



SAN DIEGO
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education

MAY 2015

WE

With
Excellence



Anchors Aweigh

Training sailors on the LCS

Story on page 10

A Very Special Partnership

When California's second-largest community college district and California's second-largest school district join forces, the community wins. The governing boards of the San Diego Community College District and the San Diego Unified School District conducted their fourth annual joint board meeting on March 17 at Kearny High School, maintaining a tradition of collaboration that has been and continues to be successful. In a meeting facilitated by Dr. Carl Luna, a Mesa College professor and political commentator, and led by the two board presidents, Dr. Maria Nieto Senour and Marne Foster, the discussion spanned a variety of topics.

The board members received updates on progress since the previous year and agreed to continue making progress and/or setting new goals in a number of arenas:

- Reporting and data tracking, including special attention to reports on student success, student participation in Career Technical Education (CTE) programs, and student transitions from high school to community college and beyond.
- Including parenting components and ESOL in classes developed under AB 86, the legislation that calls for close collaboration and the formation of statewide K-12/community college consortia, and providing focused support to undocumented students and their families.
- Continuing to develop Early/Middle College high schools, with special praise for the new Lincoln Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics (STEAM) middle college in conjunction with City College, and the new developments involving Miramar College with Mira Mesa and Scripps Ranch high schools, while calling for an increased effort to achieve this type of outcome with Hoover and San Diego high schools.



From left, front row: SDUSD Superintendent Cindy Marten; SDUSD Board Member Marne Foster; SDUSD Board Member Kevin Beiser; SDCCD Trustee Maria Nieto Senour, and SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll. From left, back row: SDCCD Trustees Peter Zschiesche, Rich Grosch; SDUSD Board Member Michael McQuary; SDCCD Trustees Bernie Rhinerson, Mary Graham; and SDUSD Board Member Richard Barrera.

- Extending communications with the community, with high marks given to Chancellor Constance M. Carroll and Superintendent Cindy Marten on their recent joint television appearance, and a call for clear communication about the importance of college and career readiness to students, including special communications to parents.
- Increasing alignment of the K-12 curriculum with industry standards and community college-level English and mathematics, including professional development for faculty in these same areas.
- Collaboration in supporting mutually beneficial legislation, especially SB 850 (the community college baccalaureate pilot), which passed; AB 200, which would increase funding for Cal Grant A and B awards; AB 288, which would expand dual-enrollment opportunities at high school campuses; and AB 1349, which would encourage public universities to assign higher priority to and admit more California residents.



The governing boards of the San Diego Community College District and San Diego Unified School District conduct their fourth annual joint board meeting at Kearny High School.

All were impressed by the enormous progress that has been made since the previous meeting in 2014 demonstrating the importance of clear direction and resolve at the governing board level. The meeting left all participants with a full portfolio of ideas and goals for the coming year.



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor

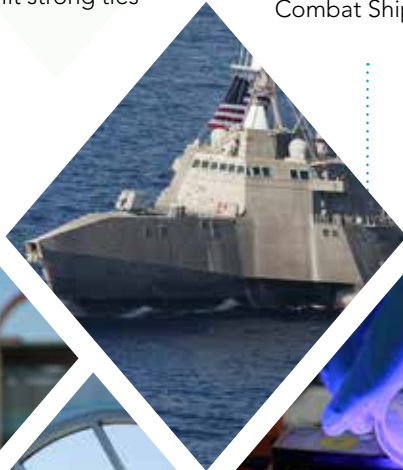
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On the Mesa



San Diego Mesa College has a new Social and Behavioral Sciences building, bringing an additional 66,000 square feet of “smart” classrooms, a multi-use patio, and laboratories to the campus for students studying Psychology, Anthropology, and Geography.

The \$40.5 million project funded by Proposition S opened in February to rave reviews.

“This building is a really important one,” said Dr. Maria Nieto Senour, president of the San Diego Community College District’s Board of Trustees. “It’s going to support academic disciplines that are at the heart of the social services that our community and our government provide for residents...It also houses other disciplines that are pertinent to the humanities and the understanding of the fundamental principles of human behavior and history.”

The building is on track to earn LEED Silver certification from the U.S. Green Building Council, meaning construction and design have several environmentally friendly features, including a roof that reduces heat, fixtures that minimize water use, and sensors that dim lights when the sun’s rays permeate through the windows.

The SDCCD has made conservation and sustainability a top priority throughout its four institutions.

Departments housed in the Social and Behavioral Sciences Building include Anthropology, Geography, History, Philosophy, Political Science, Psychology, and Sociology, as well as Communication Studies and Exercise Science Health classes.

The School of Social/Behavioral Sciences and Multicultural Studies is the second-largest instructional school at Mesa College.

Boosting Student Success

San Diego Miramar College has launched a pilot program in conjunction with Mira Mesa High School that aims to more accurately place students in community college courses.

