commit and actually come through myself.

**75**

The number of job-training programs students can choose from.



The teachers are great here. I feel like I really get that one-on-one when I need it."

Added Costelo:

"I had no job skills, no résumé skills, no interview skills. I was going to come out of high school empty handed. Gateway received me with open arms. They taught me how to work a résumé. They taught me how to get into an interview. They even helped me apply for jobs. I want to be able to lead this all into college, having my own place, being able to do the things that I couldn't do for myself before. I'm working toward success." **WE**

**Top:** Jahir Costelo and Anna Lomeli are a part of the Opportunity Youth Leadership Council for the San Diego Workforce Partnership. / Photo by Adriana Heldiz  
**Above:** SDCE Student Lakenya Rose Foster installs decks at a City Heights construction site.  
**Below:** Following SDCE, Beverly Ladezma transitioned to City College's Cosmetology program.











# A DUAL ENROLLMENT

## TURNING POINT

For Kearny High School student Devin Tragoso, dual enrollment was a no brainer. Credits for five of his courses – art, history, psychology, Chicano studies, and personal growth – were applied toward both his high school diploma and Mesa College, expediting his goals of securing an associate degree and transferring to San Diego State University to study criminal justice.

“It was huge for me,” said Devin, 17, who graduated from Kearny High School a semester early, enabling him to enroll at Mesa this spring. “I don’t see any drawbacks. You’re getting used to a college environment while still in high school, you’re getting credit for both high school and college, and you’re saving money by not having to take those classes in college. I’d absolutely recommend it.”

Indeed, since former California Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill in 2015 that significantly expanding dual enrollment by allowing tuition-free, community college courses to be taught on high school campuses, the number of high school students taking college classes taught by San Diego Community College District professors has nearly doubled to more than 4,100.

But dual enrollment is at a crossroads, as the 2015 legislation included a sunset date of January 1, 2022. New legislation, Assembly Bill 30, authored by Chris Holden, D-Pasadena, would keep the successful program in place until January 1, 2027, but it is hardly a sure thing.

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**Above:** Students participate in a Fire Science dual enrollment program at Lincoln High School.

Photo provided by San Diego Unified School District.





“Dual enrollment is an integral part of the high school experience for many students in creating a seamless pathway to community college and beyond,” said San Diego Community College District Vice Chancellor of Student Services Lynn Neault. “It is something we need to protect.”

The Community College League of California agrees. “AB 30 recognizes the importance of enabling innovative partnerships between K-12 districts and community colleges so that college access is ubiquitous and not exclusive,” it said in a prepared statement.

Dual enrollment in California is provided through three avenues, including the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program authorized in 2015 by Assembly Bill 288, which enables high school students to take college courses taught by college professors at their high school campus. Assembly Bill 30 would allow the 36 existing CCAP partnerships, including a partnership between the San Diego Community College District and the San Diego Unified School District, to continue.

The two other dual enrollment programs – one that allows high school students to take college courses on a college campus, and a middle college high school model that integrates a high school “campus” into a community college – are not impacted by the Assembly Bill 288’s sunset provision.

Some 3,132 San Diego Unified students took dual enrollment courses via the CCAP program in 2017-18, increasing to 3,300 students in 2018-2019. An additional 1,496 are taking college courses at a community college campus this year.

Dual enrollment is seen by the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office as supporting the system’s Vision for Success, a set of goals and commitments that include boosting the numbers of students earning degrees or certificates and transferring to a University of California or California State University campus. Most students taking dual enrollment classes complete at least nine units before entering college, and those students are far more likely to succeed once they get there.

Henry Mendoza Rivera is a believer. Not only does

University City High School student Josielyn Fishel gives a presentation on young people’s preference for coffee, tea, or boba drinks during an Oral Communications 103 class taught by Miramar College adjunct professor Barbara Ann Bush, Ph.D.

Title V Program Activity Manager Lillian Garcia (center) working with students in San Diego City College’s new Dreamer/Subir Center.







Mira Mesa High School students learn about Multimedia Production.

the Miramar College mathematics professor teach a Calculus 1 college class at Serra High School in San Diego, his daughter took several Mesa College mathematics and political science classes at La Jolla High School. Now she's a freshman at

persistence and course success rates, earn an average of 10 more units after three semesters, and are less likely to drop out, according to the study.

"Dual enrollment has proven to be an effective means to achieve college readiness and promote student success," Neault said. "The College and Career Access Pathways program should, if anything, be expanded, not eliminated."

