



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education

JUNE 2017

WE

With
Excellence



TAKING FLIGHT

MIRAMAR COLLEGE
DRONE PROGRAM IS SET
TO TAKE OFF IN 2018

STORY ON PAGE 10

Moving Forward



Mesa College President Pamela Luster, center, with the first cohort of students from the Health Information Management program on August 25, 2015.

San Diego Mesa College became the first community college in California to launch a baccalaureate program when it opened its doors on August 25, 2015, to 32 freshmen seeking a bachelor's degree in the growing field of health information management. The historic moment came to pass because of Senate Bill 850, legislation authored by former state Senator Marty Block, which gave the California Community Colleges system the go-ahead to offer bachelor's degree programs in a limited number of workforce-preparation fields. Fifteen community colleges were selected to take part in the pilot program. Ten programs are already operating. Five more schools will add their own four-year degree programs this fall.



State Senator Jerry Hill and Chancellor Constance M. Carroll

Adding a few hundred new bachelor's degree students through a pilot program isn't enough to meet growing workforce demands. Studies show California must boost the number of bachelor's degrees by 60,000 each year if a state with one of the largest economies

in the world is to remain competitive. That's why state Senator Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) has introduced new legislation that would expand the baccalaureate pilot program from 15 to 25 baccalaureate programs and would extend a sunset provision to 2028 that would otherwise end the effort in 2023.

If passed, SB 769 would enable the additional 10 programs to be offered as early as fall 2018. The 4-year cost of the community college baccalaureates is \$10,560, much more affordable than the public universities' cost of \$27,036 or the private universities' cost of \$60,000 or more.

Programs in place under SB 850 are yielding positive results in serving a diverse group of students. For example, more than 70 percent of students are women and nearly 60 percent come from traditionally underserved and diverse communities.

Now is not the time to turn back on the progress we have made, but to continue to move forward.



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor

8 Turning Lives Around

The SDCCD is providing opportunities to students, who were formerly incarcerated, to succeed.

10 Taking Flight

A drone operations program at Miramar College is set to launch in 2018.

WHAT'S INSIDE

CONNECTIONS

- 4 *WE Tweet*
Building Community
Keeping the Promise
- 5 *Diversity at the District*
Hello, Summer
- 6 *SEEDS Sprouting at Mesa*
Honoring a Hero
- 7 *Dr. Ricky Shabazz Named*
President of City College

AROUND THE DISTRICT

- 14 *Boundless: The Move to*
Open Educational Resources

CAMPUS NEWS

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

SDCCD NEWSMAKERS

- 26 Excelling at City

16 Going to Work

Career Technical Education programs across the District are preparing students for high-demand jobs.

20 Leading the Way

Through the District's leadership academies, faculty, staff, and administrators are developing into leaders.

WE—With Excellence Magazine

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CE Gateway Students excited to be here!!!
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Building Community

An initiative to promote civility in the San Diego Community College District is having a noticeable impact halfway through the two-year project, with students, faculty, and staff saying the skills they've learned make them more understanding and more confident in handling conflict.

The We Are Community program brings student leaders, faculty, and staff at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education to a series of workshops taught through the National Conflict Resolution Center on skills and strategies to improve civil behavior and embrace diversity.

Training was piloted in fall 2015 and was fully implemented in spring 2016. Thirty of 48 planned workshops have been conducted and 479 students, faculty, and staff have undergone training. Surveys of those who have completed the program show improved confidence regarding self-awareness, communication, conflict resolution, and understanding cultural differences.

Ninety-nine percent of students surveyed said skills they learned are applicable to their day-to-day lives and on campus. Students also said they have become better listeners and are better able to understand cultural differences.

Keeping the Promise

Six hundred graduating high school seniors and Continuing Education students will receive free tuition and books beginning in fall 2017 at a San Diego Community College District college through the San Diego Promise.

More than 1,100 seniors from 26 San Diego Unified School District high schools submitted applications for the free college program offered by the SDCCD. Combined with the 201 students admitted as freshmen last fall, it represents a four-fold increase to 800 total students. Students were selected based on a combination of need, barriers they have faced in the past, and commitment to completing a college degree, certificate, or transfer program.

The largest number of students – 286 – has opted to attend San Diego Mesa College, 195 will enroll at San Diego City College, and 94 say they will enroll at San Diego Miramar College. An additional 25 students are undecided at this time about which of the three colleges they will attend.



Diversity at the District

It's all about promoting diversity and inclusion.

Since its creation last year, the SDCCD's District Committee for Community, Inclusion, and Diversity (DCCID) has held a lecture in honor of Black History Month with San Diego State University Assistant Dean and Director of the Cultural Proficiency Institute of Educators Dr. Tanis Starck, participated in the 2016 San Diego Pride and 2017 Martin Luther King Jr. parades, and promoted a number of efforts aimed at publicizing events that promoted equity.

"The DCCID's mission of increasing the awareness and understanding of diversity by actively engaging in educational and professional development opportunities is essential to foster an environment



Dr. Tanis Starck at the DCCID's Black History Month event.

of inclusiveness and collaboration," said Farzad Pishyar, committee chair. "It's great to know that the organization you work for recognizes the need for such a group at the District level."

If you would like to be a part of the DCCID, send an email to dccid@sdccd.edu or follow the committee on Facebook at www.facebook.com/sdcccddccid.



Hello, Summer

Summer session recently began and students enrolling at San Diego Community College District campuses are finding an abundance of core courses needed for a degree or certificate.

This year, City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges are offering a total of 1,728 course sections in all, a 13 percent increase over last summer. San Diego Continuing Education, meanwhile, will be offering 1,871 course sections.

The SDCCD is offering several sessions to choose from, including four-week, five-week, six-week, and eight-week courses, with sessions starting as early as JUNE 5 and as late as July 10.

Open registration for City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges began May 30. Classes are \$46 a unit for California residents. Registration is available through the SDCCD's Reg-e at <https://studentweb.sdccd.edu/reg-e/>.

