



SAN DIEGO
Community College District

City College · Mesa College · Miramar College
College of Continuing Education

2023-2024

**Be.
Belong.
Become.**

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY





20
20

Be. Belong. Become.

23
24



At the end of 2023, the San Diego Community College District celebrated 50 years of service to the community. Since the District's establishment and the election of its first Board of Trustees in 1973, the District has served well over 1 million students, uplifting diverse individuals and communities through culturally affirming teaching, learning, and work environments. In February, I officially took on the role of chancellor, and I look forward to building on the foundation set by those who came before me by collaborating with stakeholders throughout the District to implement innovative practices that create a welcoming environment where every student, faculty member, and employee can be, belong, and become.

Leadership and Innovation

In January, the District became a living wage employer, which boosted minimum wages for all permanent, full-time employees to \$30.58 per hour, well above the required \$16-\$20 per hour minimum for California workers. The SDCCD also welcomed two new vice chancellors, Jared Burns (People, Culture, and Technology Services) and Daniel Troy (Finance and Business Services), to help in the advancement of a diverse and equitable District that is people-focused, well-managed, and fiscally responsible.

Student Success

Students are increasingly taking advantage of special programs available throughout the District to overcome barriers to starting and completing higher education. The two-year, tuition-free San Diego Promise program with close to 4,500 participants during 2023-24, and Honors programs, which increased 55% year-over-year for fall enrollments, are two great examples of how we are supporting and investing in our students. In fall 2023, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held at San Diego City College making way for an on-campus, affordable housing



complex, which would offer below-market rent to students.

Community Engagement


The District kicked off a year-long District-College Branding Project, which included surveying and interviewing employees, students, and community members and

culminating in a new District logo, color, and tagline that the Board of Trustees approved in May and all of which you will see throughout the pages of this year's report. San Diego Mesa College celebrated 60 years of equity and excellence, while San Diego City College and College of Continuing Education marked 110 years, with each hosting a variety of community events throughout the year.

Workforce Development

The SDCCD continued to expand baccalaureate programs, including San Diego City College which launched a four-year degree in Cyber Defense and Analysis in fall 2024. San Diego Miramar College received approval to begin offering a bachelor's degree in public safety management in fall 2025, and Mesa College is preparing to offer a bachelor's in physical therapy assistant. These new programs will go a long way toward supporting local job needs and helping boost the economy, for which the SDCCD had a \$5.8 billion economic impact last year.

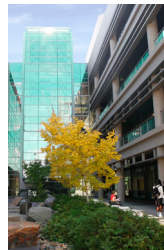
I am thoroughly impressed by the incredible achievements and outcomes of our students, faculty and classified professionals, administrators, and community supporters and our District's accomplishments over the past year and pleased to present the 2023-24 Annual Report to the community.


GREGORY SMITH
CHANCELLOR

SDCCD – Our Colleges



RICKY SHABAZZ, ED.D.
PRESIDENT



ASHANTI T. HANDS, ED.D.
PRESIDENT



P. WESLEY LUNDBURG, PH.D.
PRESIDENT



TINA M. KING, ED.D.
PRESIDENT

SDCCD Board of Trustees

The 2023-24 academic year was a historic one for the SDCCD's Board of Trustees.



Board of Trustees (left to right)

MARIA NIETO SENOUR, PH.D., District A
BERNIE RHINERSON, President, District B
CRAIG MILGRIM, District C
MARY GRAHAM, District D
GEYSIL ARROYO, District E

The District's five elected Board members – President **Bernie Rhinerson** (Trustee District B), and trustees **Maria Nieto Senour** (District A), **Craig Milgrim** (District C), **Mary Graham** (District D), and **Geysil Arroyo** (District E) – were active in the community. They were joined by student trustees Diego Bethea (City College), Ixchel Valencia Diaz (Mesa College), Saigeldeep Ghotra (Miramar College), and Adriana dos Santos (College of Continuing Education).

Student trustees serve one-year terms and participate in Board meetings on a rotating basis.

Following a national search, the Board announced in December 2023 that Gregory Smith would become the District's seventh chancellor in its 50-year history. Smith previously served as the SDCCD's vice chancellor of People, Culture, and Technology Services and then acting chancellor from March 2023 to January 2024. After assuming his new role on February 1, Smith quickly transitioned to his permanent position.

Throughout the year, the Board advocated on behalf of its 90,000 students, and 5,000 employees. This included legislative visits to Sacramento and

Washington, D.C., participation in major community events, and hosting activities such as a groundbreaking for an affordable housing complex at City College and a welcome reception for Chancellor Smith.

Also during 2023-24, the Board continued taking steps toward placing a measure on the ballot asking voters to invest in the District's future facilities and infrastructure needs. As the leading institution of workforce training in the region, the SDCCD takes seriously its responsibility to provide cutting-edge academic and career training facilities and technologies. Any future facilities bond will build on the District's successful completion of Propositions S and N bond programs, which have a history of "clean" audits, high bond ratings, and impressive bond transparency performance scores awarded by the San Diego County Taxpayers Association.

During 2023-24, the District was scheduled to hold elections in Trustee Areas B and D. Both incumbent trustees **Bernie Rhinerson** (District B) and **Mary Graham** (District D) previously announced they would not run for reelection. Marichu Magaña (District B) ran unopposed and will be sworn in at the Board's December 19, 2024, meeting. Two candidates for Trustee District D, Mariah Jameson and Andrew Gomez II, were on the November 5 ballot with the winner also being sworn in on December 19.



Student Trustees (clockwise from top left)

ADRIANA DOS SANTOS, College of Continuing Education
IXCHEL VALENCIA DIAZ, Mesa College
SAIGELDEEP GHOTRA, Miramar College
DIEGO BETHEA, City College

Leadership and Innovation

Leadership and innovation are in the San Diego Community College District's DNA. How else would the District become the leading provider of higher education and workforce training in the region? The 2023-24 academic year was a case in point.

- Gregory Smith was selected as the District's new chancellor by the SDCCD Board of Trustees, with responsibility for a \$1 billion annual budget and all operations. Smith had been serving as acting chancellor since

March 2023. Smith began his new role on February 1, with an unshakable commitment to equity.

- Jared Burns joined the District as vice chancellor

of People, Culture, and Technology Services, filling a role formerly held by Chancellor Smith. Burns comes to San Diego from his position as associate vice president of Human Resources at Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College, where he was a leader in advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility.

- Daniel Troy was named vice chancellor of Finance and Business Services, stepping into the role on June 28 after holding several leadership positions managing fiscal operations at the state and local levels. Troy most recently served as assistant superintendent/vice president of administrative services at San Luis Obispo County Community College District's

Cuesta College.


- San Diego College of Continuing Education hosted a statewide "Vision 2030 Call to Action Adult Education Summit" on October 5-6, 2023, that drew an in-person capacity audience of 300 educational, community, and political leaders from throughout the state. All resolved to dismantle barriers keeping adult education students from reaching their full potential and reimagining how noncredit programs are funded.
- District Vice Chancellor of Educational Services Susan Topham and San Diego City College Vice President of Administrative Services John Parker were among just 40 higher education leaders selected nationally for the prestigious Aspen Rising Presidents' Fellowship program to develop future community college CEOs.
- Several District personnel were honored for excellence in their field, including Poppy Fitch, dean of Wellness and Disability Support Programs and Services, who received California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability's Administrator of the Year Award; and SDCCD Police Officer Ruben Diaz, who was recognized as San Diego County's Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. San Diego Miramar College auto tech instructor Joe Young was honored as an instructor of the year by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence.
- With the cost of living continuing to rise in one of America's most expensive cities, the District on January 1 boosted the minimum wage for all permanent employees to \$30.58 per hour, or \$63,606 a year for those working full time. In addition, the minimum wage for temporary employees increased to \$22.31 per hour. The increase was agreed to in

partnership with the District's labor unions.