Lincoln High students Monea Martin, left, and Alexia Gonzales in the College and Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program.

the University of Michigan.

"From my experience and from my daughter's experience, this is an excellent program," Mendoza Rivera said. "When you are a freshman at a college or university, it can be a difficult adjustment, but if you have already had the experience of a college class, it can make the adjustment a little easier.

"As the semester goes on," Mendoza Rivera continued, "you see them acting less and less, little by little, like a high school student and more and more like a college student."

More of those dual enrollment students go on to enroll at City, Mesa, or Miramar colleges. In fact, 27 percent of students in the CCAP program enroll at a San Diego Community College District campus after graduating high school. Those students also place at transfer-level reading and math at much higher rates than community college students who did not participate in dual enrollment while in high school, according to a San Diego Community College District study released in April 2018. They also fare much better in college, including higher







SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE



Photo 360 takes place at City College each Spring.

## PHOTO 360

San Diego City College, in collaboration with the San Diego Unified School District, hosted its third annual Photo 360 event at City College's Career Technology Center (CTC) earlier this year. The event included more than 200 local high school students and 40 educators from across the nation to observe the successful partnership in action.

"This is the third year we've hosted this incredible event to let high school students interested in photography, experience a day of college-level education," said David King, photography professor at City College. "It is always great to see that 'aha!' or 'So that's how it is done!' moment. And, of course we hope that many of those students will then want to come to City College to continue their education."

The photography department was transformed into several learning workshops and studios spanning three floors of the CTC. Students participated in lectures with industry professionals, photo shoots with fashion models, processing and developing film in a darkroom, and experimenting with photography techniques like light painting and macro photography.

Students also had the opportunity to use professional cameras and lighting equipment provided by the many equipment representatives who brought their photography gear to demonstrate.

"Photo 360 2019 was a wonderful way to showcase the photography department here at San Diego City College to high school students and the community," said George Tubon, lab technician for the photography department. "Because of our passion and vision for our photography department, I have no doubt that everyone who participated in Photo 360 left with a positive and lasting impression for many years to come."

City College's award-winning photography program includes more than 30,000 square feet of darkrooms, computer labs, studios, and the Luxe Photography Gallery, all housed in a \$72.5 million Career Technology Center on 16th and C streets in San Diego's East Village. The event was sponsored by Nelson Photo, George's Camera, Canon, Tamron, Olympus, Sony, and Panasonic.





# MESA COLLEGE WORK-BASED LEARNING HELPS STUDENTS AFFIRM THEIR CAREER GOALS



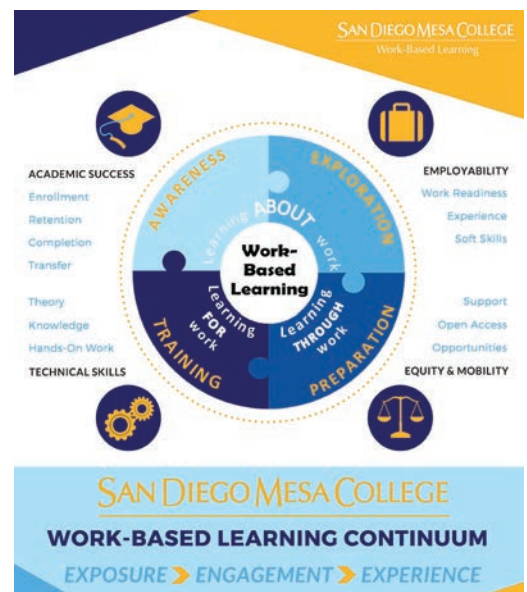
Mesa College WBL Workshop - "How to Navigate an Internship."

Today's economy demands a more highly-educated workforce with a more complex set of skills than ever before. To help prepare students, college campuses must do more to support students' exploration of career opportunities, interaction with industry, and growth of 21st-century workplace skills. As part of the Career Technical Education and Strong Workforce initiative, Mesa College's new Work-Based Learning (WBL) team, composed of Mesa College faculty and staff, is bringing this vision to campus by bridging students' educational learning with exposure to careers and valuable real-world experiences. With the help of the WBL team and in partnership with the Career Center, Mesa is integrating career readiness inside and outside the classroom in creative ways through informational interviews, job shadowing, workplace tours, guest speaker events, service learning, internships, work experience, and more. These hands-on WBL activities help students across the career development continuum—from undecided to declared major—develop awareness of career opportunities, prepare for employment, and gain the training and skills needed to be successful in today's labor market.

