



SAN DIEGO  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College  
Miramar College • Continuing Education

FEBRUARY 2018

# WE

With  
Excellence

# BUILDING A NEW TRADITION

San Diego Mesa College Football

STORY ON PAGE 16



# A Home to All



Attendees at the seventh annual Hermanos Unidos/Brothers United (HUBU) conference at San Diego City College.

During a recent Hermanos Unidos/Brothers United (HUBU) conference at San Diego City College, Acting Dean of Student Development Nesha Savage was crystal clear in articulating why the campus was holding this event, which was packed with motivational messages for young men of color. "We understand that there are barriers and challenges," Dr. Savage said. "So we're trying to activate these men. We want them to go on and get their degrees and come back and mentor other men who come from similar backgrounds as theirs."



Indeed, the San Diego Community College District and San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, along with San Diego Continuing Education, are committed to programs focused on equity and diversity, with particular attention to educationally fragile populations of students.

The reasons for doing so are compelling. The vast majority of African-American and Latino men who pursue a postsecondary education are enrolled at a California community college campus. Yet both groups have low completion rates when compared to other demographic groups of students. Barely more than one-third of African-American males attending a community college complete a degree or certificate, or transfer to a four-year university or college within six years, according to the state Student Success Scorecard.

That is unacceptable. That is why the District's colleges are home to support groups such as the PUENTE Community College Program, an academic, mentoring, and counseling effort that builds on the skills students need to succeed. That is why the District's campuses have vibrant Umoja communities

designed to assist African-American and other historically-underrepresented students who want to transfer to a university. That is why faculty and staff workshops often focus on issues of microaggressions. That is why much of the discussion at Continuing Education's Fall Convocation centered on equity and equality. All of these efforts operate under the overarching theme of social justice.

At the San Diego Community College District, students come first. No population faces the types of challenges as do students from traditionally underrepresented communities. Studies show that students from underrepresented communities experience housing challenges and food insecurities at rates much higher than the general population. Many of these students have a hard time just getting to campus, as they more often than others must rely on public transportation.

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors recently adopted a new Vision for Success, a strategic plan calling for eliminating the achievement gap and seeing significant increases in the number of students reaching their educational goals. There are also many national and local efforts aimed at this same goal. Fortunately, the San Diego Community College District is determined and well on its way to meeting those benchmarks.



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.  
Chancellor



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## WE—With Excellence Magazine

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Questions, comments? We'd love to hear from you. Email us [cpr@sdccd.edu](mailto:cpr@sdccd.edu).

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# Celebrating King's Legacy

Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff of the San Diego Community College District marched under the District banner at the 2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade, one of the largest parades of its kind in the country.

1. Presidents Patricia Hsieh and Pamela Luster, Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, and Presidents Carlos Turner Cortez and Ricky Shabazz. 2. San Diego Community College District Police Department. 3. Student Trustees Alana Mahal Bermodes, Ignacio Hernandez, and Joseph Newell. 4. San Diego City College marchers. 5. Trustees Peter Zschiesche and Rich Grosch. 6. Trustee Mary Graham. 7. Trustee Maria Nieto Senour.





San Diego Continuing Education float.





**@PMotaleb**

**Pegah Motaleb**

English Professor | San Diego Mesa College



I have the BEST and most thoughtful students @sdmesacollege THANK YOU @aeuth86 for your kindness!

## Mobilizing at the Mall

The San Diego Community College District stepped up its recruitment efforts with an informational kiosk outside the AMC Theatres at the Westfield Mission Valley mall during the holidays. Students and staff from City and Mesa colleges were on hand during high-traffic shopping days and weekends through the New Year's holiday.



## Food for Thought

Food insecurity continues to be a challenge for San Diego Community College District students, with more than 40 percent saying they sometimes or often lacked the money to feed themselves, a national survey conducted by The Ohio State University has found.

The online survey, part of The Ohio State University's larger Study on Collegiate Financial Wellness, took place last spring among random samples of undergraduate students from 47 institutions, including 19 two-year institutions.