SEEDS Sprouting at Mesa

San Diego Mesa College's SEEDS Scholars Program continues to impress, with three students in the program being awarded highly competitive summer internships.

Allondra Gonzalez will work with the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Diversity Summer Research Training Program in research activities at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland. Ti'Shaun Allen has accepted an internship with UC San Diego's Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS). Cassie Casares has accepted an internship with the U.S. Department of Agriculture through the Watershed Management

Experiential Learning for USDA program at California State University, San Bernardino.

Four SEEDS scholars — Claudia Nieto, Joe Avalos, Sara Ramirez, and Casares — were the only community college students in the country who presented their research projects at the annual Principal Investigators Meeting held February 16-18 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The SEEDS Scholars Program, an acronym for STEM Engagement for the Enrichment of Diverse Students, aims to increase the number of Hispanic students pursuing future graduate degrees by providing a firm foundation in STEM-related fields while raising awareness of agriculture-related themes such as global food security, hunger, and sustainability.



Honoring a Hero

The Navy's newest guided missile destroyer, named for Marine hero and former San Diego City College student Rafael Peralta, is set to be commissioned July 29 in Coronado.

Peralta was born in Mexico City and grew up in San Diego, graduating from San Diego's Morse High School and attending San Diego City College. He was killed while shielding his fellow Marines from a hand grenade thrown by an insurgent during the second Battle of Fallujah in 2004 in Iraq.

"Without hesitation and with complete disregard for his own personal safety, Sgt. Peralta reached out and pulled the grenade to his body, absorbing the brunt of the blast and shielding fellow Marines only feet away," states the official citation for a posthumous Navy Cross award — the second highest award a Marine can receive. "Sgt. Peralta succumbed to his wounds. By his undaunted courage, intrepid fighting spirit, and unwavering devotion to duty, Sgt. Peralta reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service."

The Navy took possession of the USS Rafael Peralta on February 3 from General Dynamics Bath Iron Works in Maine, and the Navy is set to commission the \$1.5-billion ship at Naval Base Coronado.

Dr. Ricky Shabazz Named President of City College

Dr. Ricky Shabazz, an experienced higher education leader with a track record of promoting student equity and success, has been named the new president of San Diego City College.

Dr. Shabazz comes to City College from San Bernardino Valley College (SBVC), where he serves as Vice President of Student Services and has been responsible for leading the college's strategic initiatives, student support programs, various instructional programs, and educational partnerships with K-12 schools and employers. At SBVC, Dr. Shabazz has proven to be especially adept at utilizing data in developing strategies to improve student success and retention while also growing the college's enrollment.

"Dr. Shabazz has the experience and drive that City College needs at this point in its history," SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said. "The Board of Trustees and I were impressed by his energy and record of success, as well as by his commitment to diversity at all levels. His excellent working relationships with faculty, staff, and administrators at his present institution and his student-centered approach to his work are characteristics that will serve him well at City College and in the District. We are all looking forward to working with him."

Dr. Shabazz earned his bachelor's degree in Native American studies at UC Davis, master's degree in educational administration and supervision, and doctorate in education in educational leadership from California State University, San Bernardino. He served for more than five years as assistant director of Admissions at UC Davis after earning his bachelor's degree, with much of his outreach work concentrated in the San Diego area. He has also held positions as associate director of Admissions at Harvey Mudd College, and as a director of Counseling at a charter high school in Los Angeles.

In 2007, Dr. Shabazz was named director of Outreach and Relations with Schools at the El Camino College Compton Center south of Los Angeles. At Compton, Dr. Shabazz's success in overseeing concurrent enrollment efforts at seven feeder high schools led to a doubling in enrollment. He would serve nearly two years as dean of Students with the district before moving to SBVC as vice president of Student Services.

In spring 2016, Dr. Shabazz's team opened one of the state's first "Dreamer Resource Centers" to support undocumented students in successfully transitioning into college. Additionally, he oversees one of the state's



most successful promise programs, The Valley-Bound Commitment Program, a community partnership with the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, which provides approximately 250 SBVC students free college tuition during their freshman year.

"I am very excited to be joining the faculty, staff, administration, and students at San Diego City College," Dr. Shabazz said. "City College has been transforming students' lives for more than 100 years, and I am extremely impressed with the faculty and staff's commitment to social justice, educational equity, and inclusiveness. I look forward to building lasting relationships both on and off campus to ensure that City College continues to be the flagship community college of the San Diego Community College District and a leading college in San Diego County."

Dr. Shabazz's first day at City College will be July 11.

"Dr. Shabazz brings the kind of energy and commitment to San Diego City College that has earned him accolades throughout education circles for his work in promoting various student success initiatives," SDCCD Board of Trustees President Maria Nieto Senour said. "The Board of Trustees is pleased to welcome him to the District and have him assume the presidency of City College."

The search for a new City College president was an extensive effort, attracting candidates from across the country.

City College was the first community college in San Diego and just the fifth community college in the state when it opened its doors in 1914. Located in downtown San Diego's flourishing East Village neighborhood, the college offers over 200 degrees and certificates to more than 16,000 students.

Turning Lives Around

Programs are putting a dent in recidivism rates of the formerly incarcerated

San Diego Continuing Education works with local jails and the San Diego County Probation Department in reaching out to current and former inmates looking for educational and job training options. San Diego City College is home to an annual resource fair that attracts hundreds of teens and young adults who have been in trouble with the law but are eager to improve their future. San Diego Miramar College has a thriving arts program that is transforming the lives of prisoners at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility.

Throughout the region, the SDCCD has instituted an array of programs that are putting a dent in recidivism rates of the formerly incarcerated.

Just ask Rena Alspaw, a formerly incarcerated student who is now a part of the SDCCD Honors Program.