Service learning projects are an example of Work-Based Learning that can assist students in their career exploration and readiness. Last fall, Mesa College student Maria Pandolfo participated in a service learning project with a veterans organization, Cammies & Canines, in order to explore and gain insight into a career in community service. As a veteran herself, Maria was excited to get involved with an organization that helps veterans who are currently experiencing

homelessness, and provides them with support systems and resources to regain their independence. The organization also adopts and rehabilitates dogs from shelters, and trains them to be service dogs and companions. Maria said it was an amazing experience. "I am blessed to have met like-minded veterans who all shared the same urge to continue serving in any way they can. I'm really glad that I got this opportunity to learn so much." Maria said her WBL experience affirmed her desire to pursue a career in nursing, and continue with her ambition to provide a lifetime of service to the community.

The goal of Mesa's Work-Based Learning team is to provide access to activities across disciplines so that students like Maria have an opportunity to discover their career passions. As the first formal team of its kind in the San Diego region, the Mesa Work-Based Learning Program Coordinators — Shawn Fawcett, Katlin Choi, and Pavel Consuegra—are implementing innovative solutions to ensure students can move along their informed career path by interacting with professionals - in real-world settings - to get first-hand knowledge of companies and employment expectations. The Mesa College team collaborates with faculty, staff, and employers to design progressive WBL activities that prepare students to be career-ready with the competencies and experiences they need to transition into high-demand careers and occupations. Learn more at [sdmesa.edu/WBL](http://sdmesa.edu/WBL).







SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

# CALIFORNIA STATE CONTROLLER BETTY YEE VISITS MIRAMAR COLLEGE FOOD PANTRY



California State Controller Betty Yee visited the San Diego Miramar College campus on November 26, 2018, to learn about the college’s food insecurity program and tour its food pantry.

In fall 2018, Miramar College partnered with Feeding San Diego to begin a retail food rescue program and a monthly free farmers market. Miramar currently rescues “close” to expiring food items that would otherwise be discarded from Sprouts grocery stores. On a weekly basis, college representatives transport that food to campus, text students of its availability, and then distribute at the food pantry.

At the invitation of Feeding San Diego CEO Vince Hall, Yee listened to a half-hour presentation put on by the college. Students, staff and faculty spoke about the origins of the food insecurity program, its successes, and the need to grow the program. Former San Diego Community College District Trustee Peter Zschiesche was present to provide brief remarks about the need to connect students with free food options.

Vice President of Student Services Adrian Gonzales discussed the college’s vision for the future, expressing an interest in one day building a comprehensive “Wellness Program” that would address areas such as nutrition and stress reduction to assist students with the resources needed in pursuit of an education.

Yee told CBS 8 San Diego, “I think these types of programs are essential...it is really taking a holistic approach in terms of how we are caring for the food security and the nutritional needs of our students and I feel that Miramar College’s model could be replicated statewide.”

Prior to taking the pantry tour, Professor Laura Pecenco introduced Yee to the college’s Free Closet. The Free Closet is an annual event at which faculty, students and staff donate gently used clothing items that are then given away to needy staff and students.

“Being selected to host Yee was a great honor,” said Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh. “In a short period of time, our college, under the leadership of Dean Cheryl Barnard and Student Life Officer Joseph Hankinson, has put together a ‘Best in Class’ food insecurity program and we were delighted to showcase it to Ms. Yee.”

In November, Yee won re-election to serve a second term as California State Controller. Yee was elected to her first term in 2014, following two terms of service on the California Board of Equalization. As Controller, she continues to serve the Board of Equalization as its fifth voting member.

California State Controller Betty Yee (third from left) tours the Miramar College Food Pantry.





## SAN DIEGO CONTINUING EDUCATION

# FEEDING OUR NEIGHBORS



Attendees have access to health and social services during the Farm to Family Fair.

**SDCE** gives away more than 10,000 pounds of fresh produce to the residents of Southeast San Diego at each event.

In San Diego, more and more students must choose between paying bills and buying food for their family as living expenses increase. Last year, San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) expanded its resources to offer more services to students to assist with basic needs.

“We have students who are trying to make enough money in their pocket, just to get through to their next day,” said Carlos Turner Cortez, SDCE President. “They are trying to do their best in class while worrying about where their next meal will come from.”

SDCE’s student population of 40,000 and residents of southeastern San Diego now have access to free fresh produce every month through the Farm to Family Fair. SDCE’s Farm to Family Fair is the school’s first free food distribution in partnership with the SDCE Foundation, Feeding San Diego, and Project New Village.