One of the biggest obstacles facing students whose skills are at the pre-collegiate – or “basic skills” – level is the number of remedial courses they must take in college before moving into for-credit classes. Studies consistently show that the chances of dropping out increase as more basic skills courses are required. A study by the nonprofit WestEd showed many students would have done better on placement tests and perhaps even avoided basic skills courses had they had sufficient time to prepare.

In the new pilot program that got underway at San Diego Miramar College on February 18, a group of 27 Mira Mesa High School students took the College Board’s Accuplacer exam to test their skill level. That was followed by 32 hours of instruction in areas of need before the students are tested a second time. Only results from the second test will be used for placement.



@carrollsdccd

**Dr. Constance M. Carroll,
Chancellor**

The CCC Board of Governors approved 12 of the 15 community college bachelor’s programs, including Mesa College!

Day-care Training at Continuing Education



Nicole DeLia, owner of Creative Hearts Day-care.

You can never be too prepared. Just ask Nicole DeLia, who had earned an associate degree in Child Development and Psychology from Mesa College, and a bachelor's degree in Music from San Diego State University before taking a Family Home Day-care Training course through San Diego Continuing Education – a course that has helped DeLia build her child-care business.

"I took the day-care class because I had an interest to start my own day-care," DeLia said. "I knew I wanted

to work with children, but felt that it would be more enjoyable and rewarding to have my own business rather than to work for someone else.

DeLia is putting her education to use at Creative Hearts Day-care, which bills itself as "a musical enrichment preschool and day-care," near Lake Murray in La Mesa.

DeLia's interest in opening her own child-care center grew while working at the San Diego Mesa College Child Development Center.

The Family Home Day-care Training course offers a comprehensive introduction to issues common to home-based day-care providers, including licensing, record keeping, and insurance; safety, facility preparation, and regulations; illness and injury prevention; child growth and development; creative and enriching activities; and communication with parents, behavior management, and discipline. It is a component of the Child Development Job Training vocational certificate offered through Parent Education.

"I really enjoy San Diego Community College District classes, and it is nice to be able to have the opportunity to keep learning," DeLia said.

Cultural Legacies

San Diego Mesa College has been exhibiting pieces from the college's vast African Art Collection at the Glass Gallery in the school's Learning Resource Center (LRC) since 2003. Its spring 2015 exhibition, Cultural Legacies, puts the spotlight on 20 treasures that honor family, and ancestors past and present.

Cultural Legacies is also a tribute to the collection's former curator and retired Mesa College professor, Dr. Barbara Winston Blackmun, who over 40 years single-handedly built the collection that now numbers more than 800 pieces.

Acting curator and African Art Professor Denise Rogers hand selected the 20 pieces for the exhibit, which honors Blackmun's respect of family and cultural legacies.

Cultural Legacies is on display in the African Art Glass Gallery in the lobby of the LRC. Hours are Monday-Thursday 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., and Friday 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.



The exhibit honors family, and the woman behind the African Art collection at Mesa College.

Mesa College Athlete Honored



Former San Diego Mesa College cross country and track athlete Albert Gamez Jr. has been selected as the 2014 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Male Scholar Athlete, the highest student honor awarded annually by the organization.

Gamez, now at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, was a top cross country and track athlete. In 2013, he won two Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Championships in the 800 and 1500 meters, a feat he repeated in 2014. He also placed an impressive third in the 2013 CCCAA Cross Country Championships, facing off against the best in the state.

Off the field, Gamez was just as spectacular. As an honors student, he left Mesa with a 3.96 GPA, and he presented his original research at the Honors Transfer Council of California conference at UC Irvine. Additionally, Gamez logged 215 hours of community service as both an instructor at the Boys & Girls Club and as a volunteer for SPORTS for Exceptional Athletes, which organized a track meet for children with disabilities.

Nominated by Mesa College faculty and coaches, Gamez was selected from among 26,000 other candidates. He is the fourth Mesa College student to earn this prestigious award.



The San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) will offer 1,300 summer session courses beginning June 1 at San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, and San Diego Miramar College. The summer schedule, expanded by 200 sections, restores the District's summer offerings to pre-recession levels.

"After years of budget cuts, the District is pleased to be able to restore our summer session to where it was before state budget cuts," said SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll.

"Our students rely on summer classes to accelerate progress toward graduation and/or transfer. Many university students also attend colleges over summer to enroll in classes they need for their bachelor's degree. In either case, the result is increased student access."

Last summer, an improved budget picture enabled the SDCCD to offer a comprehensive schedule of for-credit courses for the first time since 2009. This summer, the District is offering courses in high-demand areas such as allied health, basic skills, hospitality, consumer sciences, and other subjects. Enrollment fees are \$46 a unit, the lowest in the nation.

Priority registration for the summer session began May 11 for current City, Mesa, and Miramar college students including those who have completed orientation and assessment, and have an education plan on file; active military and veterans; foster youth; and others. Registration appointments are scheduled through May 22 and open registration begins May 26. Registration is available via the District's Reg-e website at <https://studentweb.sdccd.edu/reg-e/>.

There will be four summer sessions, starting June 1, June 8, June 15, and July 6.