- The District's legislative advocacy paid dividends when California Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Assembly Bill 91, which establishes a five-year pilot program to serve low-income students living within 45 miles of the California-Mexico border, and Assembly Bill 634, which updates the definition of some noncredit courses to boost state funding of the District and allows courses to be taken simultaneously instead of consecutively, thus increasing employability more quickly.
- The SDCCD is one of 124 higher education institutions selected nationwide to be appointed to the American Association of Colleges and Universities Institute on AI, Pedagogy, and the Curriculum. The fully online institute is designed to help colleges and universities respond effectively to the opportunities artificial intelligence presents for courses and curricula.
- Representatives of the Board of Trustees, Chancellor's Cabinet, and Student Trustees attended the Association of Community Colleges Trustees National Legislative Summit in Washington, D.C., February 4-7.
- The District honored Chancellor Emerita Constance M. Carroll by naming the Art and Humanities Building at San Diego City College the Constance M. Carroll Arts and Humanities Building.
- The SDCCD was chosen as the only community college district in the nation to be a part of the National Research Platform, a partnership of more than 50 institutions led by researchers at UC San Diego, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and UC Berkeley. The innovative system provides the cyberinfrastructure for scientific exploration and discovery.



Gregory Smith, who was named as the District's seventh chancellor, was welcomed during a June celebration at the San Diego Zoo.

A portrait of Jaime Sykes, a woman with curly brown hair and glasses, smiling. The background is a blurred green plant. The image is partially obscured by a large orange triangle in the bottom right corner.

JAIME SYKES, A SELF-DESCRIBED DATA NERD WHOSE HIGHER EDUCATION JOURNEY BEGAN AT MESA COLLEGE, IS A LEADER IN ADVOCATING FOR THE LGBTQIA+ COMMUNITY. A RESEARCH AND PLANNING ANALYST FOR THE SDCCD, SYKES SITS ON THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH BOARD OF DIRECTORS, CHAIRS THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE'S DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION COMMITTEE, AND COORDINATES THE DISTRICT'S JOURNAL CLUB. THEY ARE ALSO A LEAD RESEARCHER FOR THE SDCCD'S TUITION-FREE SAN DIEGO PROMISE PROGRAM AND COMPILES DATA FOR APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS AND FOR THE DISTRICT'S SHARE OF STATE APPORTIONMENT FUNDING.

“ *Being a leader is empowering other people to become leaders, (and) empowering the community to make the change that they want to make. It's not about me, it's about the larger community.”*

JAIME SYKES
DISTRICT RESEARCH AND PLANNING ANALYST

City College – A Year in Review

San Diego City College is a leader in social justice, equity, and academic excellence, consistently expanding access to over 200 degree and certificate programs. With a deep commitment to student success, the college provides essential support services that address basic student needs while fostering an inclusive, empowering learning environment. Highlights from the past academic year include:

- The Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges officially reaffirmed its accreditation of City College for another seven years. This decision, finalized during the ACCJC's June meeting, followed a rigorous review process that included a comprehensive site visit in February.
- City College updated its mission statement, emphasizing the college's role in supporting students as they pursue personal, educational, and professional goals.
- City College held its 110th commencement ceremony at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park. One-third of the 500 graduates were honors students, and 70 were veterans or active military members, showcasing the diverse and determined student body.
- City College prepared to launch its new bachelor's

degree in cyber defense and analysis. The inaugural cohort of 46 students who began classes in fall 2024 represents a significant milestone as the college prepares students for careers in one of today's most critical fields.

- In October 2023, City College, in partnership with the San Diego Community College District, held a groundbreaking ceremony for its future affordable apartment-style student housing complex on 16th Street between B and C streets. This project to house more than 800 students, represents a major step toward providing below-market rent for the student community.
- In April, City College opened Fresh Cutz Barbershop, a new on-campus space designed for more than just haircuts. Fresh Cutz offers students access to important

resources including counseling services, combining grooming with guidance to help support students on their academic journeys. Since its opening, the barbershop has served 485 students.

- The college hosted Signing Day events at several local high schools. During these events, 215 students received support, with 135 enrolling on the spot, and nearly \$80,000 in awards was given out.
- Student engagement and retention remained a priority, with notable events like Fall Fest (300-plus attendees), Winter Wonderland (350-plus attendees), and Noche de Familia (500-plus attendees) bringing the campus community together and fostering a sense of belonging among students. Other notable events included the 9th annual Social Justice & Education Conference and the Kumeyaay-Diegueño Nation flag-raising ceremony.
- City College alumna Katya Echazarreta was honored by the American Association of Community Colleges with the Outstanding Alumni Award. Echazarreta made history as the first Mexican-born woman to travel into space. Though she was unable to attend the ceremony, her remarkable achievement was celebrated by City College, with President Ricky Shabazz and Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement Program Director Rafael Alvarez accepting the award on her behalf.
- In 2023, the Basic Needs Center celebrated its one-year anniversary. The Knights' Table Food Pantry saw 17,359 visits throughout the year, and the center also distributed nearly 200 San Diego Metropolitan Transit System passes, over \$8,000 in book funds, and supported 2,104 people during Hunger Action Days.



Student engagement and retention were a focus of various events like the Black Excellence Meet and Greet.



The Fresh Cutz Barbershop combines counseling services and haircuts.

Mesa College – A Year in Review

San Diego Mesa College kicked off 60th anniversary activities in 2024 with a multifaceted celebration on January 31, followed by special events throughout the year, such as speakers' panels and exhibitions. Activities recently culminated with the Spirit of Mesa Gala in October. Other college highlights of the 2023-24 academic year include:

- The 59th graduating class included nearly 1,650 students who were awarded 1,700 academic degrees, with 19 bachelor's degrees in health information management, and over 300 certificates. The youngest graduate was 17; the oldest was 78.
- In May, students in the inaugural class of the associate of arts degree in Spanish for Spanish Speakers were awarded their degrees. The degree requirements included four classes designed specifically for the program including Spanish for Spanish Speakers I & II, Hispanic Literature for Spanish Speakers, and Hispanic Culture and Civilization for Spanish Speakers.
- Three students in the Journalism program, with support from faculty, created the Mesa Rising podcast featuring stories of formerly or currently incarcerated students attending Mesa College. The six-episode series is available on Spotify.
- In May, Mesa College installed a Wellness Vending Machine on the fourth floor of the Student Services Center to bring safety, affordability, and equity to student health.
- Congresswoman Sara Jacobs secured \$1.4 million to help fund facility improvements at the Mesa College Family Resource Center inside the Library and Learning Resource Center.
- Several Mesa College sports teams earned state titles, including state championships for Women's Volleyball, Women's Beach Volleyball Pairs, Women's Badminton Doubles, Men's 4x400 Relay, Women's 800 Meter Run, Men's 800 Meter Run, Women's Shot Put, Men's Javelin, and Men's and Women's Cross-Country.
- The Mesa College Library and Learning Resource Center was featured among 55 other exemplary library programs as a recipient of the 2024 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity Award from Insight into Diversity Magazine.
- The World Art Collection – nearly 2,000 artwork pieces – was moved to the fourth floor of the Learning Resource Center to become the World Art Gallery & Research Center.
- New outdoor spaces opened to the Mesa College community, including the Woodland Nature and Interpretive Trail and a Meditation Garden inside the TerraMesa Community Garden.
- In fall 2023, Mesa College hosted Black Professionals Day. The free event was held to encourage San Diego Community College District students to pursue rewarding careers by giving them the opportunity to meet local Black professionals who are working in a variety of fields.
- Mesa College Ethnic Studies Faculty Council earned an Exemplary Program Award from the California Community Colleges Board of Governors.
- Mesa College alumni were busy making a mark on the world, including Jonny Kim who will spend eight months aboard the International Space Station with the Expedition 72/73 crew launching in March 2025; artist Andrew Alcasid who created a 30-foot vertical mural on the Fine Arts Building; and Mario Romero who was part of the Odysseus Lunar Landing Crew, the first privately owned spacecraft to land on the moon.