The SDCCD and its campuses are addressing student hunger in a number of ways. A City College pantry distributes food Monday through Thursday to approximately 300 students each week. Mesa College operates The Stand, a pantry and professional clothing closet supplied through food drives and community donations. And Researching Equity, Action and Community for Transformation (REACT), a student-led social justice organization at Miramar College, operates a campus food pantry that is open five days a week.

## AMONG THE FINDINGS



**27%**  
**SOMETIMES  
TRUE**



**26%**  
**OFTEN  
TRUE**

Cannot afford to eat balanced meals.

**MORE  
THAN 45%**

of respondents said they had to skip or cut down on the size of their meals for lack of money. Nearly one-third said this happens almost monthly.

**NEARLY 31%**

or about 1 in 3 students described their food security status as "very low."







## GIVING TUESDAY

More than 40 donors made more than \$4,000 in pledges on Giving Tuesday to support the San Diego Promise program. The District is now well beyond halfway toward meeting its goal to fund the program in the next academic year.



## A Promise Kept

The free community college movement continues to expand with Governor Jerry Brown proposing \$46 million to fund the new California College Promise. Established through Assembly Bill 19, the California College Promise is intended for colleges to waive the first year of fees for first time students who enroll full-time at any of the state's 114 community colleges.

The San Diego Promise currently pays for enrollment fees and provides book grants for about 800 students at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges. If included in the adopted state budget, the additional funding will enable the San Diego Community College District to significantly expand the program. The goal is to increase student completion by making participating students' first and second year tuition free.

For fall 2018 enrollment information, visit [www.sdccd.edu/promise](http://www.sdccd.edu/promise).

## Teamwork

The governing boards for the San Diego Community College District and the San Diego Unified School District will hold their annual joint meeting April 17.

The two districts have met annually since 2011 to evaluate progress and make additional plans to ensure students are prepared for both higher education and the workforce.

Past meetings have focused on promoting student success from pre-kindergarten through college. Through such collaborative efforts, the districts have seen a fourfold jump in the number of high school students concurrently enrolled in college courses. In addition, the two districts in 2016 worked together to launch the San Diego Promise, and expansion of the free community college program will be a key topic of discussion in the upcoming joint board meeting.



*From left, front row: SDUSD Superintendent Cindy Marten; SDUSD Board Members Michael McQuary and Richard Barrera; SDCCD Trustee Maria Nieto Senour; and SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll. From left, back row: SDCCD Trustee Bernie Rhinerson; SDUSD Board Members Sharon Whitehurst-Payne, John Lee Evans, and Kevin Beiser; and SDCCD Trustees Mary Graham, Rich Grosch, and Peter Zschiesche.*



# SUPPORTING MEN OF COLOR

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Nate Wyley wasn't ready for the rigors of college when he enrolled at the Illinois Institute of Technology, a leading research university in Chicago, right after graduating from high school. It was only after he dropped out, moved to San Diego, and began taking classes at City College that he found the support to help men of color succeed.

Now Wyley is a junior at UC Davis studying electrical engineering, with his eyes on a Ph.D. and a career in the alternative energy sector.

"The programs at San Diego City College, and there are a lot of them, from HUBU, Umoja, and EOPS to Price Scholars and MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement), were invaluable," Wyley said. "I know I wouldn't have been as successful as I am without them."

Indeed, Wyley embodies how the San Diego Community College District is setting the pace in supporting men of color, who researchers say face far greater external challenges in trying to earn a degree than other populations.

“**The San Diego Community College District is by far one of the most progressive districts in the country when it comes to supporting men of color and underserved populations in general.**”

Said Dr. J. Luke Wood, the dean's Distinguished Professor of Education in the College of Education at San Diego State University who also serves as director of the Ed.D. Program in Community College Leadership, "San Diego is far beyond where other districts are."

Wood attributed the District's commitment to a number of factors, including leadership at the campus level from educators such as San Diego City College

President Ricky Shabazz and Acting Dean of Student Development/Matriculation Nesha Savage, San Diego Mesa College President Pam Luster and Vice President of Student Services Ashanti Hands at Mesa College.