"The level of support I have received has been above and beyond anything I could have expected," said Alspaw, who earned Mesa College's Catherine Larocca Memorial Scholarship, a scholarship awarded to a student who has triumphed over obstacles in order to pursue their education. "Not once have I been ostracized, talked down to, or shunned because of my past, and that is tremendously important to me."

Alspaw, who was battered as a child and who served 21 years behind bars after the fatal shooting of an abusive ex-boyfriend, has been enrolled at both City and Mesa colleges since fall 2015. Now 39, she earns an associate degree this spring and is planning



Mesa College
student Rena Alspaw

to transfer to San Diego State University en route to a career as a social worker advocating for veterans, the homeless, and other populations that are often left behind.

Alberto "Beto" Vasquez also embodies how the SDCCD is turning lives around. The youngest of four sons raised by a single mom who worked long hours at NAASCO, Vasquez had already spent a dozen years in various detention facilities by the time he was 27. While working as an inmate firefighter, Vasquez earned his state certification in water treatment, and that led him to study biological sciences at San Diego City College.

He was 28.

"It was scary," Vasquez said. "I got to be honest with you. It was very scary."

An array of support services and dedicated faculty and staff made him feel right at home. Thanks to Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), the City College Math, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) Program, counselors, and instructors, Vasquez shined. He also became a leader in student government, and transferred to UC San Diego, where he earned a bachelor's degree. Today, he is a Continuing Education outreach coordinator who has made presentations at juvenile hall, local jails, and state prisons sharing his story and letting the incarcerated know about the resources available through the SDCCD.



"We are playing an integral role in regional efforts to facilitate the academic success of formerly incarcerated individuals," Vasquez said. "We're doing some pretty amazing things here at Continuing Education and throughout the District."

According to the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, more than 45 percent of the offenders released from state prison in fiscal year 2010-11 were re-incarcerated within three years for offenses ranging from parole violations to violent crimes. There are currently more than 45,000 people on parole in California, and approximately 15,000 people were on probation in San Diego County in 2015.

Among SDCCD efforts to reintegrate the formerly incarcerated:

- Miramar College sociology professor Laura Pecenco has launched Project PAINT: The Prison Arts Initiative, at the Richard J. Donovan Correctional Facility in Otay Mesa. Some of the resulting artwork has been displayed in local galleries, including the Oceanside Museum of Art and the Museum of Photographic Arts in Balboa Park.
- Close to 1,000 young current and former probationers attend the Annual Passport to Life Career and Education Expo at San Diego City College. The college, the San Diego Superior Court, the San Diego County Probation Department, the San

Diego County Office of Education, and other agencies collaborate to provide this day-long resource fair for at-risk youth.

- The Parker's Scholars program at City College offers workshops, counseling, peer tutoring, and a sense of community to dozens of young men and women who have been in trouble with the law but are looking for another chance. Virtually all participants in the program are first-generation college students.
- Continuing Education's Rising to Success (R2S) Resource Centers, which provide specialized counseling services that address many of the challenges re-entry students face. In addition, Continuing Education has partnered with the San Diego County Probation Department and others in planning and developing outreach events and services prior to inmate release.
- The Navy brig at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar is contracting with Continuing Education to provide inmates with vocational education.

"When I got out of prison, failure was not an option for me," Alspaw said. "The programs, opportunities, and the support I have received here have been nothing short of phenomenal."



TAKING FLIGHT AT MIRAMAR COLLEGE

Miramar College's Aviation Operations Program will soon reach new heights with courses on drone operations lined up to take flight as early as fall 2018 and plans for a certificate of achievement program to follow.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), more commonly known as drones, are becoming more popular with everyone from farmers who are turning to them to gather data and spray pesticides, to first responders trying to map a wildfire or look for a missing person. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) projects some 7 million drones will be taking flight by 2020, and the FAA saw more than 770,000 registrations in the first 15 months of an online drone registry. That number was up 100,000 in the first two months of this year.

"We're ushering in a new age of American aviation: the unmanned aircraft era. It's moving at a quicker pace than anything we've seen before," Michael Huerta, administrator of the FAA, said in his opening remarks to the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Symposium in San Diego on March 27. "If you can dream it, drone manufacturers are building it. Some of the latest models can sense and avoid obstacles in their paths. Others

can fit in your pocket or be used under water. A few have even automated the selfie game."

With the rapid growth comes concerns about air traffic safety and adequate pilot training. That's where the Miramar program comes in. Basic Unmanned Aerial System courses are in the curriculum development and approval process and include a course aimed at preparing students to meet FAA certification to operate smaller drones for commercial purposes. A related lab course will focus on honing pilot flight skills and on flying simulated, for-hire commercial drones.

Max Moore, an aviation technology instructor at Miramar who will be teaching the classes, said he plans to have the courses offered in fall 2018.

"The program is focused on proficient pilots who know the rules and regulations in operating remote aircraft safely in public air space," Moore said. "With the unprecedented growth in the unmanned aircraft industry, there is a huge potential for problems. A lot of people are flying in places they shouldn't be flying and are doing things they shouldn't be doing."



7 MILLION
DRONES
ARE
PROJECTED
TO TAKE
FLIGHT BY
2020.

FEDERAL AVIATION
ADMINISTRATION

*Future drone
operations student
Ardy Ison calibrating
the DJI Phantom 4
drone before flight.*



TWO LARGEST INDUSTRIES USING DRONES: PHOTOGRAPHY AND REAL ESTATE

BUSINESS INSIDER



Left photo, Aviation technology instructor Max Moore testing the DJI Inspire 1 Pro drone, which is equipped with a 4K camera and has a maximum speed of 49 miles per hour. Top photo, Moore completes a preflight check before making the Inspire 1 Pro airborne.

Moore is an FAA Safety Team representative who works with government and private groups to promote air safety in the region. He spent 10 years as a Marine attached to a helicopter air crew that flew in Kuwait and Iraq. In 2011 and 2012, he piloted the MQ-5B Hunter UAV, a drone nearly the size of a single-engine airplane, gathering military intelligence in Afghanistan with a defense firm under contract with the Army.