City College Art Gallery Builds a Following

Fine arts instructor Terri Hughes-Oelrich has an apt description for what used to pass as a San Diego City College art gallery.

"It wasn't much of anything except a teeny little classroom that we showed art in."

That all changed with the opening last fall of City Gallery in the new five-story, 128,378-square-foot Arts & Humanities building on C Street. "It's our first real gallery," said Hughes-Oelrich, one of three arts faculty members who double as gallery volunteers to keep the new space open. "It's a really exciting addition to the campus."

Gallery hours are limited to afternoons on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, but exhibitions have been drawing large crowds. "Terrestrial" an exhibit that focused on the relationship between nature and man in the Southwestern United States, drew scores of people to its opening reception in February. Other showings included an international ceramics exhibition; a paintings and sculpture show; and "Dialogues – Poster Art of the Soviet Union," which ended its run April 13.

Word of the gallery is traveling fast.

"We're getting a lot of people from some of the other community colleges stopping by," Hughes-Oelrich said. "As people bring their friends in and get on our mailing list, we're starting to grow our following."

Putting Community

in a Community College

Dr. Patricia Hsieh smiles when retelling the story of driving her mom by San Diego Miramar College shortly after Hsieh was named president of the school nearly 10 years ago. At the time, Miramar College, spread over 120 acres off Interstate 15 north of the Miramar Marine Corps base, was dominated by portable classrooms and an abundance of vacant property.

“Are you sure this is the place?” Hsieh’s mother asked, clearly unimpressed with her daughter’s new digs.

Hsieh could hardly blame her. “When I came here, the staff was so small, we didn’t even have a phone directory.”

But under President Hsieh’s leadership, Miramar College has undergone a radical transformation that has been the envy of community colleges across the state. Additions include a \$31.3 million Arts & Humanities building, a \$39.5 million Cafeteria/Bookstore & Student/Campus Center, the \$22.3 million Hourglass Park Fieldhouse, a \$39.4 million library, and a \$31.3 million Mathematics and Business building.

The additions have helped the campus become one of the fastest growing community colleges in the nation, according to a recent *Community College Week* survey.

Along the way, President Hsieh has built broad support for the college by forging close working relationships with local business groups, neighborhood committees, and area high schools.

“Dr. Hsieh is a well-respected community leader and we are honored to have someone of her caliber on our board of directors,” said Wendy Urushima-Conn, president and CEO of the Asian Business Association.



To President Hsieh, close ties with the community make sense. "You have to develop a relationship with the community if you want the community to support the college," she said.

Reaching out to the community also means working closely with the San Diego Unified School District. "She has been active in enhancing the quality and quantity of our relationships with our feeder high schools," said Gerald Ramsey, Miramar College's Vice President for Student Services.

Those relationships include welcoming the Scripps Ranch High School swim programs to use the Miramar College Ned Baumer Aquatic Center for morning workouts. Scripps Ranch students will be able to concurrently enroll in a Business Entrepreneur Program offered by Miramar College starting next fall. San Diego Miramar College and Mira Mesa High School are on track to launch an Early College program for high-achieving seniors from Mira Mesa High School beginning in August. For students who need additional academic support, Miramar College – in collaboration with San Diego Continuing Education – has launched a pilot program at Mira Mesa High to better prepare students for placement tests that determine what level of math and English courses they will take when they enroll in college.

President Hsieh's experience at Miramar College mirrors her childhood growing up in Taiwan during the Republic of China's infancy, when living conditions were far from the modern standard. However, education was a priority, and she earned her Bachelor of Arts in Western Languages and Literature at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. After she and her husband immigrated to the United States in 1979, President Hsieh earned a Master's Degree at Wayne State University in Michigan. For the next several years, she worked as a stay-at-home mom raising the couple's two children. When she enrolled at Pepperdine University's Doctor of Education program, President Hsieh realized that she was technologically illiterate; computers, once rare in the classroom, had become commonplace.

"I didn't know how they worked," she said. "I didn't even know how to turn it on."

She was a quick study, and President Hsieh focused her dissertation research on student development and crafted a Student Development Model for the California Community Colleges.

"I got a real good understanding about the role that the community should play, and not just because the word 'community' is in the name of a community college."

President Hsieh put her newfound skills to use, first as a dean at Antelope Community College, then as an interim president at Sacramento City College. When she arrived at Miramar College, one of her first challenges was finding a new home for a local Little League, which was using a vacant field on campus that was slated for construction. Not only did she help find the youth league a new field, President Hsieh presented an award to the group thanking it for the years of service to children in the area.

"Dr. Hsieh has been very well-received in the community served by Miramar College, and she has a wonderful rapport with our board," said Miramar College Foundation board President Martin Hight, Chief Emeritus of the San Diego Harbor Police Department. "She is very approachable, very easy to work with, and a strong advocate for Miramar College."