Students can explore the zen of nature at the new Meditation Garden inside the TerraMesa Community Garden.



The LRC was selected as a 2024 Library Excellence in Access and Diversity Award from Insight into Diversity Magazine.

Miramar College – A Year in Review

San Diego Miramar College aims to prepare students for success by providing quality instruction and services in an environment that supports and promotes diversity, inclusion, and equity with innovative programs and partnerships to facilitate student completion for degrees/certificates, transfer, workforce training, and/or career advancement. In another year of growth and success, highlights include:

- Miramar College was approved to offer its first ever baccalaureate degree. Starting in fall 2025, Miramar College plans to launch its bachelor of science degree in public safety management.
- Miramar College had its accreditation reaffirmed through 2031.
- Miramar College added three intercollegiate sports programs – men's soccer, men's swimming and women's swimming – bringing its total intercollegiate offerings to 10 sports. Men's soccer will begin competition in fall 2025 and the men's and women's swimming programs in spring 2025, all in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference.
- Miramar College received The Career Leadership Collective's 2024 Career Innovation Award in recognition of the innovative and equitable practices that the college's Career Education team is leading such as the Discover Series events that include Discover Your Passion, Discover Your Drive, and Discover Your Superpower.
- Congresswoman Sara Jacobs secured \$500,000 in federal funding to help renovate Miramar College's Regional Public Safety Institute. The work will include updating instructional equipment, fitness equipment, and furniture, as well as a new crime scene investigation room to better prepare cadets. The institute serves as the region's law enforcement training facility including for the San Diego County Sheriff's Department.
- Miramar College received accreditation by the Associated Equipment Distributors Foundation, a recognition that underscores the institution's commitment to delivering top-tier education in the field of diesel technology.
- Miramar College and American Medical Response partnered to create the Earn While You Learn Academy, a 16-week program in which female cadets will be trained

to become emergency medical technicians who, upon completing the academy and passing a national EMT exam, will be hired by AMR. AMR covers the cadets' costs for tuition and books and pays them for the hours they attend class. Cadets also are eligible for medical, dental, vision, and 401(k) benefits.

- The Miramar College Engineering Club built and deployed an underwater vehicle that completed oceanographic tasks during the MATE ROV Competition in June.
- Miramar College diesel technology students Anna Rigby and David Barrios-Diaz were awarded silver and gold medals respectively at the SkillsUSA California competition in April. Barrios-Diaz went on to represent California at the national competition in June.
- Joseph Young, an ASE-certified automotive instructor at Miramar College, was honored in October 2023 with a national achievement award as the Gates Tools for Schools/ASE Instructor of the Year.
- Miramar College beach volleyball players Natalie Repetti and Jaalyn Sotoa brought home the PCAC Beach Volleyball pairs championship for the 2024 season.
- Miramar College awarded students just over \$190,000 at its 30th annual scholarship awards ceremony held April 16 on campus.
- The Board of Commissioners of the Associate Degree Commission of the Accreditation Council for Business Schools and Programs granted national accreditation to the college's associate in science degree in entrepreneurship.



Miramar College added three intercollegiate sports, bringing its total intercollegiate offerings to 10 sports.

Miramar College was approved for a bachelor's degree in Public Safety Management.



College of Continuing Education – A Year in Review

Among the longest-standing and largest noncredit institutions in the nation, San Diego College of Continuing Education is empowering our residents with workforce and academic skills critical to eliminating poverty in the region. Here is just a sampling of the successes from the past year:

- An impressive 15,870 certificates and diplomas were awarded by College of Continuing Education during a June 11 joint commencement ceremony with the San Diego Unified School District.
- More than 300 educational, political, and community leaders from throughout California on October 5-6, 2023, gathered at the Educational Cultural Complex for the Vision 2030 Call to Action Adult Education Summit. The summit was aimed at dismantling barriers that can keep adult education students from reaching their full potential, reimagining how noncredit programs are funded, and opening doors to financial aid opportunities for students in career education programs.
- A \$1 million state grant secured last spring is funding expanded pathways for English language learners to embark on in-demand healthcare careers in partnership with San Diego Unified. The English Language Learner Healthcare Pathway grant is being used to expand a successful joint Certified Nursing Assistant program and to develop new courses to train future bilingual ophthalmic technicians and optical technicians.
- College of Continuing Education embarked on a pilot program to train future welders aboard the USS Midway Museum. The cost-free program has student welders fabricating new pedestrian guard rails and gates on the historic ship's 4-acre flight deck and assisting with various repair and preservation projects.
- Scholarships and awards totaling \$87,475 were presented to 188 students at a Forward Together to Your Future Scholarship and Awards Ceremony on April 26. Scholarships and awards were made possible through the San Diego College of Continuing Education Foundation.
- Tami Foy was hired in January as the new CEO/executive director of the SDCCE Foundation.
- SDCCE raised \$30,234 during the annual 2024 surviveHEADSTRONG Walk and Health Fair hosted by the San Diego Brain Injury Foundation, bringing its overall fundraising total since 2008 to more than \$300,000. A portion of funds raised at the event go toward College of Continuing Education's Acquired Brain Injury trust fund for scholarships.
- BlueForge Alliance provided \$1.175 million to double the size of SDCCE's award-winning welding program and expand program facilities as part of an effort to address a shortage of skilled welders.
- San Diego residents can now earn their EMT completion certificate, as a first step toward a firefighter/paramedic career, thanks to a new, cost-free Pre-Apprenticeship Emergency Medical Technician Academy at the Educational Cultural Complex in partnership with the California Firefighter Joint Apprenticeship Committee.
- College of Continuing Education adopted a new look in fall 2024 when it unveiled its "Forward Together" branding campaign, developed in partnership with GradComm.

SDCCE students got hands-on welding experience aboard the USS Midway Museum.



During a June 11 commencement ceremony, SDCCE awarded nearly 16,000 certificates and diplomas.



“This is the most diverse student population I’ve ever worked with in terms of age, backgrounds, nations of origin, language, dreams, desires, and goals. One of the biggest things I’ve had to do is learn from them what it is that they want – letting them tell me what it is they need, and teach me how I can best serve them, and then doing everything in my power to make that happen.”

