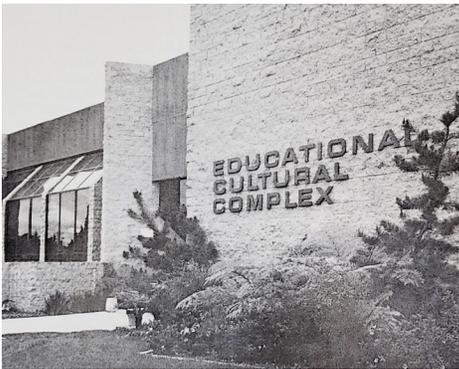


# WEG



City College  
Mesa College  
Miramar College  
Continuing Education

# A LASTING LEGACY AT ECC

Story on page 08



## ADVOCATING FOR MORE BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMS

It is hard to argue with success, and California's Community College Baccalaureate Program has been a success since Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 850 in 2014. Authored by former San Diego Community College District board president Marty Block, the bill allowed 15 California community colleges to offer a bachelor's degree on a pilot basis in workforce fields where there is great demand and unmet need. Approximately 60% of students taking part in the program come from minority populations, more than two-thirds are women, and the overall graduation rate has surpassed 80%.



Mesa College's bachelor of science program in health information management has a graduation rate of more than 80%.

Armed with such figures, state Sen. Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo) in 2018 introduced legislation, also signed into law, extending the program's sunset date from 2023 to July of 2026. Now it is time to take the next step by eliminating the sunset date altogether and making the existing baccalaureate pilot programs permanent and expanding this opportunity to all community colleges.

California's Community College Baccalaureate Program offers affordable degrees needed for good-paying jobs — a critical factor when considering that projections call for the state finding itself 1.1 million

bachelor-degree-holders short of the number needed to sustain our rapidly evolving economy. California's Community College Baccalaureate Program is a collaboration with business, industry, and labor, with no duplication of programs offered by the University of California and California State University systems.

The successes are many. The Antelope Valley College airframe manufacturing technology baccalaureate program, for example, is meeting the needs of the local aerospace manufacturing companies that traditional engineering and business management bachelor's degrees have been unable to address. San Diego Mesa College's bachelor of science program in health information management is providing high-quality, industry-approved instruction designed to put people to work at good-paying jobs in a high-demand industry. And Foothill College's comprehensive dental hygiene baccalaureate program costs students approximately \$10,560 in tuition and fees for their four-year degree, as opposed to the \$40,000 to \$60,000 charged annually at private schools in California.

By expanding these programs and developing even more in conjunction with business and industry partners, the California Community Colleges system can help ensure the state remains a global economic engine.

As chair of the advocacy campaign to extend and make the Community College Baccalaureate Program a permanent feature, I will be urging everyone to support our efforts in growing the California economy and opening the doors of opportunity to our students through community college baccalaureate programs.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Constance M. Carroll".

Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.

08

### Celebrating a Landmark

Advocates promote Educational Cultural Complex for its role in civil rights movement



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# HONORING MLK

## SDCCD COLLEGES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION MARCH TO CELEBRATE CIVIL RIGHTS ICON

The sun shone bright on January 19 as members of the San Diego Community College District and the local community joined together along the Embarcadero to honor Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Chancellor Constance Carroll and members of the Board of Trustees, together with hundreds of students, administrators, faculty, and classified professionals from San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education, waved to the jubilant crowd from convertibles and alongside floats during the 40th annual MLK Parade, organized by the Zeta Sigma Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Along the route, the organizing committee assessed parade entries, recognizing several entrants for their participation, including Continuing Education, which took third place honors in the floats category for its recreation of the Liberty Bell using more than a mile of copper wire.