Miramar College has been working with the FAA and nearby Marine Corps Air Station Miramar for approval to operate unmanned aircraft safely and legally in the airspace around campus. Meanwhile, the Aviation Operations Program is stocking up on drone equipment through various sources, including donations and state Strong Workforce dollars aimed at supporting the growth of Career Technical Education (CTE) programs across California.

Miramar College's Aviation Operations Program is part of the larger Aeronautical and Aviation Technology Program housed within the School of Business, Technical Careers, and Workforce Initiatives. Miramar College offers two associate degrees in Aviation Operations: Aviation Business Administration, and Professional Aeronautics. The new drone piloting courses will be offered as electives in the Professional Aeronautics program, but Moore said Miramar is looking at later expanding the effort, culminating with a certificate of achievement in Unmanned Aerial Systems.

"The new drone courses fit in with the mission of San Diego Miramar College of being at the forefront of workforce development and education in cutting-edge industry," said Lynne Ornelas, dean of Business, Technical Careers, and Workforce Initiatives. "Drone operations and technology is a growing industry, and we anticipate strong demand for our courses."

BOUNDLESS: THE MOVE TO OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



Communications instructor Alex Mata has never been a big fan of college textbooks. Not when she was teaching at Chico State University, not when she was an adjunct faculty member at Butte College, and not as an associate professor at San Diego Miramar College.

"My students weren't getting into them or reading them," Mata said. "They were having a hard time coming up with \$190 for a textbook that really wasn't any good, and that's just too much of a burden."

So, starting last fall, Mata joined the growing number of professors in the SDCCD who are ditching the traditional textbook in favor of Open Educational Resources (OER), which can include everything from video lectures to online peer-reviewed writings.

The OER movement, Mata and others say, is all about the students. A recent survey found that one-third of SDCCD students had to drop a class because they could not afford a required textbook. Half of the students in a national study said the cost of textbooks impacted how many and which classes they took.

"Every year, I hear from students regarding the astronomical cost of some of these books," said Denise Rogers, an art history professor at San Diego Mesa College. "Some students cannot afford to stay in class

because they can't afford to buy a book. The cost of a textbook should not be a barrier to a good education."

Nationally, students are spending an estimated \$2 billion annually on textbooks they will use just once. Locally, students at City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges spend almost \$10 million each year. Research shows that if every college student taking an introduction to psychology course nationwide were assigned just one OER in place of a traditional textbook, the cumulative savings would reach \$191.6 million.

Such numbers helped prompt California to promote Zero Textbook Cost degree programs by making \$5 million available in grants for community colleges. While the SDCCD's Board of Trustees has established a strategic goal of reducing the escalating textbook costs through the expanded use of OER, the impetus is coming from faculty and staff.

At Continuing Education, which recently received two state grants to boost the use of OER, faculty members Matthew Rivaldi and Rachel Rose are taking the lead in the movement. The math departments at both City and Miramar colleges also are on the front lines.

OER

BY THE NUMBERS

\$266

The cost of a cosmetology textbook — the most expensive book used in the SDCCD.

\$175

Average textbook cost.

63%

Sixty three percent of students said that textbook costs influence their decision to enroll in a class. *

50%

Fifty percent of students completed a class without the textbook because they couldn't afford the cost. *

** Data from SDCCD Report on Textbook Survey, Spring 2016.*

"This is ground up, not top down," said Dr. Marie McMahon, an anatomy and physiology professor who serves as Miramar College's Academic Senate president and who praised the math department's OER initiatives. "Math faculty regularly discuss the latest developments and available options, and if an instructor finds a useful resource, he or she may put it on an online blackboard course site as a resource for others."

OER, however, are not the only answer. Although more than 90 percent of Miramar faculty surveyed by McMahon said they employ strategies that help offset the cost of class materials, more than 32 percent said strategies include lending textbooks to students, and more than 48 percent said they create inexpensive, in-house manuals or other supplemental material.

Part of the challenge for OER advocates is education. Nearly 19 percent of Miramar faculty said they were not aware of OER at all, and nearly 14 percent said they were only vaguely familiar and did not know much about them. An additional 28 percent said they were somewhat aware of OER but were not sure how they could be used in their class.