Joe Frichtel knows about those qualities first hand. A longtime member of the Mira Mesa Town Council who sits on the Hourglass Field Joint Use Committee that coordinates programs at the community park with Miramar College, Frichtel said the name "Miramar" College may have become a misnomer under President Hsieh's leadership.

"It should probably be called Mira Mesa College," Frichtel joked. "She has been very concerned since she got here to make sure that Miramar College is part of the Mira Mesa community, and she has succeeded in every regard."



Dr. Patricia Hsieh (center) with Fire Cadets Ryan da Rosa (right) and Robbie Drop (left).

Anchors Aweigh

The San Diego Community College District's Military Education Program is taking a leading role in training sailors stationed aboard the Navy's next generation of combat ships – and it is doing so through a revolutionary change in how crew instruction occurs.

The SDCCD's Military Education Program is among the subcontractors hired to train sailors in operating the technologically advanced Littoral Combat Ship (LCS). As opposed to the traditional route emphasizing on-board training, sailors assigned to an LCS are being instructed primarily on land – before they set foot on the vessel – with ultra-modern, high-tech simulators that create virtual scenarios found in waters around the world.

"They are getting trained this way so that they can be ready and start their mission the first day they report aboard their ship," said retired Navy Cmdr. Michael Curtis, who leads the SDCCD's Military Education Program. "It is an entirely new way of training for the Navy."



Lt. j.g. Billy Griffin (right) tutors Naval Academy Midshipmen at the Littoral Combat Ship Shore Based Training Facility in San Diego.

The Navy has said it plans to purchase at least 32 Littoral Combat Ships. These ships are about the same size as a frigate, can operate closer to shore, and are equipped to hunt mines and submarines and thwart attacks by smaller enemy vessels. Both the Lockheed Martin version, a 389-foot monohull, and the Austal USA version, a trimaran that stretches 417 feet, can top out at speeds of more than 45 knots.

The Military Education Program's support to teach LCS crews, as a member of the Lockheed Martin Surface Combat Systems Training Support Team, took effect October 1. Mark Cass, a 32-year Navy veteran who retired as a Master Chief Boatswain's Mate, is developing and teaching a course for the Military Education Program on operations pertaining to the ship's waterborne mission zone and the launch and recovery of various autonomous vehicles. Both Curtis and Cass are hopeful the SDCCD's involvement will grow as demand increases.

Sailors assigned to an LCS first attend pipeline training to grasp the nuances of operating and maintaining the ship. They are then paired with an LCS crew and head to an LCS training facility, such as the USN Center for Surface Combat Systems (CSCS) operating at the 32nd Street Naval Station or the new facility that will open in 2016 and will include instructors from the SDCCD. The sailors are first "trained to qualify" individually on their watch station aboard a ship. Following that, they are "trained to certify" together as a crew with more specialized lessons. Each session takes up to five weeks.



Cmdr. Joseph Gagliano (center right) commanding officer of the littoral combat ship USS Independence, gives a tour of the bridge to Rear Adm. Stuart Mayer, commander Australian Fleet, as part of Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2014.

The Navy has four LCSs based in San Diego: the USS Freedom and USS Fort Worth of the Freedom variant; and the USS Independence and USS Coronado of the Independence variant. Each has three crews of about 50 sailors, and crews are rotated on and off the ships and through the Shore Based Trainer at regular intervals.

"They're being taught the specifics of the platform and mission package they'll be working and then they're brought back as a core crew," said Cass. "A bridge team will go to the bridge simulator, and so on."

These are not ordinary simulators. "The way these simulators are set up, they're being virtually trained in the Strait of Malacca or the Strait of Hormuz," Cass said. "They are trained to react to realistic threats that they may face."

The SDCCD is one of several subcontractors that Lockheed Martin has hired to provide LCS crew training. The defense contractor is helping the U.S. Navy create a sailor training program for the new class of warships.

Cass said the biggest challenge in setting up the SDCCD program is that "It's so new. Everything we're doing is new. But we're putting together some really good curriculum. This is very advanced training, and by the time these sailors get on a ship, they are very familiar with what to expect. They will know everything from what the currents are like in the Bay of Japan to the threat assessment and winds in the Strait of Hormuz."

SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll said the program underscores the college district's commitment to the military.



From left: Retired Navy veteran Mark Cass and Military Education Director Michael Curtis.

“We are honored to provide such a valuable service to the men and women of the Navy who are putting their lives on the line to protect our country every day. We have long had a close working relationship with the military, and we are looking forward to continuing with that tradition.”

– SDCCD Chancellor Constance M. Carroll

The SDCCD Military Education Program serves 15,407 Army, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel at four military bases in four states. It has provided specialized instruction to officers and enlisted personnel for more than 36 years, with courses ranging from sophisticated communications and radar systems training to personal financial management and culinary arts.

“I’m very proud to be involved with this effort,” Cass said. “I’ve been training sailors my whole career, providing the men and women of the Navy with the skills and knowledge they need to do the job, and I have never been involved in anything like this before. It is a privilege and an honor.”