TERRY SIVERS

COUNSELOR AND COORDINATOR, SAN DIEGO COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS PROGRAM

TERRY SIVERS IS THE SON OF A SINGLE FATHER WHO RAISED THREE CHILDREN WHILE WORKING NIGHTS AT THE POST OFFICE, DOING EVERYTHING HE COULD TO MAKE SURE HIS CHILDREN KNEW THEY WERE LOVED, CARED FOR AND HAD THE BEST CHANCE OF FULFILLING THEIR DREAMS. SIVERS BRINGS THAT LIFE LESSON TO THE STUDENTS HE SERVES AT SAN DIEGO COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION. “I AM SO GRATEFUL TO BE PART OF A TEAM, FROM LEADERSHIP ON DOWN, THAT HAS A COMMITMENT TO LOVING, CARING, AND SEEING OUR STUDENTS REALLY SUCCEED.”

Student Success

The San Diego Community College District and its campuses are recognized for their comprehensive programs aimed at boosting student success through a wide range of academic and career education initiatives. Among the 2023-24 highlights:

- The District's focus on student success resulted in more than 20,000 degrees and certificates being awarded to graduates at our four colleges – San Diego City, Mesa, Miramar, and Continuing Education colleges – in spring 2024.
- The District's commitment to student success is embodied by City College alumna Katya Echazarreta, who went on to work as an electrical engineer at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory and later became the first Mexican-born woman in space. In 2024, she was honored as one of just three people selected by the American Association of Community Colleges as a recipient of its 2024 Outstanding Alumni Award.
- The SDCCD's support of all students, including Dreamers, is seen annually through its participation in Undocumented Student Action Week in October. City, Mesa, Miramar and Continuing Education colleges held more than two dozen workshops, panel discussions, and outreach events in support of undocumented students and immigrants during the week of October 16, 2023.
- Districtwide efforts to grow Honors programs at the credit colleges continue to pay off. Students can participate in the program either by contract – entering into a mutual agreement with the professor of a regular course to complete additional

objectives and assignments – or through dedicated honors courses. In fall 2023, 1,548 students enrolled in the program – a 55% increase from the previous fall. Latinx students make up the largest population close to 45%.

- A \$1.8-million California Department of Vocational Education grant awarded in fall 2023 is allowing the District to provide more than 100 residents living with disabilities with vital education and training for above-minimum wage jobs. The District's Disability Support Programs and Services is working with the disabled services program at College of Continuing Education to serve program participants.
- City College earned extensive news coverage in April when it opened Fresh Cutz, an on-campus barbershop that provides free haircuts – with a catch. To get a free cut from a professional barber, students must show they've filed a Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, are enrolled in at least one class, and have mapped out even the most basic of educational plans.
- The California Community Colleges Board of Governors at its January 22 meeting honored Mesa College's Ethnic Studies Program with the prestigious Exemplary Program Award, calling it a model of collaboration and teamwork and praising its impact beyond the classroom.
- In April, Miramar College secured the go-ahead to expand its intercollegiate sports program by adding men's soccer, men's swimming, and women's swimming. Miramar College now has 10 sports in its intercollegiate athletics program. The three

new teams will compete in the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference.

- The District secured federal funding totaling nearly \$2.5 million to finance critical improvements at Miramar College's public safety center, new family-friendly study centers supporting student-parents at City, Mesa, and Continuing Education colleges, and the renovation of restrooms at the SDCCE's Educational Cultural Complex.
- College of Continuing Education, in partnership with United Taxi Workers of San Diego, launched a pilot program in spring 2024 to provide free cab rides to help students struggling with basic needs get to and from campus. Some 46% of SDCCE students have incomes of less than \$10,000 per year and 1 in 3 is unemployed.
- In summer 2023, Mesa College secured a \$125,000 San Diego Foundation grant to improve its TerraMesa Community Garden, expand the garden's programming, and deepen its collaboration with other food security initiatives on campus.
- At the credit colleges, Disability Support Programs and Services supported 1,795 students in fall 2023 – 4% of whom were enrolled in career technical education coursework. In total, during the 2023-24 academic year, 3,449 students received DSPS support.



City College alumna Katya Echazarreta, who was honored as an American Association of Community Colleges 2024 Outstanding Alumni, spoke during the college's commencement ceremony in May.

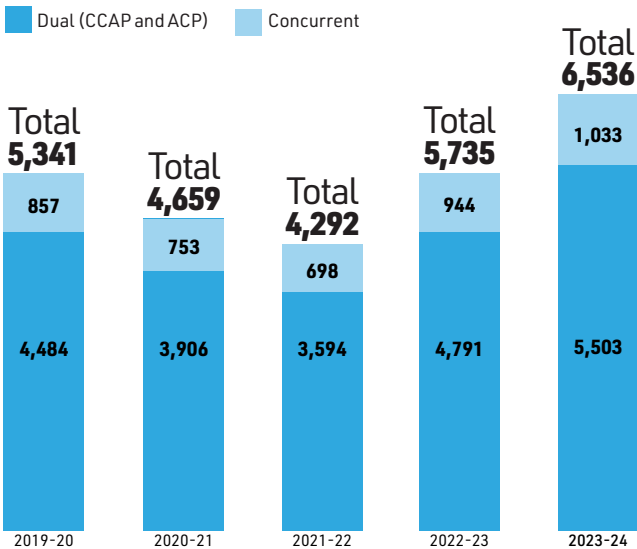
Student Success by Degrees

Student success and degree completion continue to be at the top of the San Diego Community College District’s list of priorities. Nearly 12,000 career technical certificates were awarded, helping improve and strengthen the local workforce.

Among the Highlights this Past Year:

- The SDCCD awarded 20,924 degrees and certificates to students attending San Diego City, Mesa, Miramar, and Continuing Education colleges. Seventeen percent of the awards conferred were associate and bachelor’s degrees and 83% were certificates or College of Continuing Education high school diplomas.
- The credit colleges of SDCCD (City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges) awarded 3,612 associate degrees.
- SDCCE awarded 9,553 career technical certificates, while the credit colleges awarded 797 career technical certificates, 174 more than last year (28% increase), and a 11% increase from two years ago.
- In 2023-24, 686 Promise students (from all cohorts) earned a total of 945 associate degrees. In addition, 173 Promise students earned a total of 365 certificates within the credit colleges. After completion of an initial two years of tuition-free support, two Promise students went on to graduate with bachelor’s degrees in health information management from Mesa College.
- There were 20 students awarded bachelor’s degrees from the Health Information Management program.
- The District’s Honors program was composed of 2,000 students. Latine students – at 42% – comprised the largest segment of the Honors population. There was remarkable growth in 2023-24, serving 24% more students than the prior year.

High School Students Taking College Courses



The above table utilizes a hierarchy approach to classifying special admit students in Dual and Concurrent Enrollment programs. The "Total" row shows the total unduplicated count of special admit students enrolled at one of the credit colleges. The "Dual" row shows the number of those students who enrolled in College and Career Pathways (CCAP) or Accelerated College Program (ACP) class during each academic year. The "Concurrent" row shows the number of students with a concurrent enrollment (high school student in college class with other college students outside of an agreement) who did not have a dual enrollment in each academic year.