“Our main goal is to make sure our students succeed from start to finish,” said SDCE Dean of Student Equity, Maureen Rubalcaba. “We serve students that are among the most diverse in California culturally, ethnically, and educationally.” Rubalcaba spearheads the basic needs initiative alongside SDCE Foundation Executive Director, Laurie Coskey.

In addition to healthy food options, attendees have access to a broad range of health and social services during SDCE’s Farm to Family Fair. Kaiser Permanente

Mobile Health Vehicle, Jackie Robinson Family YMCA, and Mental Health America were in attendance during the grand opening. Community vendors rotate monthly based on themes such as education, health, and fitness.

SDCE’s food distribution and resource fair coincides with an institution-wide effort to overcome poverty and inequity in education, and specifically supports one of SDCE’s Six Pillars: food security.

“By opening up a great resource to the community we are connecting prospective students to career training and pathways to employment, college, citizenship, high school diploma, and English as a Second Language (ESL) classes,” said Turner Cortez. “Once a student is enrolled, we do everything we can to ensure that they are ready for the workforce and we help them establish a career that pays living-wages.”

SDCE supports large populations of adult learners who come from the inner-city. More than 1,000 students, community members and local residents have been served through SDCE’s Farm to Family Fair. Students who need immediate nourishment access the SDCEats! food pantry at the Educational Cultural Complex campus in between classes for quick energy. The free, on-campus resource was visited by students more than 5,000 times over the past year.



# DESIGNING A *Future* AT *City College*

**Rebekah Chon** was majoring in film and media at UC Santa Barbara when she decided to return home to San Diego following her junior year. “I needed a change in my education,” said Chon, 25. That change came in fall 2018 when she enrolled at San Diego City College and its award-winning Graphic Design program. Now she has her sights set on securing a certificate next year. We recently talked to Chon about life at City College and her plans for the future.

**Q.** What have you found at San Diego City College that you didn't find at UC Santa Barbara?

**A.** *City College is filled with supportive staff and students, which really took me by surprise. My professors are working around the clock, always making sure that I have my questions answered, and if I can't reach them right away, the students are more than willing to help. There's a sense of community that is unparalleled to anything I've experienced before.*

**Q.** What drew you to City College?

**A.** *I was looking for something affordable, accessible, and yet wouldn't be a waste of time. I feel so lucky to have come across City College because it has more than exceeded my expectations. Additionally, the campus is located in such a fun part of San Diego. I used to only go downtown for special occasions but now I feel like I get to take advantage of everything downtown San Diego has to offer.*

**Q.** What stands out about the City College Graphic Design program?

**A.** *The students are incredibly talented and creative. Partnered with the professors, the environment heavily focuses on fostering creativity and hard work. I've never felt uninspired or stuck because of the knowledge and resources being shared amongst the students. Everyone is coming from a place of wanting to better themselves, and it feels like the door is always open for people to help and collaborate with each other.*

**Q.** What are your long-term goals?

**A.** *I hope that someday I can have an enriching and challenging graphic design job, doing projects that I am passionate about. Regardless of the type of work that I am doing, I want to feel proud of my designs and for others to enjoy them.*

**Q.** Most memorable City College moment?

**A.** *Although I only have one semester under my belt so far, I already have a myriad of positive memories. Of all of them, the most memorable is a Secret Santa gift exchange held between my close classmates. On the last day before winter break, a group of us had a blast opening our presents in the lab before class started, and I really appreciated how much we had grown to know each other within the past few months. I couldn't believe how quickly I made these fantastic and talented friends.*





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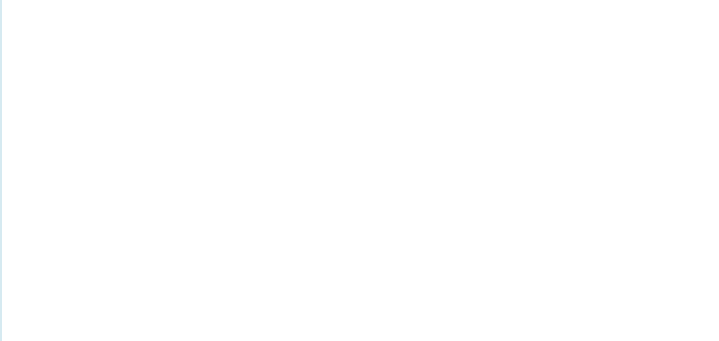
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# I AM STUDY ABROAD



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