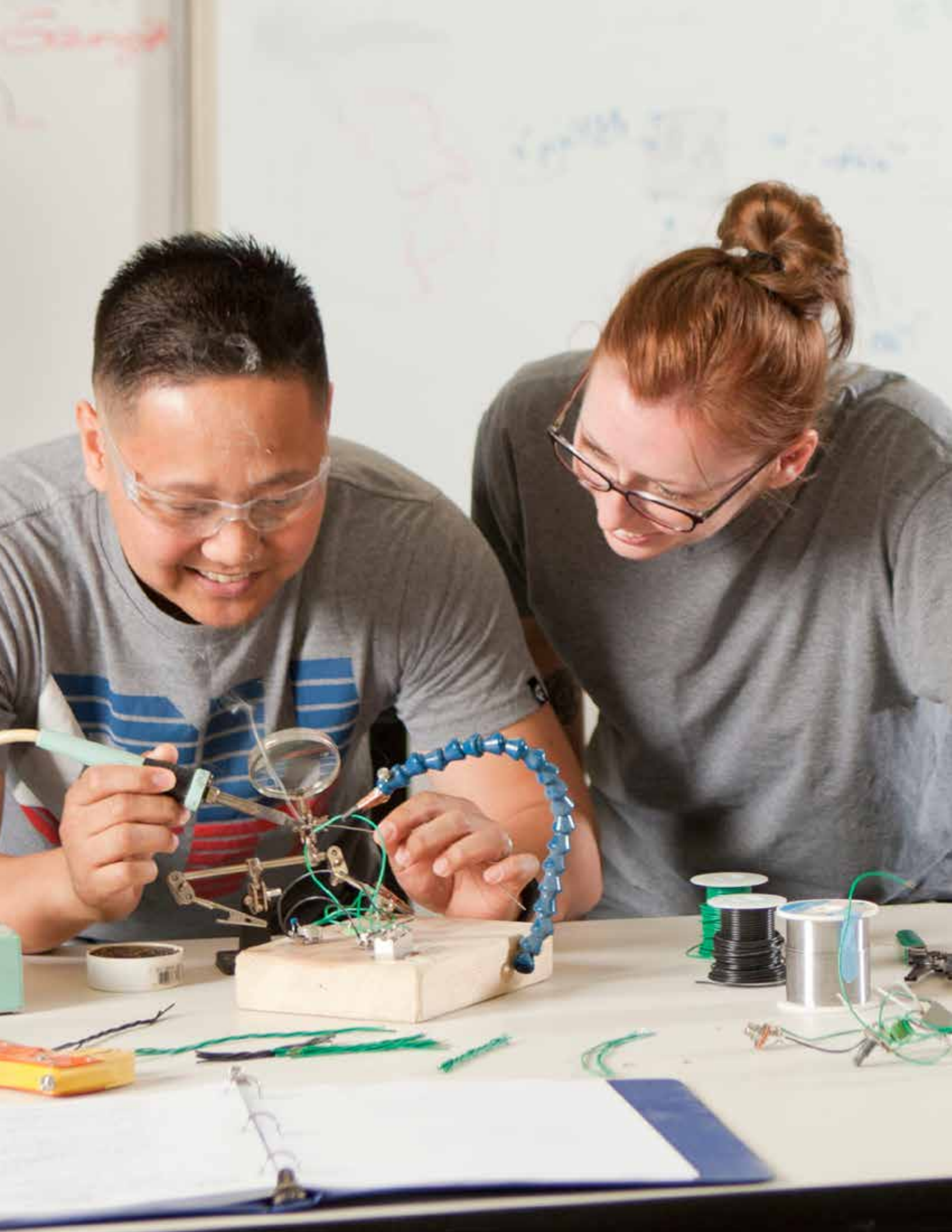
"When I first heard about OER, I thought it was just online books, which really didn't interest me," McMahon said. "In fact, though, OER include a variety of resources that are openly accessible, including articles, video lectures, studies, chapters, and online texts."

What's more, openly accessible often means better. Studies show that students who use OER earn higher grades and have a lower withdrawal rate. In addition, a 2014 study found students in courses using OER enrolled in a significantly higher number of credits in the next semester.

Instructors have to do their homework. "There's a lot of work involved for faculty," Rogers said. "It can take a lot of time to research the sources and make sure your students are still getting a quality education."

For Miramar's Mata, the choice was a no-brainer.

"I was feeling really restricted by the textbooks I was using," she said. "Not only were they so expensive, but they were also somewhat obsolete. Open Educational Resources are so much more dynamic and relevant, with up-to-date research from all kinds of majors and disciplines to illustrate various concepts. It's just a more effective teaching tool."



A photograph showing a person's hands working on a guitar in a workshop. The person is wearing a grey shirt. A red electric guitar is visible in the background, and a green screwdriver is on the workbench in the foreground.

DRIVING THE WORKFORCE

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT'S CTE PROGRAMS ARE PAYING BIG DIVIDENDS

Jason Carr was looking for something better. Eleven years as a restaurant manager was enough.

"It wasn't what I was passionate about," he said.

"So I went to City College, talked to a counselor, and realized what I really wanted to do was enroll in their cybersecurity program. So here I am. The program covers absolutely everything you need to succeed to work as a security analyst either for a government agency or for private industry, and there are a huge amount of jobs out there and not enough people to fill them."

Carr is among those who are turning to Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, which fulfill employer needs in high-skill, high-demand fields. These fields range from advanced manufacturing, an area in which the Manufacturing Institute says 2 million jobs will remain vacant over the next decade because of the skills gap, to health care, an area in which almost two-thirds of registered nurses graduated from community colleges.

Among the SDCCD's more popular CTE offerings, which typically consist of both associate degree and short-term certificate programs, are fire technology, biotechnology, and radiologic technology.

"Many good-paying jobs today do not require a four-year degree, and the San Diego Community College District is at the head of the class in creating pathways through the CTE programs at our colleges and Continuing Education," SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said.

Those pathways include an array of District-sponsored apprenticeships that require participants to take classes on theory and technical training before or after their on-the-job assignments, at which they earn hourly pay. Some 800 or so students are working at apprenticeships through the SDCCD in trades like construction; electrical; heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC); pipe fitting; plumbing; and sheet metal.

Meanwhile, students who complete a certificate nearly double their pre-degree earnings after five years in the workforce, according to the latest data from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. About 44 percent of students who graduated with a certificate earned \$56,000 or more annually five years after graduating.

Introduction to Manufacturing Engineering Technology includes guitar-building courses, which is part of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program at San Diego City College.

San Diego Continuing Education alone offers 60 certificate programs, including a highly acclaimed and cost-free welding program.

"We're very close to the shipyards down here in San Diego. That's a route we encourage students to take," said master welder and Continuing Education instructor Brad Dorschel. "We also have a local ironworkers union, pipe and steamfitters union, as well as the variety of fabrication shops and an aerospace industry in San Diego. There are so many career pathways available."

Continuing Education student Mackenzie Crommett is sold. "This program really prepares you for awesome careers like pipeline or structural welding, and welding on ships for things like Merchant Marines," Crommett said. "I'm really excited to see where the path leads me. The sky really is the limit with welding and fabrication."

The associate degree Judy Wade earned through a CTE program at Mesa College to become a registered veterinary technician led to her current work as a lab manager taking blood samples from mice at the Sanford-Burnham Medical Research Institute. She's been at Sanford-Burnham for 16 years.

"It was a really good, super hard, but really good program that helped prepare me for the job I'm doing today," Wade said.

Students including Wade, Crommett, and Carr say a highlight of the District's CTE programs is they are taught by working professionals who are up to date on the latest developments in their field and who have connections that can help them land jobs.