The need is profound. Although more than 75 percent of black men and nearly 80 percent of Latino men in California's public postsecondary schools are attending community colleges, men of color have the lowest completion rates among all racial, ethnic, and gender groups, according to the 2017 report, *Supporting Men of Color in Community Colleges: An Examination of Promising Practices and California Student Equity Plans*. The report was written by Wood and Frank Harris III, his co-director at the Community College Equity Assessment Lab at San Diego State University.

Why such low completion rates? Administrators and faculty alike point to a host of external challenges that men of color face at significantly higher rates, such as uncertainty over housing or where they'll get their next meal, not to mention a lack of transportation that can make just getting to class a daily grind. "Those are challenges we don't typically concentrate on at the campus level," Wood said.

Another factor: the misplacement of students into remedial courses based on assessment tests that have been found to be flawed indicators of success. Study after study shows that remedial education is a significant contributor to dropout rates, and no group is more affected than men of color. For that reason, Mesa College is piloting the use of self-reported multiple measures – including high school GPA, highest math and English courses completed, and the major a student thinks he or she will declare in college – in determining placement into English and mathematics courses.









Associated Student  
Government  
President Daron  
Woods addressing  
the graduates at  
City College's 2017  
commencement held  
at Balboa Park.





*Real Talk, a panel discussion developed by the Umoja Community and the Mesa College Academy, gives African American students an outlet to share experiences and feedback from their educational journey.*

Mesa College is almost halfway into a five-year project with the Center for Urban Education and the Community College Equity Assessment Lab (formerly the Minority Male Community College Collaborative) that to date has focused on collecting baseline data and is now turning toward interventions such as training sessions and addressing the inequities in remedial education. Other efforts include a Teaching Men of Color Workshop series for faculty and staff, and a nationally broadcast course called Black Minds Matters – A Focus on Black Boys and Men in Education.

Elsewhere, Continuing Education opened its fall 2017 semester with a convocation in which supporting men of color took center stage, and City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges all have programs such as Umoja and PUENTE to provide academic and counseling services and a stronger sense of community among African-American and Latino students. What's more, the District works with historically black colleges and universities (HBCU), institutions established before 1964 whose principal mission was, and is, the education of black Americans, as it strives to open greater opportunities for men of color.

"We feel privileged to partner with a district that is so committed to making a difference in addressing issues of equity," Wood said.

That partnership includes a fully online certificate training program designed to enhance the capacity of faculty and staff to support learning among men of color. The certificate includes five modules and two live sessions.

"We are seeing some of our gaps being closed, but we still have a long way to go," Hands said.

Administrators at City College agree. That's why they hold a Historically Black Colleges and Universities expo with workshops, an HBCU alumni panel, performances, and information tables. The college also is home to an annual Hermanos Unidos/Brothers United (HUBU) conference each fall.

"One of the takeaways that I would like for students to pull from the event is that they have a whole lot of people that are invested in their success," said Cosumnes River College President, Dr. Edward Bush. "And that they matter. And that we know that while it's important for them to do the work, we also want them to know that they are supported in the work that they're trying to do."

City College student Aaron Harvey said such support has made a difference for him. "I'm 29 years old. This is my second go-around at college. I didn't make it the first time, and now I'm about to graduate from a community college and go on to a university."



# BY Design

City College Graphic Design  
Program Inspires Creativity



*Graphic design co-director Sean Bacon leads a class critique of student-designed page layouts.*

Its alumni include an executive creative director at Facebook who served as design director of President Barack Obama's 2012 re-election campaign. Its students rebranded a mountaintop Italian village with panoramic views over the rolling hills of Tuscany. Graduating seniors are snapped up by some of the leading design firms in the region even before they complete their studies.

Welcome to San Diego City College's nationally-recognized Graphic Design Program, whose impact is being felt across the globe.