Lt. Julio Alarcon, main propulsion assistant aboard the littoral combat ship USS Independence, uses the engineering control system to transfer fuel between holding tanks in the engineering log room aboard the ship.



Vice Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Michelle Howard talks to Lt. j.g. Sean Lewis, navigator aboard the littoral combat ship USS Fort Worth about the ship's autopilot system. Littoral combat ships have the ability to deploy manned and unmanned vehicles to execute missions.



USS Independence (LCS 2) and
USS Coronado (LCS 4)



Architect Joseph Martinez and Barrio Station Executive Director Rachael Ortiz at the Barrio Logan gateway with the César E. Chávez campus in the background.

Celebrating *César Chávez*

Barrio Logan is getting a new neighbor.

Construction of the César E. Chávez campus in the heart of the historic neighborhood is nearly complete, bringing a 67,924-square-foot building to house 22 classrooms for vocational training, English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, high school equivalency preparation courses, Business Information Technology, and Parent Education.

The \$50 million facility also includes a multipurpose room, space for an Entrepreneurship and Small Business Management program, and 149 spaces of underground parking. A separate, \$8 million parking garage two blocks east that is scheduled to open in the fall will have enough room for 320 vehicles and includes 4,000 square feet of rooftop solar panels.

Classes are expected to begin this fall and the San Diego Community College District's Board of Trustees and Chancellor Constance M. Carroll will officially open the new campus October 28.

"It brings a state-of-the-art educational facility to Barrio Logan while offering so many things our students don't currently have access to," said Robin Carvajal, dean of the César E. Chávez campus. "It is a beautiful place to learn and a beautiful place to congregate."

Longtime resident Rachael Ortiz, who serves as executive director of Barrio Station, said the campus is a key addition for the working-class community. The fact that the campus is named after the civil rights leader – with whom Ortiz once worked in fighting for farmworkers' rights – makes it even more special.

"The living legacy and spirit of César Chávez and the beautiful artwork and life images on the new campus and parking structure will forever reflect his impact on an almost broken community – inspiring people to fight back, become empowered, and determine their own destiny," Ortiz said.

The new school consolidates current programs at the outdated César E. Chávez campus a few blocks away — "A tiny little building that has 10 classrooms," Carvajal said— and the Centre City campus across from San Diego City College downtown.

The new facility includes a student lounge, eating area, and a study area. To help illustrate what the new building means to students, Carvajal said that 90 students typically enroll in the Certified Nursing Assistant Job Training/Certificate Program annually at the Centre City campus – a program that has but one classroom. The new campus has eight classrooms dedicated to Certified Nursing Assistant training.



Construction workers are nearing completion of the César E. Chávez campus, set to officially open on October 28.



Joseph Martinez and Rachael Ortiz admiring the view of the San Diego Bay from one of 22 classroom spaces.



Photo murals depicting late labor leader César E. Chávez on the new parking structure in Barrio Logan.

"The new César Chávez campus is an example of persistence," said Rudy Kastelic, interim president of San Diego Continuing Education. "Plans for the new campus began more than 10 years ago, and by working together with the Barrio Logan community, and the shared determination to build a world-class facility for this historic neighborhood, we now have an educational campus that is more relevant and modern than anyone originally expected. The persistence is symbolic of César Chávez's work and reminds me of a slogan he was famous for, saying 'Si, se puede,' which translates to 'Yes, it can be done.' "

Merchants in the area are thrilled. A barista at Ryan Bros. Coffee across the street said the campus will bring scores of new customers not only to the popular coffeehouse, but to neighboring businesses as well.

Funding for the new campus came from the \$1.5 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program that provides new state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities, major renovations, and campuswide infrastructure projects throughout the SDCCD. It is the last Continuing Education project in the bond programs.

"It is an amazing contribution to the community," Carvajal said.

Partnering *with Biotech*



Dr. Sandra Slivka

They had little more than a drop of blood from the passenger seat of a sedan. Their assignment: Analyze its DNA and compare it to samples from a pair of possible suspects by using a technique known as gel electrophoresis until they could determine the cheerleader's killer.

But these weren't trained criminologists. These teachers were spending a recent morning developing lesson plans derived from a mock crime scene to take back to their science classrooms at high schools around the county.

Welcome to the Southern California Biotechnology Center (SCBC) at San Diego Miramar College, which for more than a decade has collaborated with the region's booming life sciences industry as a training ground for teachers, students, and those already working in the field.

"We are an economic development center doing everything we can to build a stronger workforce continuum, from K-12 to college and beyond, all the way to the workplace, to make sure that biotechnology has a pipeline of trained workers," said Dr. Sandra Slivka, who has been the SCBC director since it opened at San Diego Miramar College in 2004. Slivka also serves as a "Sector Navigator" for Life Sciences/Biotechnology, helping to align community college and other workforce development resources across the state to keep up with the latest trends under the California Community Colleges' Division of Economic and Workforce Development program.