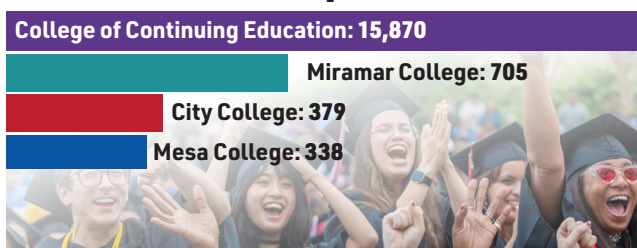
AA/AS/BS Degrees Awarded 2023-2024

Total Degrees **3,632**



Certificates Awarded 2023-2024

Total Certificates **17,292**

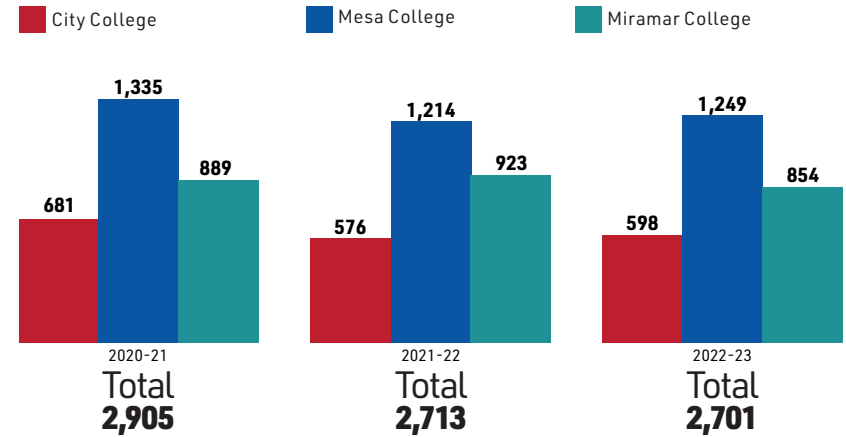


Student Transfers

During 2022-23 (the last year data was available), Latine and White students both comprised 32% of the San Diego Community College District transfers to a four-year institution. Of the 2,701 students who transferred, the top five transfer destinations were San Diego State University, University of California, San Diego; California State University San Marcos; National University; and University of California, Los Angeles. National University was the largest private college destination, followed by University of San Diego; Arizona State was the largest out-of-state beneficiary of SDCCD students.

Overall, student transfers from the SDCCD remained stable when compared to the prior year. Transfers to the CSU system accounted for 46% of transfers, UC accounted for 24%, and other types of four-year institutions accounted for 30%. San Diego City College and San Diego Mesa College both realized increases in their transfer counts, while, after several years of steady transfer growth, San Diego Miramar College saw a slight dip.

The top majors of students prior to transferring to a four-year institution were Business Administration for Transfer, Undeclared, Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum Certificate – University of California, and Certificate of Achievement – CSU Gen Ed.

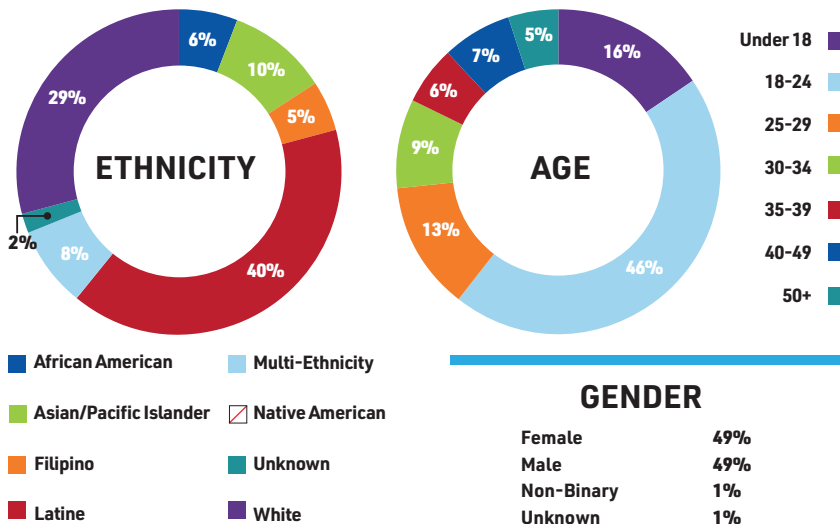


Note: 2023-24 figures were not available before publication.

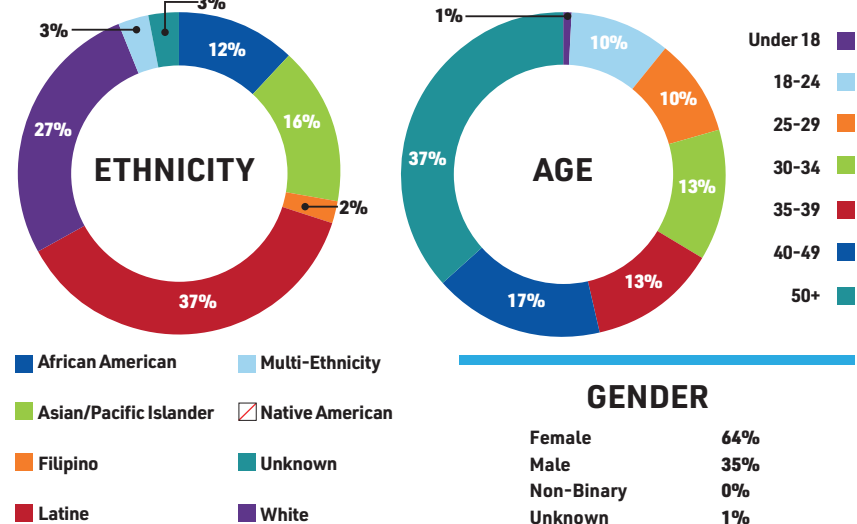
Transfer data were calculated by applying Student Centered Funding Formula criteria, which state a student has to complete 12-plus semester units minimum at the SDCCD in the academic year prior to transfer, along with zero units earned in California Community Colleges in the academic year of transfer. Previous transfer reports were higher since they allowed for a six-year window for students to transfer. This new way of reporting, applied first to 2021-22 data, is directly tied to how the SDCCD will be paid for transfer students.

Student Demographics

CREDIT COLLEGE PROFILES



COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



Community Engagement

Community is not just part of the San Diego Community College District's name, it is part of who we are. The SDCCD is committed to our residents, underserved communities, active military and veterans, and all who are seeking to improve their lives and the future of their families. As our region's demographics have evolved, so too have we, engaging the community to strengthen our region together.

- In 2023, the SDCCD celebrated 50 years of serving the community. There was much to celebrate, including the District's annual economic impact of \$5.8 billion, its San Diego Promise program, which served nearly 2,500 students in fall 2023; and its accessible, low-cost bachelor's degree programs at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges that have placed SDCCD at the forefront of California's community college baccalaureate program. Critical to the District's impact has been overwhelming support from the community.
- On July 15, students, faculty, administrators, and classified professionals marched under the District banner at the annual San Diego

The District won a Platinum MarCom award for its "Redefining San Diego" marketing campaign that put a community-college twist on San Diego icons.


Pride Parade, one of the largest parades of its kind in the country. The parade, like the District, showcases a commitment to equity and uplifting all in our community.