"It comes down to having students and faculty with a real passion for design, realizing that design can be used to make the world a better place, and instituting those ideals into making a difference," said Professor Candice López, who co-directs the program with instructor Sean Bacon.

Josh Higgins is among the program's graduates who are making a difference. Higgins discovered City

College after the travel involved with his career as a professional bass player began to take its toll. "I was looking for what was next for my career, and a friend who had just graduated from the City program introduced me to Candice López. Candice advised that I take one class and see if it was something for me. After that first class, I was hooked. I fell in love with design."

He enrolled in 1997 and graduated three years later. His new career took him to the 2012 Obama campaign, where he led the design efforts for the 44th president's successful re-election campaign, to Facebook, where he now serves as an executive creative director.

"The program changed my life both by giving me the tools and skills for a career in design, but additionally, it really helped me understand the importance of community and being an active participant and helping to drive positive impact in that community."







Driving positive impact in the community is what the Graphic Design program is doing now with the Italian village of Radicondoli to increase awareness and interest in the hamlet with a graying population and limited job opportunities. Approached by a part-time resident of Radicondoli who also lives in San Diego, the Graphic Design program Skyped with the mayor and civic leaders to get a better understanding of what makes the village unique and how it should be marketed. Sustainable produce, the arts, and hospitable residents were among the characteristics that stood out. Students then set out to create logos for merchandising, some of which are still in the process of being adopted. A plan to utilize used Vespas as art installations along the village's narrow streets is under discussion.

The Radicondoli project is just one of several recent efforts involving the Graphic Design department at City College, which serves approximately 400 students each year. Others include:

- The "Great Minds" environmental graphic design transformed six floors of elevator bays in the Research and Development building at Qualcomm's Pacific Center Campus in San Diego. Great Minds comprises six pieces incorporating

insights from the great minds of science and engineering: Albert Einstein, Jagadish Chandra Bose, Grace Hopper, Katherine Johnson, Claude Shannon, and Nicola Tesla. Each floor includes a portrait, a quote, and handwritten formulas and notes by one of the scientists.

- The Urban Art Trail project brought an East Village community together through art and design. Murals came first, followed by utility boxes and benches painted in bright colors. Mosaics were crafted around trees, and poems written in calligraphy were stenciled on sidewalks. The project, which involved City College Graphic Design students, has been so successful that it's being replicated in neighborhoods across the country, and the Urban Art Trail was the subject of an award-winning children's book published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.
- A proposal to reimagine the messaging at San Diego International Airport with new monument signage, shuttle bus graphics, and concession advertising. Concepts crafted by Graphic Design students are being developed into models that will be displayed in Terminal 2 for six months of 2018.





"We kind of dream big and we're not afraid of a challenge," Bacon said.

"It's incredible and super exciting to be involved with a program that is having such an impact," said Bradford Prairie, an adjunct instructor who helped lead the Qualcomm project. "We like to stay plugged into the industry, and it's an industry that moves rapidly. Our goal is to create designers who are employable and ready to work, and having our students work with clients in the real world is invaluable."

Indeed, nearly three out of every four graduates are either hired or transfer to a four-year college or university within three months of completing their studies. Many are hired almost immediately after presenting their work at the annual American Institute of Graphic Arts Portfolio Review each spring, an event at which City College students routinely take top honors, competing against their counterparts at four-year colleges and universities and top-dollar private schools. Salaries vary depending on the position, but the average wage for a graphic designer in San Diego County surpassed \$50,000 annually in May 2016, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"Simply put, the program gave me my career," said Amy Achaibou, creative director at Mrs. Grossman's

Paper Company, a major manufacturer of decorative stickers for adorning scrapbooks, stationery, gift cards, and envelopes. "It equipped me with what I needed to start my professional path – confidence, a portfolio, and several industry contacts. And I'll also say that I was able to get what I needed in a relatively short period of time (two years) with a reasonable price tag. It was a huge relief to enter into my design career without student debt."

Giovanni Espinueva was hired by the global design firm Mirum even before he graduated from the program.