It would be hard to overstate the biotechnology industry's impact on the regional economy. According to an October 2014, San Diego Workforce Partnership report, the life sciences industry employs nearly 45,000

people and generates about \$16 billion in annual sales revenue. The average life science sector employee earns an annual median salary of approximately \$125,000.

The SCBC's efforts include:

- Coordinating a **Life Science Summer Institute** for students and teachers. Area high school teachers take part in a 12-day training session via the Amgen Biotech Experience, which provides educators with professional development, teaching materials, and research-grade supplies.

The Summer Institute's program for high school students is even more extensive, enabling teens to spend seven weeks earning college credit while learning about science and the biotech industry from the experts. The highlight is Bootcamp, a pre-internship training program followed by an eight-week paid internship doing research. Internship venues include The Scripps Research Institute, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, and UC San Diego. "They're not washing dishes and making coffee," Slivka said. "They're doing high-level research."

- Operating an **Industry Innovation Internship Program** that pairs a student with a faculty member and an industry worker to collaborate on a specific project. The program prepares the student for a job, provides the faculty member with industry perspective on skills and knowledge, and the industry worker gets help with his or her project – along with a perspective of the educational system's efforts.
- Working with companies such as Illumina, Invitrogen, and Genentech, in addition to The Scripps Research Institute, the UCSD Moores Cancer Center, the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, and others in donating supplies to area schools.
- Providing a **Biotech Employment Skills Training Program**, a 20-hour, hands-on workshop designed for job and internship seekers and those already employed in the sciences. Sessions include instruction in higher-level skills, such as mammalian cell culture.
- Running a **Summer Science Enrichment Program** for students entering grades 5 through 8 for hands-on science lessons. Scores of young students take part in this effort, which is coordinated by Miramar College science professor Dr. Rebecca Bowers-Gentry. Topics include biology, chemistry, physics, and physiology.

The SCBC's latest effort is its Wireless Health Training Center, a program bringing scientists, physicians, and educators together to prepare for the rapid advancements enabling health care providers to better monitor medical device data through mobile devices and cloud-based technology.



"I highly value the partnership between the Southern California Biotechnology Center and Miramar College," said Shelly Hess, the SDCCD's interim vice chancellor, Instructional Services. "The Southern California Biotechnology Center plays an important role in the success of Miramar's science program as it helps build the bridge between the college and business and industry. It communicates key workplace skill needs and gaps, as well as labor market needs and job opportunities. Everyone benefits when students are prepared and have the necessary knowledge and workplace skills to compete in today's job market."

The SCBC has trained more than 120 teachers and more than 300 counselors through workshops, internships, and other programs since 2007, while donating millions of dollars in supplies to local schools. That is why the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office last year awarded the SCBC two grant extensions totaling \$575,000.

"One of the core missions of the California Community Colleges is workforce development, and we are committed to that at the San Diego Community College District and the Southern California Biotechnology Center," Slivka said.



Anthony E. Beebe, Ed.D.
President
San Diego City College

Doing What Matters at San Diego City College

San Diego City College is putting people to work.

Thanks to a \$200,000 grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, City College is working with the business community, reviewing curriculum, and sponsoring workshops and job fairs for its students.

Throughout the spring, a number of career-focused activities took place. In February, Phil Blair, chief executive officer and owner of Manpower, Inc., a multinational human resources consulting firm, led an on-campus career preparedness workshop for faculty and counselors.

During the interactive workshop, Blair shared strategies from his book *"Job Won!"* for acquiring and refining the tools needed to secure employment and build a successful career. The workshop focused on ensuring that community college students are job-ready when they graduate.

Following the career workshop, on-campus interviews were conducted in February and March for more than 250 available jobs in the area. Nearly 200 students interviewed with recruiters, and nearly all qualified for job offers for positions that ranged from administrative assistants to engineering technicians.

Résumé writing assistance was provided to help students prepare for the job interviews. Additionally, students were offered complimentary hair and make-up services from the college Cosmetology Department and professional work clothes from the student-managed Fantastique boutique.

These job-readiness activities are part of the "Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy initiative," an effort from the California Community Colleges Information and Communications Technology and Digital Media Sector. City College Dean Rose LaMuraglia, an ICT/Digital Media Deputy Sector Navigator for San Diego and Imperial counties, said the workshop is just one of many projects she and her colleagues are working on to help community colleges establish academic pathways to provide job-ready employees.

City College President Anthony Beebe said, "Helping students prepare for the professional work world is a key component of a complete education. With nearly a 100 percent job offer rate for our student applicants, it shows our students are prepared for the work world."

Another effort launches in fall 2015, when San Diego City College offers a Business Information Worker (BIW) readiness certificate. The BIW program includes courses in Business Communications, Human Relations, Information Systems, and Microsoft Excel, among others.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics forecasts robust growth through 2022 in professions using those skills, such as secretaries and administrative assistants. In California, office clerks, secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and information clerks were among the professions with the most openings from 2013 to 2015, according to the state Employment Development Department's Labor Market Information Division. There were roughly 15,500 openings for secretaries and administrative assistants alone – not counting legal, medical, and executive secretaries – during that time period, with a median hourly wage of \$17.99 and a median annual income of \$37,416.