- The District continued its commitment to community-building in December 2023 when it once again took part in the region's annual Shop with a Cop event. Established in 1994, Shop with a Cop is made possible through donations and support from nonprofits, businesses, educational institutions, and more, and is aimed at providing children with a happier holiday season while building positive relationships with law enforcement.
- On January 14, hundreds of students, faculty, professional staff, and administrators represented the SDCCD at the 42nd annual Martin Luther King Jr. Parade. The parade, held along the San Diego waterfront, celebrates past accomplishments in creating a just society, while keeping a focus on the work that remains.
- The SDCCD's "Redefining San Diego" enrollment marketing campaign secured a 2023 Platinum MarCom award from the Association of Marketing & Communications Professionals in November 2023. The campaign put a clever twist on some of the things San Diego is known for – the San Diego Zoo, Comic-Con, surfing, and the like – to highlight the value of enrolling in District colleges. For example, a billboard with a photo of a taco read, "In

San Diego, you can find amazing food," with "food" crossed out and "community colleges" written underneath. Campaign platforms included billboards, digital ads, and bus wraps.

- The District's Disability Support Programs and Services recognized National Disability Employment Awareness Month in October 2023 with several projects, including workshops that helped job-seeking students with disabilities navigate all aspects of employment as well as a professional development course empowering faculty and professional staff to learn more about the diverse disabled community.
- Throughout the year, the SDCCD celebrated the region's diverse communities during Filipino American History Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, Black History Month, Women's History Month, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Arab American Heritage Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, and Native American Heritage Month, as well as with flag raisings celebrating the Kumeyaay-Diegueno people, Juneteenth, and LGBTQ+ Pride Month.
- The SDCCD began a District-College Branding Project in 2023-24, which culminated in May with the Board of Trustees approving a new District logo and tagline of "Be. Belong. Become." The logo design is inspired by the radiating energy of the sun and serves as a beacon of inspiration, unity, and positivity, along with the District's dedication to fostering a welcoming environment where every individual knows they can succeed.



A close-up portrait of Veronica Blea, a woman with long dark hair and black-rimmed glasses, smiling warmly. She is wearing a white top with a lace-like detail on the shoulder. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an indoor setting with other people.

THE PREBYS FOUNDATION IS COMMITTED TO CREATING AN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE, AND DYNAMIC FUTURE FOR ALL SAN DIEGANS. AS PART OF THAT WORK, IT HAS PROVIDED NEARLY \$700,000 IN FUNDING TO SUPPORT THE SDCCD IN REMOVING BARRIERS TO STUDENT SUCCESS IN AREAS SUCH AS BASIC NEEDS, MENTAL HEALTH, AND LICENSING AND TESTING FEES. FOUNDATION PROGRAM OFFICER AND SDCCD PARTNER **VERONICA BLEA** IS A PROUD COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNA AND NAVY VETERAN WHOSE ROLE INVOLVES MANY HOURS OF OUTREACH, LISTENING, AND ATTENDING COMMUNITY EVENTS HELD BY FOUNDATION GRANTEES.

“Community colleges are (the epitome of) community because of their accessibility and the population they serve. They’re us, and the San Diego Community College District does a great job with engagement and inclusivity.”

VERONICA BLEA
PROGRAM OFFICER AT THE PREBYS FOUNDATION IN SAN DIEGO

Keeping the Promise

The San Diego Promise program continues to see remarkable growth, with a record-breaking 2,496 new students admitted in fall 2023. Those students joined 1,714 others who were in the second year of the two-year program, which waives tuition for full-time students and provides book grants, instructional supplies, counseling, and other support.

The San Diego Promise program has evolved significantly since it was launched in 2016 as a pilot program supported by private funds, with an initial cohort of 186 first-time college students at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges. It has since expanded to include a second year and now also serves returning students and current or former foster youth, military veterans, justice-impacted individuals, undocumented students, and San Diego College of Continuing Education alumni. Eligibility requirements include being a

California student or Assembly Bill 540 eligible and not having earned a bachelor's degree or certificate. Participants are required to maintain a 2.0 GPA, sign a Promise contract, meet with a counselor each semester, and complete an education plan. All of that factors into why Promise students are taking more classes, completing more courses, and achieving higher retention rates than their non-Promise peers.

Approximately 13,000 students have benefited from the program since its inception. Among them is Ana Zavala Li-ho, who graduated from Scripps Ranch High School in 2018. Li-ho said she was not financially or academically prepared to attend a four-year college or university, so she decided to enroll at Miramar College just a couple miles away. The San Diego Promise program changed her life. "Not only did it help financially, but it helped me find a path, let me know



San Diego Promise student Ana Zavala Li-ho transferred from Miramar College to UCSD.

what to expect, emphasized the need to keep your grades up," Li-ho said. "It provided a lot of structure academically."

Li-ho earned an associate degree in biology from Miramar College in 2021, transferred to UC San Diego for a bachelor's degree in the subject, and is now working as a lab technician at a San Diego biotech company, a first step in the door toward a career in the sciences. "I'm in this position because of the help and support I received at Miramar," she said.

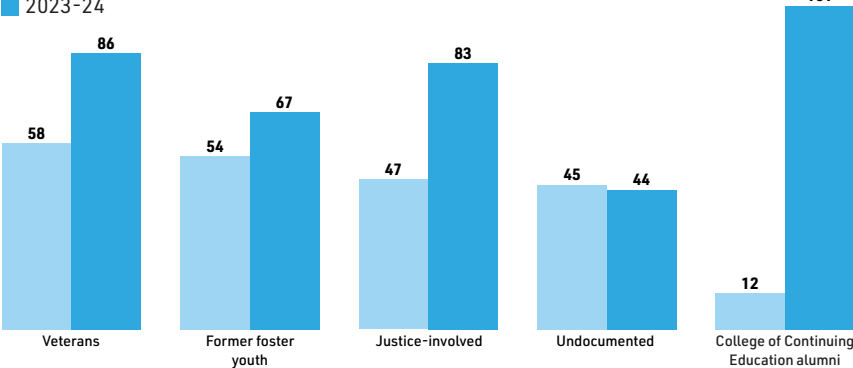
Underscoring the program's popularity, the SDCCD faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and community partners contributed a record \$51,736 in donations during last fall's Keeping the Promise giving day.

Leveraging funds provided by the state, and with the support of grants and generous donors, the San Diego Promise program is ensuring that no student is denied access to a high-quality college education due to a lack of resources.

Special Pathways Growth

The following student populations are supported by donor funds:

2022-23
2023-24



Community Engagement

SDCCD Props S and N Bond Programs Close Out

The SDCCD's \$1.555 billion construction bond program, funded by Proposition S, a \$685 million bond in 2002, and Proposition N, an \$870 million bond passed in 2006, was successfully completed and closed out in spring 2024. Together, these San Diego voter-passed measures spurred the development of new state-of-the-art instructional and career training facilities, significant modernizations, parking, public safety and accessibility upgrades, as well as extensive infrastructure work at San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and seven campuses within San Diego College of Continuing Education.

Propositions S and N Citizens' Oversight Committee

The District's capital improvement program was overseen by an independent Citizens' Oversight Committee, whose members represented various organizations, community groups, and students. These volunteers, appointed by the SDCCD Board of Trustees, monitored the \$1.555 billion in voter-approved bond measures. The committee was disbanded upon close-out of the bond programs in April.

Trustee Advisory Council

Members of the Trustee Advisory Council assist in improving communications between the Board of Trustees and the community, and

advise the Board on community attitudes, perceptions, and opportunities. They serve as advocates to the community and decision-makers, to ensure that the District's educational programs and services meet the needs of area residents.