"City College's design curriculum helped me get this amazing position," Espinueva said. "The instructors really go out of their way to help you, and they are proud of their students and their accomplishments. I'd say we easily have one of the best graphic design programs in Southern California."

To learn more about City College's Graphic Design program, visit [www.sdcity.edu/GraphicDesign](http://www.sdcity.edu/GraphicDesign).

*Trolley wrap designed by City College graphic design student Lindsay Jonker to commemorate the college's centennial in 2014.*







# **BUILDING A NEW TRADITION**

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**It's about more  
than football.**

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That's the message from players, coaches, and administrators after the San Diego Mesa College Olympians capped their most successful season in the college's history with a victory against Santa Ana College in the Southern California Bowl. This was the first time in more than 25 years that Mesa hosted the event, and the first time in a decade it secured a bowl berth.









"As is the case with many stories about sports, the story about what happened on the field with Mesa College football is a result of what happened off the field," said Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster. "This is a group of very dedicated coaches who came in and worked really hard with a group of very dedicated young men determined to excel not only as players, but as people. This was a team with a lot of character, a team that often went out of its way to help others, and we couldn't be more proud."

Among the team's generous acts was a homecoming game food drive that yielded several 55-gallon containers packed with canned goods and other

nonperishable items for The Stand, the campus food pantry, which aids students facing hunger. Months earlier, several players donated their wages from working as security guards at a half dozen events over the summer to fund new equipment for the college football program.

"This team made a difference in our community," said Athletics Director Ryan Shumaker. "They're a great group of guys, and they're changing the narrative for Mesa College football."

Until this year, that narrative was not impressive. Mesa entered the season having won just one conference championship since 1981 and had suffered





through consecutive 3-7 campaigns. The turnaround began after Mesa hired several talented new assistant coaches during this past offseason, including Defensive Coordinator John Jennings and Offensive Coordinator Gary Watkins.

In the spring, the coaching staff instituted a series of mandatory, weekly character-building workshops for student-athletes dubbed "Raising Your Expectations" that included discussions with business leaders, public safety officials, and campus administrators.

"Mesa is very invested in the student-athlete experience," Shumaker said. "The workshops focused on leadership skills, overcoming adversity, and

communication –with a focus on working with both instructors and teammates."

Graduating defensive back Marcus Rosser is a believer. One of a dozen or so players fielding scholarship offers from Division I universities; Rosser was among the leaders of a talented squad that had one of the top-ranked defenses in the state.

"All it takes is a few key guys to do what is right all the time, every day, and people will start following you," Rosser said. "That's what happened with this team."









Mesa began the season with a September 2 win against rival Grossmont College. They won again the next week against Antelope Valley, and the victories kept coming. Blitzing their way to an 8-1 record (4-0 in conference), Mesa hosted Southwestern for the American Mountain League Conference Championship. Though they lost that contest, the Olympians nonetheless secured the rights to host the Southern California Bowl against the Santa Ana College Dons. Mesa secured its place in school history with a 37-34 victory.

"We all really wanted to turn this program around, and that started with a coaching staff not letting us settle for being mediocre and not settling for anything less than giving our best," Rosser said.

All the coaches are confident that the 2017 streak can be replicated, and with top high school players looking to play for winning teams, recruiting will be easier. Many key players are returning. The requirements for players to be enrolled full time, maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5, to not fumble while following an education plan, and to meet with counselors isn't changing.

Shumaker would like to see the character and leadership seminar series instituted last spring continue.

"We plan to build off what we've just accomplished," Shumaker said. "We want to continue supporting our all of our student-athletes, by investing in them both on and off the field, and turn winning into a tradition here at Mesa College."





Ricky Shabazz, Ed.D.  
President  
San Diego City College

## Picture Perfect



Talk about exposure. San Diego City College's second annual Photo 360 extravaganza attracted more than 200 high school students from throughout the county who are starting to focus on a possible career in photography and wanted to see what the award-winning photography department has to offer.