"The BIW program is a first step," LaMuraglia said. "We're not saying get your BIW and leave school. We're saying, get your BIW, get a job, stay in school, earn your associate degree, and get a bachelor's degree. But this is a first step, an important step, along the journey."



Manpower

Erika Gallardo,
program manager



Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Mesa College

Immigrant Students Named *Top in California, Nation*

This is a tale of two students. They come from countries more than 7,500 miles apart. Yet they both found their way to San Diego Mesa College, where they found a similar, supportive path to achievement and success, despite one other similarity: adversity.

Last month, they had something else in common: Sarah Taha and Judith Jamie were named to the 2015 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) All-California Academic Team. Sarah was also named the top scorer in the state, earning an additional award as the 2014 Coca-Cola New Century Scholar for California.

A week later, Sarah was notified that she was one of only 20 community college students nationwide named a PTK Guistwhite Scholar, and named to the prestigious All-USA Community College Academic Team, which recognizes high-achieving two-year college students who demonstrate academic excellence and intellectual rigor combined with leadership and service.

It doesn't get much higher than that in terms of community college honors.

Sarah's journey is a remarkable one. Growing up in Iraq, the mere will to study and learn was considered a sinful act. At 14, she had already witnessed war, and studied under the fear of death, bombs, and kidnappings.

Sarah was a senior in high school in November of 2006, when her father was shot and killed by terrorists as punishment for allowing her two brothers to work as interpreters with the U.S. forces. Her family was displaced; her education came to a halt. Sarah went into a deep depression. Eventually, the family



Sarah Taha

found their way to America through a special immigration visa, and Sarah found her way to Mesa.

"My community college experience can best be described as riding a rescue ship to salvation," says Sarah. "As a refugee looking for

knowledge and self-confidence, Mesa College became a golden opportunity that provided me with low tuition cost and equal access to education regardless of my immigrant status, race, and native language."

Judith's journey is also remarkable. She grew up the seventh of 11 children in small town of Tenancingo, Mexico, where, she said, "investing in women is considered a waste." At 12, she was forced to quit school to work in flower fields from dusk to dawn. Somehow, she eventually made it out. In 2013, divorced and raising two sons on her own, Judith enrolled in English and math classes at Mesa so she could help her sons with homework. Encouraged by her ESOL counselors and math faculty, she found support and discovered a passion.

"I would go to my English class early, just so I could hang out with the Biology students," Judith said. "It was my professors and counselors who encouraged me, showed me that help was available, and convinced me I could do it." When it came time to declare a major, she chose Biology, once an "impossible dream."

"Sarah and Judith are perfect examples of the power of resilience, and a model of Mesa students who succeed despite adversity," said President Dr. Pamela Luster, who attended both award ceremonies.

This is the second year in a row that a Mesa student was named to the All-USA Community College Academic Team and that two Mesa College students were named to the Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team.



Judith Jamie



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

Dual Enrollment Partnerships Ready to Debut at Miramar College



David Wilhelm, assistant professor of Business, and Ann Menna, principal at Scripps Ranch High School.

This fall San Diego Miramar College will enroll 50 first-time students and not one of them will need to set foot on campus. Not one of them will even be of college age. Miramar College recently entered into a dual enrollment partnership with Scripps Ranch High School to offer 15 units of coursework in business that will apply to an associate degree and transfer to the California State University system.

“This is being done to address the needs for early workforce development and training for the future,” said David Wilhelm, assistant professor in the Department of Business at Miramar College. According to the Public Policy Institute at Georgetown University, by 2020, two out of every three jobs in America will require some level of postsecondary education. Miramar College is doing its part to give students an upper hand in the business world as trends indicate that dual-enrollment partnerships are on the

rise. As of 2011, the Community College Research Center at Columbia University found that more than 1.3 million high school students completed a college-level course. That number is up from 800,000 in 2004.

“This is a perfect program for a young entrepreneur or someone who wants to get a jump on college,” said Wilhelm. “The units will transfer to most Cal State schools that we have an articulation agreement with, and the Introduction to Business course will also transfer to most of the ten UC schools.”

Here’s the best part. The program will be free to Scripps Ranch High School students. A student who completes this program and then transfers to either San Diego State University or California State University San Marcos, will have a full semester of college credit completed by the time they set foot on campus. “It’s a breakthrough, if you will, that allows Miramar College to form a more collaborative partnership with the community and respond to the needs of the ever-changing role higher education will play in the lives of these students,” said Wilhelm.

Classes will be taught on the Scripps Ranch High School campus by Miramar College faculty. Students who qualify will begin the program during their junior year by taking two classes. They will then progress to take two more classes as seniors before ending with a summer internship immediately following high school graduation. The following courses will be offered: Business 100-Introduction to Business, Marketing 100-Principles of Marketing, an Introduction to Entrepreneurship course, a Business Plan Development course, and an internship. “Enrolled students will receive both high school elective credit and college credit for each course completed,” said Ann Menna, principal at Scripps Ranch High School. “We believe that this will give our students a head start on college completion and will give them better opportunities to succeed once they get there.”