Nick Tzakis, who teaches Homeland Security at Miramar College, fits the bill. He is a retired intelligence officer who worked with the Army, Navy, and Air Force, and whose courses include Introduction to Homeland Security, Intelligence and Security Analysis, and Transportation Security.

"We're seeing strong interest and increased demand in this area coming not only from people looking at possible government jobs, but also from people who are looking at working for private security firms," said Tzakis, a former Army major. "Homeland security is a huge growth area."

It's that sort of demand that drew Carr's interest and is prompting City College to establish a new 18-unit program leading to a Certificate of Achievement in Information Security. All courses in City College's cybersecurity program lead to industry standard certification.

"Every time you read a paper or turn on the news you hear about an entity that has been hacked," said Rose LaMuraglia, dean, School of Business and Information Technology, and Cosmetology. "It is a problem that is not going away, and that is creating a growing need among private and public institutions to protect themselves."



Welding at the San Diego Continuing Education Educational Cultural Complex



*San Diego
Miramar
College is
home to the
Southern
California
Biotechnology
Center.*



Leading the Way

Leadership Academies are putting the District on a firm foundation while building stronger connections across departments

It was supposed to be about developing the leaders of tomorrow.

That was the intent when the San Diego Community College District in 2009 laid the groundwork for a series of leadership academies serving faculty, staff, and administrators. The academies, though, have been building more than leaders. They have helped hundreds of employees ranging from groundskeepers to academic department heads network with each other, build lasting working relationships, open silos, and expose staff members to how other departments operate and the challenges they face.

The result: The San Diego Community College District has become an even stronger family.

"The leadership academies provide an opportunity for people to meet people they wouldn't otherwise have met, to understand what they do and the skill sets that they have, and how they are all working together to impact the District," said Timothy Pawlak, professor and chair of the Business, Computers, and Information Technology Department at San Diego Continuing Education. Pawlak sits on the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate and has completed three academies. "We're all part of a large educational system, and it is important to break down barriers and

facilitate dialogue. This program allows for people to look at the bigger picture while building their leadership capabilities."

The leadership academy series, which includes the Management Leadership Development Academy, the Supervisory Leadership Development Academy, the Classified Leadership Development Academy, and the Faculty Leadership Development Academy, are a key element in the District's expansive Professional Development Program, which is among the most extensive in the California Community Colleges system. Leadership development has long been a priority of the District's Board of Trustees, and Chancellor Constance M. Carroll spearheaded the program to meet the District's Strategic Plan goal of establishing professional development opportunities and a wide variety of resources to anyone interested in building their leadership skills, taking on a committee assignment, or embarking on a management trajectory.

Nearly 500 people have graduated from a leadership academy.

"The Professional Development Program is designed to build the leadership skills and capabilities of the San Diego Community College District management, faculty, and staff, as part of a succession planning



2017 Faculty Leadership Development Academy graduates

model,” Chancellor Carroll said. “A steadily growing network of leadership academy graduates has demonstrated the success of this program, which has provided them with both techniques for working efficiently and effectively, as well as being able to relate to all levels of staff in a collegial and productive manner.”

Erin Milligan Hill, the District’s director of Employment and Professional Development, helped build the program from scratch, and began by reviewing with Human Resources team members succession planning and professional development programs at other community colleges around the country. The Leadership Academy Series took center stage. The Management Leadership Development Academy was the first. That was followed by the Supervisory Leadership Development Academy, the Classified Leadership Development Academy, and the Faculty Leadership Development Academy in spring 2016.

The 27 participants in the Classified Leadership Academy’s Class of 2016 included dispatchers with

the SDCCD Police Department, a student services technician at San Diego Mesa College, an accounting technician at San Diego City College, a groundskeeper/gardener at Facilities Services, and a web designer at the District’s headquarters, among others.

“The academy gave me greater perspective and allowed me to see how my job and my responsibilities are having an impact on students throughout the District,” said Jessica Lee, who has been with the District for 17 years, the past five as a senior secretary and recently promoted to administrative assistant in Instructional Services. “It really emphasized connecting with our counterparts at the different colleges and Continuing Education.”

Milligan Hill says such sentiments are common.

“One of the most beneficial things people say they get out of the program is the networking,” she said. “They learn what other people are doing. They attain a new respect and awareness about the challenges and opportunities their colleagues face, and it puts them on a level of energy and enthusiasm where they want to learn and contribute even more.”



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

Champions On and Off the Basketball Court



What is it like to make history?

Not only is this the first state championship for the San Diego City College men's basketball team, it's the first time a San Diego team has won the California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) championship.

Coach Mitch Charlens cites the closeness of the San Diego City College Knights as a significant reason for its success — and is quick to note that all his players possess what he calls “top form” in basketball, in hitting the books, and as people.

“We really became a family during this journey, so it meant so much for us to win the championship,” Charlens said. “Every one of these kids is so high-character, and because we created adversity in practice, they didn’t get rattled when we faced an uphill climb.”

Uphill climb, indeed. The Knights were in an 11-0 hole to start their quarterfinal game against Yuba City College and ended up winning by 16; were down 15 to San Francisco City College in the semifinals before winning by two; and overcame a seven-point deficit in the championship game against Fullerton College with five minutes to go, tying it with 11 seconds on the clock, and then winning it all with a buzzer-beater layup.

“It was the biggest thrill I’ve ever had, watching the team celebrating, dancing, and being so proud of each other,” Charlens said. “I told them all along that big time is what you make of it, so it’s important to be all-in on the moments and enjoy the process.”

Charlens, who has built the basketball program into a winner over the past 13 seasons, also received an individual honor in guiding the Knights to a 31-5 record, with 17 consecutive wins and the championship. He was named Coach of the Year for the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) South for the sixth time.

Charlens and his staff made sure academics didn’t take a backseat for any player. They checked on players’ grades regularly and stepped in if they sensed anyone was struggling. The result? The fall 2016 grade point average for the championship team was above 3.4.