2023-24 members from left, back row: Anchi Mei, Ellen Nash, Clint Carney, Courtney Baltiyskyy, David Valladolid, Jeff Marston, and Alberto Ochoa. From left, front row: John Watson, William Ponder, Jesús Martín Gallegos-Muñoz, Marissa Vasquez, and Becky Phillpott. Not pictured: Dean Aragoza, Rebekah Hook-Held, Alan Mobley, Martha Rañón, Gary Rotto, Cecil Steppe, Mark Tran, and Peter Zschiesche


Corporate Council

The Corporate Council continues to emerge as an integral adviser to the San Diego Community College District regarding workforce education and training. Composed of business representatives from industry clusters that drive San Diego's economy, the Corporate Council provides a means to ensure good relations between the SDCCD and its business partners throughout the region. The District looks to the Corporate Council to identify strategies for meeting business and employer needs. Throughout the year, the Council was kept well-informed on District matters, including workforce partnerships and their role in advocacy regarding legislative issues.



SOUTHLANDTECHNOLOGY



A portrait of David Kennemer, a middle-aged man with a shaved head and a slight smile, wearing a black t-shirt with the word "CYBER" visible. He is positioned in front of a computer monitor displaying a website. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a classroom or office setting with other monitors.

DAVID KENNEMER IS A COMMUNITY COLLEGE ALUMNUS WHO PLAYED A CRITICAL ROLE IN BRINGING A NEW BACHELOR'S DEGREE PROGRAM IN CYBER DEFENSE AND ANALYSIS TO SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE. RAISED BY A SINGLE MOM WHO SOMETIMES COULD NOT AFFORD RENT, KENNEMER IS COMMITTED TO HELPING THOSE UNDERGOING SIMILAR CHALLENGES. "I'VE BEEN IN THAT SITUATION. I'VE LIVED IN CARS. IF THIS IS HOW I CAN HELP OUR STUDENTS ESCAPE THAT KIND OF LIFE, I'M GOING TO DO IT."

“ *Workforce development is one of our primary missions as a community college district. We're doing great work in preparing people for resilient careers that pay a living wage.”*

DAVID KENNEMER
PROFESSOR, COMPUTER AND INFORMATION SCIENCE, SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

Workforce Development

From short-term certificates in culinary arts to four-year degrees in health information management and cyber defense and analysis, the San Diego Community College District offers pathways to vital careers that fuel the region's economy and create life-changing opportunities for the nearly 90,000 students who enroll in District colleges annually.

- The District's commitment to creating opportunities for workers and building a healthy and diverse workforce starts at home. In March, the District's Board of Trustees approved a requirement that 80% of skilled work on District projects that might be funded through a November 2024 construction bond must be performed by San Diego County residents, dependents of active-duty military, or current or former SDCCD students, including former foster youth and the formerly incarcerated.
- Two SDCCD colleges gained approval in October 2023 from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to offer new bachelor's degree programs in high-demand fields. San Diego Mesa College will offer a physical therapy assistant bachelor's degree, providing students with the advanced knowledge and skills to make a meaningful impact on patient care. San Diego Miramar College will offer a baccalaureate in public safety management at its School of Public Safety, which already offers 10 associate degree programs, 13 certificates of achievement, and 10 certificates of performance. This would bring the total number of baccalaureate programs in the District to four. Mesa College began offering a health information management bachelor's degree in 2015

and City College launched its cyber defense and analysis bachelor's degree in fall 2024.

- San Diego College of Continuing Education secured a \$1 million state grant in March 2023 to work with its regional education partners in expanding pathways for English language learners to embark on in-demand healthcare careers. Thanks to \$1,049,601 in new funding, SDCCE will soon offer new courses to train future ophthalmic and optical technicians, in addition to expanding a joint Certified Nursing Assistant program in partnership with the San Diego Unified School District.
- Miramar College held a grand opening in January for a new Regional Entrepreneurship Center Innovation Lab that provides access to cutting-edge technology, the latest tools, and a broad and diverse network of industry experts to mentor and guide a new generation of entrepreneurs on their journey. The center is focused on helping women and minority entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds launch scalable, high-growth business startups.
- SDCCD colleges remain committed to connecting underserved communities and students of color with opportunities for growth and success. Mesa College held a Black Professionals Day in fall 2023 to encourage students to



pursue rewarding careers by hearing from Black professionals working in a variety of fields, who shared insights from their own career journeys and advice about next steps. San Diego City College is using \$200,000 in workforce development grants awarded in fall 2023 to support the retention and graduation of Black students studying nursing and cybersecurity. The grants will be used for outreach to prospective students and to help connect them to wraparound services, emergency transportation, and financial aid, while opening doors to paid internships and clinical placements.

- Miramar College received \$500,000 in federal funding to renovate its School of Public Safety and its Police Academy. The facility serves as the region's police officer training center for the majority of law enforcement agencies in San Diego County including the San Diego Police Department, the Escondido Police Department, the El Cajon Police Department, and the Chula Vista Police Department, among others.

During Black Professionals Day at Mesa College, Black professionals working in a variety of fields share insights with students into their personal career journeys.

Driving the Economy

The San Diego Community College District over the years has become a powerhouse in expanding career pathways and preparing new generations of students for a rapidly evolving economy. The District's impact has grown to include not only the lives of its students, but also the region, state, and nation.

- A recent study showed that the SDCCD, which adopted a balanced, \$1 billion budget for the 2023-24 academic year, had an economic impact of \$5.8 billion – an amount equal to approximately 2% of San Diego County's gross regional product, which equals the impact of 35 San Diego Comic-Cons.
- The study, conducted by Lightcast, a leading provider of economic and labor market data, found that the SDCCD and its four colleges provide a return on investment that would make the most bullish of shareholders blush. Our economic impact is reflected in the higher-paying jobs that alumni secure thanks to the education and workforce training they received at San Diego City, Mesa, Miramar, or Continuing Education colleges, but also in the money spent by nearly 5,000 employees as well as money spent to operate campuses from Barrio Logan to Mira Mesa.

A Closer Look

- The impact of alumni employed in the San Diego County workforce amounted to \$4.7 billion in added income for the local economy, which is the equivalent of supporting 41,101 jobs.
- For every \$1 million of public money invested in the SDCCD, taxpayers will receive a cumulative \$2.3 million over the course of our students' lifetimes.
- A student's investment in the SDCCD has an annual rate of return of 18.3%, which far surpasses the S&P 500's average rate of return of 10.5% over the past 30 years.
- The economic impact of SDCCD operations spending was \$782.8 million. The District employed 4,866 full- and part-time employees over the year, 97% of whom live in San Diego County.

Grant Awards, Highlights

Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Grant and Contract Awards



Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Grant and Contract Highlights

San Diego City College

TITLE *Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Practices*
FUNDER *California Community Colleges State Chancellor's Office*
AMOUNT **\$300,000**

TITLE *Title III Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions*
FUNDER *U.S. Department of Education*
AMOUNT **\$400,000**

San Diego Mesa College

TITLE *HSI-STEM and Articulation Program, Title III*
FUNDER *U.S. Department of Education*
AMOUNT **\$999,895**

TITLE *Equitable Placement and Completion*
FUNDER *California Community Colleges State Chancellor's Office*
AMOUNT **\$776,983**

San Diego Miramar College

TITLE *Defense STEM Education Consortium*
FUNDER *Research Triangle Institute*
AMOUNT **\$1,100,000**

TITLE *Fire-Rescue In-Service Training*
FUNDER *City of San Diego Fire-Rescue Department*
AMOUNT **\$624,000**

San Diego College of Continuing Education

TITLE *Welding Program*
FUNDER *BlueForge Alliance*
AMOUNT **\$1,175,000**

TITLE *English Language Learners Healthcare Pathways*
FUNDER *California Department of Education*
AMOUNT **\$1,049,601**

District Office

TITLE *Dreamers Support Program*
FUNDER *U.S. Department of Education*
AMOUNT **\$1,200,000**

TITLE *LGBTQIA+ Pride Centers*
FUNDER *U.S. Department of Education*
AMOUNT **\$1,200,000**

Managing Our Resources

The San Diego Community College District continues to live up to its well-earned and outstanding reputation for being well-managed and fiscally responsible. Through integrated multi-year strategic planning, the District was able to serve and support all students, particularly those experiencing basic needs challenges, in pursuit of their educational goals.