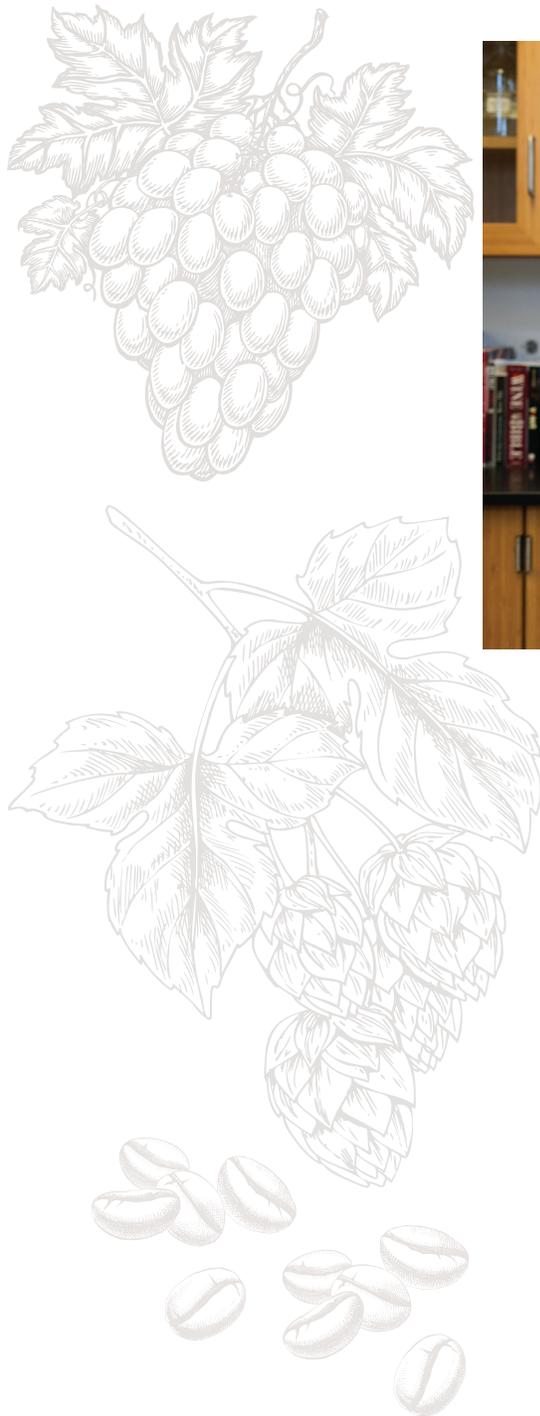
(Clockwise from top left) Student Trustees and representatives prepare to lead the SDCCD contingency down Harbor Drive. Chancellor Carroll waves to the crowd. Continuing Education's float. Campus Police Officers march along the parade route. Board of Trustees members (from left) Bernie Rhinerson, Sean Elo, Craig Milgrim, and Mary Graham took part in this year's parade. Mesa College's float. Chancellor Carroll (center) with (from left) Continuing Education President Carlos O. Turner Cortez, Miramar College Interim President Marsha Gable, Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster, and City College President Ricky Shabazz. City College's float. Final touches are added to the Miramar College float.





# A LAGER THAN LIFE OFFERING

**T**alk about raising the bar. San Diego Mesa College’s new program in fermentation management is attracting significant interest in a city that has earned a reputation as a leader in craft breweries and has seen steady growth in craft fermentation businesses such as wine, beer, kombucha, and coffee.



Created under a state-funded Strong Workforce grant, the program includes study of the production, management, and business of various fermented beverages while focusing on the business aspects of the industry, including sales and marketing, law, accounting, import, distribution, and operations.

It also includes the study of the production of beer, wine, and other fermented beverages. Among the courses offered are Importing and Distribution, Managerial Accounting, Fundamentals of Spirits, and Flavor and Form.

Mesa College President Pamela Luster said she has high hopes for the program.

“We’re hoping to attract the new generation of fermentation professionals to Mesa College,” President Luster said. “This exciting new program allows current and new culinary and hospitality students to expand their opportunities in this exciting and emerging industry.”



## BUILDING THE FUTURE

The end is near. The penultimate project in the Propositions S and N bond programs that have transformed San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education's seven campuses will be completed in June 2020 in the form of a new, \$12.8-million Child Development Center at City College.

The center will include space for the City College Child Development program, including



classrooms for infants, toddlers, and preschoolers, a kitchen, a lobby/reception area, and a faculty conference room. In addition, the center will include 14,000 square feet of playground space, outdoor learning areas, equipment storage, and a parking and drop-off area.

After the center is completed, all that remains under the Propositions S and N bond programs is a new quad at Mesa College. Demolition work on that project, which will connect various parts of the campus, is now being wrapped up and construction should start soon.

The new quad will showcase an expansive lawn area near the new Mesa Commons that will serve as a community gathering space and can host live performances.