“One of the things I’m most proud of is that we didn’t lose any players to the new eligibility rule, which resulted in more than 90 percent of schools losing someone at mid-season due to academic issues,” Charlens said.

Darien McClain, PCAC’s player of the year and CCCCCAA’s Most Valuable Player, who scored the championship basket with 4.1 seconds remaining, said the secret to his classroom success was communication.

“I made sure to communicate with my teachers so they knew I was getting my work done,” McClain said. “It was important to me to keep my grades up during the season.”

Like many of his teammates, McClain also balanced a job (or two, in his case) with daily practices and keeping up with schoolwork. Clearly, for him and the rest of the Knights, all the hard work was worth it, culminating in an achievement they’ll remember forever.

Denise Whisenhunt, interim president of San Diego City College said, “This team exemplifies the best of City College. With the enthusiastic support of our coaches and staff, our student athletes excel at both sports and academics. That makes us ‘City proud!’”

In Memory: Nate Edwards, a sophomore forward on the men’s basketball team passed away on April 18. Nate touched all those who knew him and he will always be remembered.



Take a 'Stand' for Student Equity



Mesa College
President Pamela
Luster, center, with
The Stand staff.

Since the grand opening of The Stand on February 9, San Diego Mesa College's new food and clothing pantry has been successful in both collecting donations and helping students on campus.

During its first few weeks, The Stand has served 227 food items to 118 individual Mesa College students. Donations from students, faculty, and the community of San Diego have been pouring in, including a \$3,000 donation from one source and donations of professional work attire from a Vista resident.

"This is an opportunity for us to re-declare that we are the leading college of equity and excellence," said Mesa President Pamela Luster. "The Stand is just one of the many examples that allow us to say that."

Mesa's outstanding students continue to be a driving force for the success of The Stand. Repeat Boutique, a fundraiser for the Fashion Department at Mesa College donates business attire to The Stand, and the

Associated Student Government hosts a donation drive competition between the clubs on campus.

Other students have made individual donations or have inquired about volunteering their time to The Stand.

"One donor that we owe a lot to is the Mesa Foundation because they gave us our first mini-grant to get all the equipment for The Stand," said Claudia Estrada, Transfer Center and Career Guidance Center supervisor.

Serving an average of 30 students a day, The Stand is now seeking more donations to replenish the shelves. Individual items requested for donation include shelf-stable meals, yogurt, drinks, travel-size deodorant, applesauce packets, canned soup, macaroni and cheese, granola bars, and snacks.



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

Winning Student Success Framework

San Diego Miramar College has been selected as the winner of the 2017 Research and Planning (RP) Group Excellence in Planning Award for its “Student Success Framework for Long-Term Integrated Planning” submission.

“Long-term integrated planning has been an ongoing focus of Miramar College,” said Dr. Patricia Hsieh, president of San Diego Miramar College. “In 2014, to maximize the college’s ability to proactively meet the needs of students, the college incorporated the student experience within its planning efforts with the goal of increasing student success.”

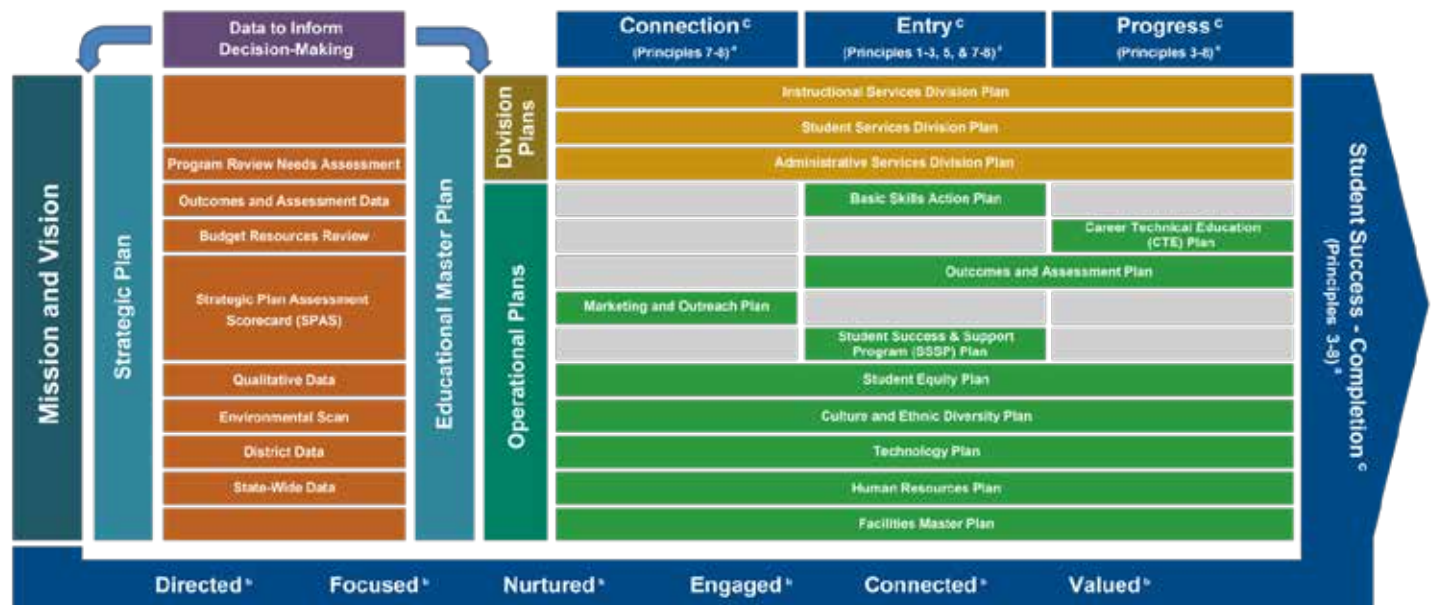
“It is quite an honor for the college to be recognized among the RP Group as having a planning framework that focuses on the student experience,” said Daniel Miramontez, dean, School of Planning, Research, & Institutional Effectiveness (PRIE), Library & Technology at San Diego Miramar College. “Everyone at the college plays a critical role in serving our students in realizing their educational goals. It is my distinct privilege to be part of the San Diego Miramar College team in helping to lead the college with innovative planning. This prestigious award solidifies the college’s

efforts of working together in accomplishing wonderful things for our students.”