Miramar also offers its Running Start on College program at Scripps Ranch High School, whereby qualifying students can take a personal growth or math course and receive college credit. The same program is also offered at Mira Mesa High School, and there are plans to make it available at Serra High School.



Rudy Kastelic
Interim President
San Diego Continuing Education

A Hybrid Class Fuels Student Success at Continuing Education

A cylinder in a car is where the fuel burns and creates energy, and a crankshaft is the rotating axle in the engine that carries power from the pistons to the gearbox.

If you feel like you're studying, you are—just like the students in the Auto Tech Job Training/Certificate Program at San Diego Continuing Education (SDCE). They are learning about cylinders, crankshafts, and other components that make up engine systems. Like most specialized industries, the training revolves around unique vocabulary, calculations, and rhetoric.

The student population in the auto classes is made up of adults with diverse languages and different skill levels. Yet, one thing they have in common is the goal to be employable in the auto industry, and two instructors have teamed up to build an on-ramp that helps students master the rigors of SDCE's automotive program.

A new pilot class combines basic skills – think English, math, and reading – with Automotive Technician curriculum, such as engines, electricity, and vehicle inspections. Carolyn McGavock, an English as a Second Language instructor who has taught at SDCE for more than 20 years, was attracted to the class because of the instructional model, which emphasizes contextual learning. "Our students don't have time to be enrolled in three different departments to obtain well-rounded training," McGavock said.

"We're here to ease the transition for students," said Frank Vasquez, an instructor in the auto program since the 1980s. Vasquez has taught the mainstream training classes long enough to know that students with a handle on basic skills are generally more successful in the program.

McGavock and Vasquez are teaching together, and learning from each other.

"If a student doesn't get it, I'll go home at night and think about a better way to teach it," said Vasquez. "Then I'll come in the next day and try it a new way. I work without too much structure, but with Carolyn here, I'm learning structure that's helping me, and it's helping the class, too."

"Frank has been very patient with me as I learn auto curriculum," said McGavock. "He's very knowledgeable and spontaneous as he responds to students. Frank follows the students' line of questions, and then I apply the traditional basics needed to be successful like using text books and taking tests."

Seeing the students succeed is the greatest measure of success. After just 11 weeks, pre- and post-test scores confirm 80 percent of students made gains in math and 60 percent in reading, and nearly 100 percent enrolled in the mainstream series of classes to work toward an Auto Technician certificate of completion. Additionally, for those who are interested in pursuing education beyond the short-term training, students who successfully complete SDCE's Auto Tech Job Training/Certificate Program can earn 16 college credits that can be used toward an associate degree in Automotive Technology at Miramar College.

"Just this morning, many students (in the mainstream class) told me how glad they were to have taken the intro class because they can see how it prepared them for what they're doing now," McGavock said. "It was very gratifying and I'm grateful to the students from the pilot group. Their feedback is guiding the development of the new course."



Encouraging Completion: After the pilot class, 94 percent of students said the class positively influenced their decision to work toward a long-term educational goal in auto, and 65 percent reported the goal included transitioning to Miramar College to pursue an AA degree in Automotive Technology.

Allie Castellanos

Finding a Home at San Diego City College

Born and raised in Los Angeles, former foster youth Allie Castellanos moved 120 miles south nearly two years ago to attend San Diego City College and earn an Associate of Art degree in Communications. Allie, who serves as a peer mentor in the First Year Experience program at City College, is planning to transfer to San Diego State University this fall.

We asked her a few questions about her experiences.

Q. Why San Diego City College?

A. The community college I was attending in Los Angeles didn't have the support I needed as a first-generation college student. I began searching for schools in the San Diego Community College District and came across San Diego City College. I looked into their communications program and got a feel for it online. The website alone communicated to me the golden word I had been looking for: "Resources." I felt that City College had a good community and it showed through its web page. A web search quickly turned into my first campus visit, and then enrollment. Before I knew it, I was a full-time student beginning my first semester at my new school.

Q. How has City College impacted you?

A. City College has changed my life in many ways. This community has shown me what it means to take care of their own. When injustice is occurring, people here don't run the other way. They take action because their moral compass is always pointing in the right direction. ... Here, I've learned what it means to be a professional and a team player.

Q. What has your experience as a First Year Experience peer mentor been like?

A. I've really enjoyed having students ask me how I did it. Whether it's asking me how I got the peer mentor job or how I came to be a student leader, I love sharing my experiences with others. I hope my experiences can help inspire others and give them hope.

Q. How do you relax before a final exam?

A. By simply taking a deep breath and sitting still. Stillness is important to me because it allows me to re-focus my energy and calm my nerves. It makes me feel happy.





San Diego Continuing Education serves 45,000 students annually and awards nearly 4,000 diplomas and certificates – more than any other noncredit adult educational institution in California.



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