What they found was the opportunity to attend workshops taught by industry leaders, hear from speakers who work in the profession, experiment with lighting, work in a darkroom, and take part in a photo shoot with professional models. Students taking part came from the San Diego and San Dieguito school districts, and each was equipped with a DSLR camera. Many were selected to take part in the event by instructors at the San Diego Unified School District's College, Career & Technical Education program, a program that embodies the strong collaboration between the San Diego Community College District and San Diego Unified.

Photo 360 was sponsored in part by Nelson Photo Supply and George's Camera. The event commenced with a welcome from City College President Ricky Shabazz in the morning, followed by workshops that ran through the early afternoon.

City College's award-winning photography program includes more than 30,000 square feet of darkrooms, digital labs, studios, and the Luxe Photography Gallery, all housed in a \$72.5 million Career Technology Center on 16th and C streets. Students are steeped in the basics before progressing into courses such as digital imaging/Adobe Lightroom, photographic lighting techniques, advanced digital photography, and photographic styling. Students have more than 40 classes to choose from in all. What's more, the curriculum also covers the business side with an emphasis on branding, marketing, and advertising, and numerous former students are now running their own photography studios. Graduates of the program include people such as Cynthia Sinclair — who is among the region's most respected sailing photographers, and Walter Wilson — who shoots weddings around the world and who has been retained by the likes of Rubio's restaurants, Jack in the Box, and Nike.

Photo 360 offered a wonderful opportunity to bring high school students to City College and see the world-class facilities and photo programs offered at the East Village campus.





# A Proud Hispanic Serving Institution

With nearly 38 percent of students who identify as Hispanic or Latino, San Diego Mesa College proudly displays its Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) designation as a badge of honor, having received three grants supporting HSI initiatives. The first was the SEEDS Scholars Program (STEM Engagement for the Enrichment of Diverse Students), funded by a United States Department of Agriculture - National Institute of Food and Agriculture HSI grant to increase the number of Hispanic students pursuing future graduate degrees in STEM-related fields (science, technology, engineering, math).

Mesa College was then awarded a "Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions – Title V" five-year grant, known as the Proyecto Exito Grant, to improve retention and graduation rates, particularly for Latino students, through institutional improvements. Projects and programs supported by the grant include Mathletics, CRUISE, Campus Conexiones, the creation of the AVANZA – The Student Engagement Center, and funding for curriculum improvements, professional learning, tutors, and peer navigators.

Finally, Mesa College received a five-year, \$5 million Title III HSI STEM grant to increase student connections in STEM through enhanced counseling, workshops, peer mentoring, and outreach. The college has established a STEM center and has developed plans for a STEM Research Incubator that students will use to collaborate with faculty on undergraduate research. Through these grants, Mesa College is able to create spaces that inspire students, faculty, and staff on their path to success.

## San Diego Mesa College's Fashion Students Collaborate with Salk Institute Scientists

In October 2017, the San Diego Mesa College Fashion Program proudly partnered with the Salk Institute Women In Science program to host the "Design & Discovery Fashion Showcase." Mesa College fashion



*Future Mesa Olympians meet with Peer Navigators during the Summer Creating Rich Unique Intellectual Student Experiences (CRUISE) event.*

design students paired up with Salk scientists, and over the course of several months, used Salk's biological images as inspiration to create fashions representing the science. The results were stunning, and the designs debuted to a sold-out crowd.

"Mesa College is proud that our fashion students partnered with Salk scientists for the Design and Discovery Fashion Showcase. This was truly two of San Diego's top institutions coming together to demonstrate that science is art and art is science," said Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster. For more than 30 years, San Diego Mesa College has been the leading fashion program in the San Diego region, providing students with knowledge in design, merchandising and retail, as well as technical and practical career skills.





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

## Taking Care of Student Veterans



Jerome's, Larry Himmel Neighborhood Foundation, and Miramar staff in the refurbished Veterans Lounge on November 9.

The Himmel Foundation is run by Dave Sniff, program director at KFMB AM 760 radio, and Miles Himmel, son of Larry Himmel.