The college’s mission and vision statement provide the overall framework and basis for student-focused integrated planning college-wide. This connection is achieved by the development of strategic plan goals that directly support the mission and are used to guide college-wide planning over a seven-year period. Through the implementation of the strategic plan, the mission guides institutional decision-making, planning, and resource allocation. All instructional programs and service areas develop their goals in alignment with the college’s strategic plan, thus ensuring that the college mission is central to planning at all levels of the college.

The RP Group is a prestigious statewide professional organization and through professional and leadership development, technical assistance, research, and evaluation services, the RP Group strengthens the ability of California community colleges to discover and undertake high-quality research, planning, and assessments that improve evidence-based decision making, institutional effectiveness, and success for all students.

Student Success Framework for Long-Term Integrated Planning Fall 2016-Spring 2020



^a Principles of Redesign (Source: Completion By Design Initiative)

^b Six Factors of Student Success (Source: Student Support Redefined Initiative)

^c Loss/Momentum Framework (Source: Completion By Design Initiative)



Excellence in Continuing Education

Dr. Carlos O. Turner Cortez, president of San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE), has demonstrated a profound effect on the continuing education field by authoring and spearheading the production of the first-ever, comprehensive report of California Community College noncredit offerings in *The Past, Present and Future of Noncredit Education in California*, and preparing to host the first statewide noncredit conference.

SDCE is the adult education division of the San Diego Community College District and is the largest provider of noncredit education in California. The motivation to publish the report followed a survey of every community college in California (113 institutions plus SDCE) to find out what current noncredit offerings were being provided in the state. The California Community College Noncredit Offerings Survey was conducted by Dean Michelle Fischthal and SDCE's Office of Institutional Effectiveness in partnership with the California Community College Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) Educational Services.

Every college responded to the survey, which served as a foundation for the first-ever compilation of the collective work that explains the development and expansion of noncredit offerings in California's community colleges, with survey results included in a report format. The report was honored with the Mertes Award for Excellence in Community College Research by the Association of California Community College Administrators.

"The report documents the history of adult education in California, and also serves as a resource to colleagues and legislators to inform policy for growth, development, and improvement of adult education programs and plans," President Turner Cortez said. "In addition to informing policy, the report is expected to have continued long-term positive impacts on adult education institutions, faculty, students, and the adult education profession."

The survey findings showed that new initiatives for noncredit growth were increasingly focused on the expansion of adult education, although resources for programming and operational infrastructure questions were not yet available. As an additional support to colleagues in the state, SDCE will host the first statewide noncredit conference, "The New World of Noncredit," October 6-7, 2017, to help educators and administrators grow and build programs.

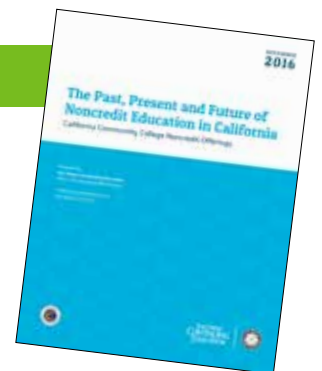


Faculty, administration, and staff need resources to plan, develop, and grow both instructionally and operationally. Conference breakout sessions will focus on four areas: Instruction; Institutional Effectiveness and Research; Policy, Finance, and Administration; and Student Services. The conference committee expects to begin accepting presentation proposals in JUNE.

Presentation of Findings

Dean Michelle Fischthal and SDCE President Carlos O. Turner Cortez presented *The Past, Present and Future of Noncredit Education in California* at the Hawaii International Conference on Education. More than 1,300 participants (from 36 countries) attended the conference, which attracts educators and professionals from around the world to share innovative ideas and best practices in education.

Additionally, President Cortez and Jessica Luedtke, SDCE Research and Planning Analyst, presented *Continuing/Noncredit Education: The Past, Present, and Future of Noncredit Education in California Community Colleges*, a breakout session at the annual Association of Community and Continuing Education (ACCE) conference.



Excelling at City

Abdisalan Bulhan is making the grade. The Kenyan immigrant, who moved to the United States when he was 12, is a peer mentor at San Diego City College and has been named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team based on his grades, intellectual excellence, leadership, and service to community. We asked Bulhan to discuss his experiences at City College and his plans for the future.

Q. Why did you choose San Diego City College?

A. I am the first in my family able to attend college, and English was my third language. I was afraid that I wouldn't excel in English language proficiency, so I chose to attend a community college. Also, my mother simply couldn't afford to send me to a four-year university after high school.

Q. How well are immigrants treated at City College?

A. San Diego City College is a very diverse school. Everyone is treated the same. International students, immigrants, American citizens, undocumented students. Every student who seeks an opportunity for a good education is welcomed with support.

Q. What do you like most about City College?

A. As an employee of the First Year Services office, I love my co-workers and the positive environment around me.

Q. How do you relax before a big test?

A. I try taking some deep breath exercises. Deep breathing helps me relax my body and focus better.

Q. What are your future educational plans?

A. I will transfer to San Diego State University in the fall of 2017. I plan to earn a dual bachelor's degree in business and social work. It is my dream to start an organization that provides resources for immigrants in the U.S. As an immigrant, I understand the importance of being knowledgeable about programs that can help immigrants. With a strong sense of humility, I am ready to serve as a leader for individuals in my community and beyond.

Q. Most memorable City College moment?

A. There are so many. Just meeting so many wonderful people who support and care about me has been memorable.

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