The Board of Trustees adopted a \$1.02 billion budget for 2023-24, \$616 million in General Fund and \$403 million in other funds, representing a \$27 million increase in all funds as compared with 2022-23. The 2023-24 budget enabled the District to serve approximately 90,000 students at San Diego City,

Mesa, and Miramar colleges, as well as the noncredit San Diego College of Continuing Education.

The following are some additional highlights for the 2023-24 fiscal year:

- The District met all of its internal and external short- and long-term fiscal obligations.
- The annual audit as of June 30, prepared by an independent external public accounting auditing firm, was once again "Unmodified."
- Standard & Poor's in February gave its highest rating possible – AAA – lauding the District's steady financial profile, balanced operations, and financial resources supported by favorable enrollment trends.

- The adopted budget included the District's focus on growing and maintaining an ending fund balance as protection against potential national and state economic downturns.

In fiscal year 2023-24, the District completed all of the construction projects identified in the District's Facilities Strategic Plan and authorized under Proposition S, General Obligation Bonds (2002) and Proposition N, General Obligation Bonds (2006).

Highlights from the bond program projects include:

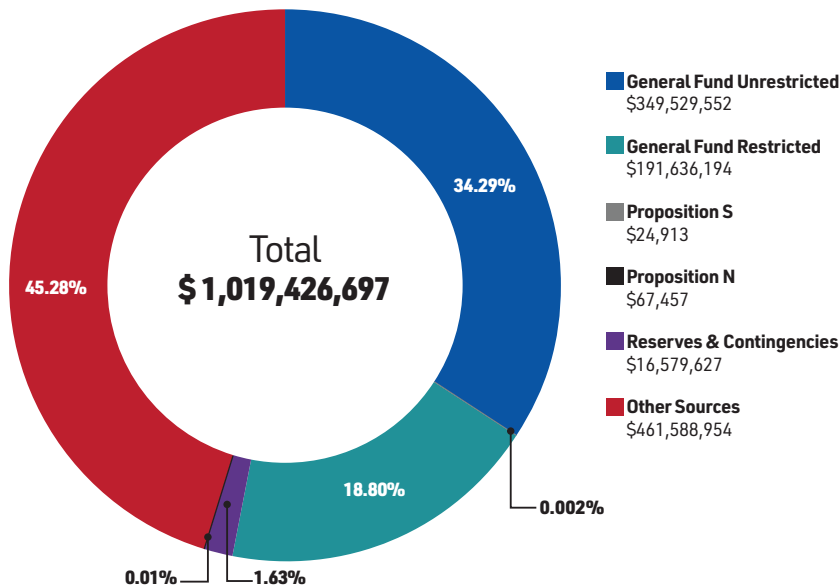
- San Diego taxpayers saved more than \$31 million thanks to a February refunding, or refinancing, of bonds

supporting construction projects through Propositions S and N. Since voters approved the sale of \$1.55 billion in bonds in 2002 and 2006, the District has saved taxpayers a collective total of \$339.1 million through a series of six re-fundings.

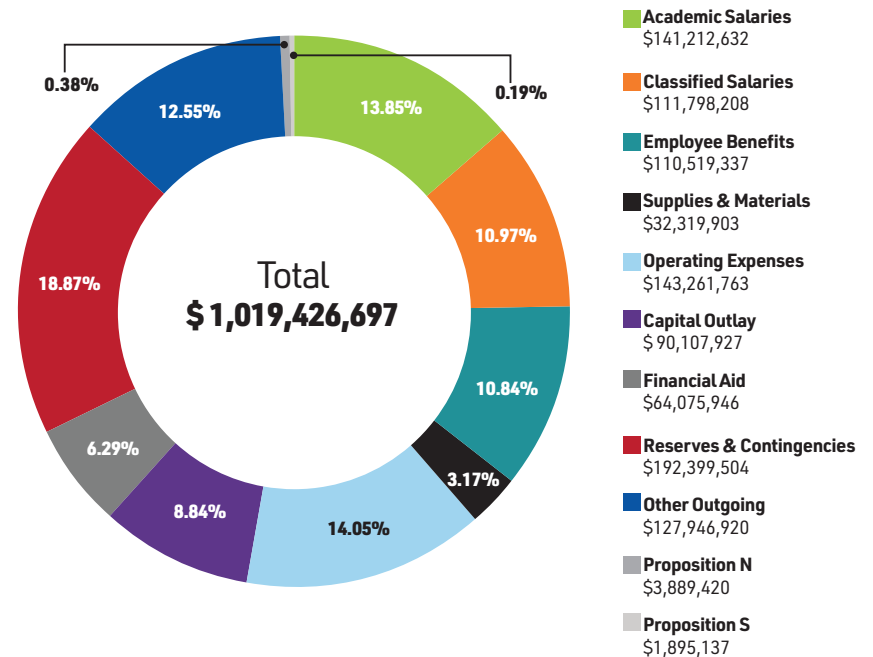
- LEED certification for sustainable buildings and practices.
- State-of-the-art equipment in buildings that allows the District to serve student demand and support student success.

The SDCCD pledges to continue in its efforts to serve the community in a fiscally responsible manner for years to come and appreciates the ongoing support of San Diego taxpayers.

2023-2024 REVENUE



2023-2024 EXPENDITURES





Administrative Offices

3375 Camino del Rio South
San Diego, CA 92108-3883

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The San Diego Community College District includes San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College, and San Diego College of Continuing Education. The SDCCD is governed by its Board of Trustees. No oral or written agreement is binding on the San Diego Community College District without the express approval of the Board of Trustees.

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Our Campuses

San Diego City College

1313 Park Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92101-4787
(619) 388-3400, sdcity.edu

San Diego Mesa College

7250 Mesa College Drive
San Diego, CA 92111-4998
(619) 388-2600, sdmesa.edu

San Diego Miramar College

10440 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92126-2999
(619) 388-7800, sdmiramar.edu

San Diego College of Continuing Education & Educational Cultural Complex

4343 Ocean View Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92113-1915
(619) 388-4956, sdcce.edu

CE at Mesa College

7350 Armstrong Place
San Diego, CA 92111-4998
(619) 388-1950

CE at Miramar College

10440 Black Mountain Road
San Diego, CA 92126-2999
(619) 388-7800

César E. Chávez Campus

1901 Main Street
San Diego, CA 92113-2116
(619) 388-1910

Mid-City Campus

3792 Fairmount Avenue
San Diego, CA 92105-2204
(619) 388-4500

North City Campus

8355 Aero Drive
San Diego, CA 92123-1720
(619) 388-1800

West City Campus

3249 Fordham Street
San Diego, CA 92110-5332
(619) 388-1873