Lee is a recent graduate of Miramar College who is transferring to Cal State San Marcos to study psychology. "It's really a wonderful thing. Knowing that I am heading out to another school in a few months, it makes my heart so happy that the future

On an ordinary day in October, U.S. Army Veteran Melinda Lee nestled into the giant couch located inside the Miramar College Veterans Center. "I recall looking down at the floor and thinking there were brownie bites on the ground," Lee said. "I went to retrieve a vacuum and that's when I noticed those chunks were from the couch and that our furniture was starting to go."

Lee immediately took it upon herself to find new furniture for the lounge. The former Army staff sergeant searched online classifieds websites, determined to do a complete makeover that would benefit fellow Veterans. Then she recalled that the Larry Himmel Neighborhood Foundation had just built a new sand box at her youngest son's daycare center. "I immediately called the Himmel Foundation and within 10 minutes I got a call back."

On November 9, the Himmel Foundation, in partnership with Jerome's Furniture, refurbished the Veterans Lounge at Miramar College. The lounge now has a new reclining sofa, two accent chairs, and a bookshelf. "I can't say enough good things about what the foundation is doing to keep the memory of longtime San Diego TV personality Larry Himmel alive. What we do as Veterans is try to keep the memory of our fallen comrades alive and that's what they are doing, keeping Larry's memory alive and I think that is so beautiful."

veterans and the future work-study Veterans are going to have a comfy place to eat their lunch and talk about benefits and talk about things that Veterans need to have conversations about. And they are going to want to stay in the lounge and do it."

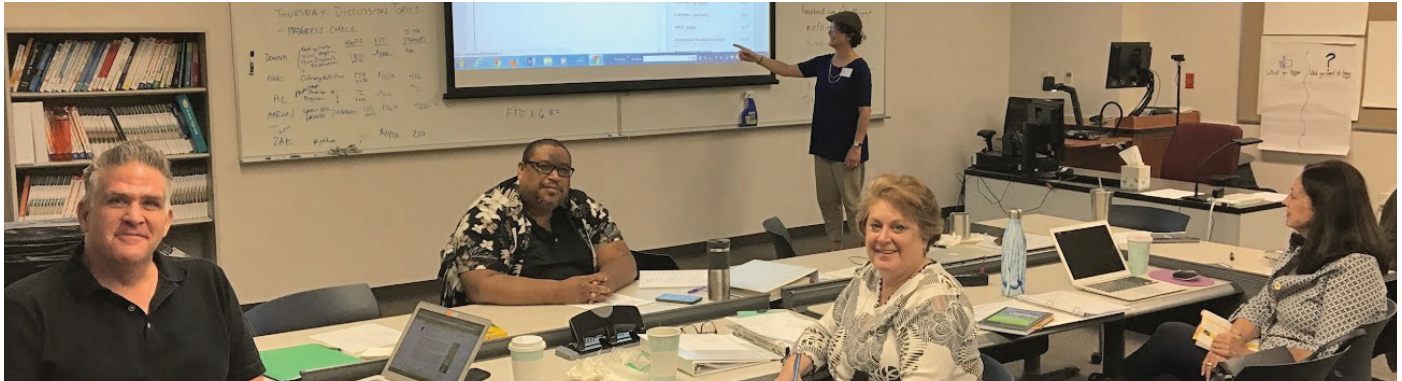
Lee hopes that the new bookshelf will one day be filled with donated textbooks that will help to lower the cost of attendance for her fellow Veterans.







# Innovation, Access Drive Open Resources



Faculty at SDCE are working together and finding ways to provide relevant, high-quality open educational resources to students.

Recognized as a state model in noncredit instruction, San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE) continues its reputation of leadership and innovation by implementing Open Educational Resources (OER) that increase accessibility and textbook affordability to adult students in San Diego.

"It's about access," said Matthew Rivaldi, a member of SDCE's business faculty. "The goal is to offer SDCE students free textbooks or high-quality educational materials using OERs."

OER has been a buzz term in the California legislature since 2012, when Governor Brown signed two bills that recognized the cost of textbooks in higher education had grown to a level that was too expensive for most students. Following the initial bills, an OER Council was established to achieve several goals to make OER successful, including creating an approval process and promoting strategies for using OER, plus exploring methods for reviving out-of-print textbooks in digital OER formats. In 2015, the College Textbook Affordability Act was signed into law, and in 2016, SDCE received the first of three grants to plan and implement OER in existing free career technical education programs.

"The textbook we had been using in the small business program was \$75 and many students did not make the investment," Rivaldi said.

"One main benefit of OER for students is obviously having access to a textbook without the expensive cost," said Rivaldi. "But other benefits include an easy

download for many OERs, which gives students options to have a partial hard copy or just a section of the book."

Faculty benefit from the flexibility provided by OER in that they have much more direct control of course materials and the academic freedom to tailor content to meet the needs of the students. Fair use laws generally restrict faculty from using materials during a class for more than a semester. Using OERs allows faculty to use materials in the classroom with less worry about copyright infringement and often longer than one semester.

OER is growing, but it's still relatively new for noncredit; finding appropriate, high-quality materials for some discipline topics can be a challenge. "It's not a fit for every program," Rivaldi said. "In cases where existing, relevant OERs do not exist, developing new materials can be expensive."

Rivaldi is co-authoring an OER workbook with SDCE faculty member Aaron Iffland for the small business planning certificate program. The workbook will launch in spring 2018, and be available for anyone to access and reuse from the California Digital Open Source Library, (<http://cool4ed.org/>).

The San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees has set a goal for the District to ensure that a strategic approach is developed to reduce escalating textbook costs for District students. SDCE is leading this charge and will expand OER to additional career technical education classes in the spring.



# LIFELONG *learner*

Rudy Aguilar picked grapes as a teenager in the Central Valley in the 1950s, took part in reconnaissance missions along the demilitarized zone in Korea while with the Army in the 1960s, and found work as an electronics technician for NASSCO in the 1970s. But one thing he never did was graduate from high school.

Now, Aguilar can say he has accomplished that. He earned his adult high school diploma from San Diego Continuing Education's César Chavez campus last fall shortly after turning 76. We sat down with Aguilar to talk about his experiences.

**Q. After so many years, why was it important to you to earn your high school diploma?**

A. My mother told me always that I needed to get a good education and I needed to have a diploma. But I was young, I was stupid, I didn't listen. That's why I ended up in the Army in Korea. I suffered a stroke many years ago, and I promised the Lord, if I get up, if I recover, I will be a better man. And I promised myself I would finally get my diploma.

**Q. What was going through your mind when you were presented with your diploma?**

A. I cried. I cried a lot. I know my mother, may she rest in peace, was crying, too. You know, I took a lot of classes over the years. I always wanted to learn. But I never focused on getting a diploma. It means so much to me.

**Q. What was the hardest part of your journey?**

A. Staying focused. Sometimes it's hard for me to stay focused. But I've seen people come to school in wheelchairs. So there's no excuse. And the people who work here at the César Chávez campus, they are all going to heaven. They only want to help people. The staff, the teachers, the people at the front desk, they are only here for you. I'm very thankful.

**Q. What does your experience mean to others?**

A. Anything is possible. I'm 77 years old. I've lived a long life. If I can do it, anyone can."

**Q. What now?**

A. You should never stop learning. I'm still going to school. I'm still here on Tuesdays taking a Japanese drawing and painting class. I don't know, maybe I can go to college. Anything is possible.



# IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES



*Jordan, Charles, and Karla*  
STUDENT VETERANS



*Abdisalan, Yesenia,  
Alicia, and Jerry*  
STUDENT OUTREACH TEAM



*Barbora and Marcelo*  
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# Restoring Respect 7th Annual Conference

## “Finding Truth in a Post-Truth World – Media Literacy and the Social Media Age”

Joan Kroc Institute For Peace and Justice | University of San Diego

Tuesday, April 10 | 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 11 | 8:00 a.m. to noon

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