Proposition S authorized the sale of \$685 million in bonds and was approved by voters in 2002. Prop-

osition N authorized the sale of \$870 million in bonds and was approved by voters in 2006. While most of the financing for the Child Development Center came through City of San Diego redevelopment funds, \$782,000 was provided through Proposition S.

## DOLLARS AND SENSE



**\$4.3 Billion**

Impact on the local economy generated by the San Diego Community College District.

The San Diego Community College District generated \$4.3 billion for the local economy during the 2018-19 fiscal year, according to the latest study from an Idaho-based labor market analytics firm. The \$4.3 billion was enough to support 44,988 jobs, meaning the District and its students support one out of every 48 jobs in San Diego County, according to the Emsi

report.

Among the study's highlights:

- For every dollar students spend on their education at the SDCCD they see a return of \$4.10 in higher future earnings.
- The net impact of the District's former students who are now employed in the county's workforce amounted to \$3.8 billion in added income.
- For every dollar invested last year in

the SDCCD, people in California will receive \$11.20 in return for as long as the students who were enrolled during the 2018-19 academic year remain active in the state workforce.

- The SDCCD employed 5,964 full- and part-time faculty, staff, and administrators last year, with payroll amounting to \$315.6 million. The District spent an additional \$142.9 million on day-

to-day expenses related to facilities, supplies, and professional services.

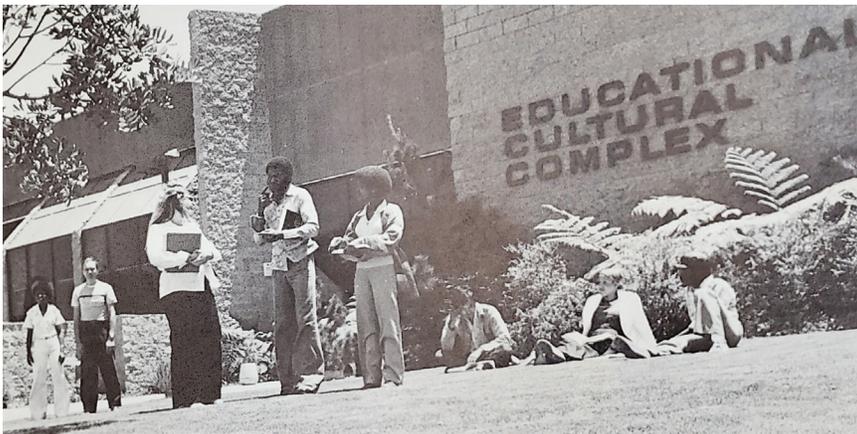
A student with an associate degree from City, Mesa, or Miramar college will see an increase in earnings of \$10,000 each year compared to a person with just a high school diploma or equivalent in California, the report said.

The full report can be viewed at [sdccd.edu/economic-impact](http://sdccd.edu/economic-impact).

# Celebrating a Landmark

*Advocates promote Educational Cultural Complex for its role in civil rights movement*

Legendary musical artist Stevie Wonder performed there. So did celebrated poet and author Maya Angelou. Shirley Caesar, known as “The First Lady of Gospel Music,” debuted her song dedicated to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. — “Martin” — there, too. James Meredith, the first African-American to enroll at the University of Mississippi, addressed an audience at the site, and the Rev. Jesse Jackson has served as a guest speaker on more than one occasion.



Historic? Clearly. Now the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) and others are advocating to have San Diego Continuing Education’s 44-year-old Educational Cultural Center (ECC) in Mountain View designated as an official civil rights landmark — both for celebrating art in a neighborhood bereft of theaters showcasing the area’s culture and for opening career and higher education opportunities in an economically disadvantaged community.

At the time, said Vernon Sukumu, a community activist and Navy veteran who worked for the Urban League, career opportunities for minorities were limited. “I know that’s hard for people to even grasp — that no city, no county jobs were available to us.”

Today, ECC is the center of a comprehensive continuing education program serving approximately 40,000 students, many of whom transition to San Diego City, Mesa, or Miramar college for associate degrees. Offerings at ECC include everything from culinary arts to computer programming. And it houses the groundbreaking San Diego Gateway to College and Career initiative connecting

## we

Coretta Scott King, widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke at ECC in 1985 and called upon San Diegans to advocate worldwide peace in commemoration of her late husband’s birthday. (Photo courtesy of The San Diego Union-Tribune)



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“ The inclusion of ECC as a civil rights landmark is important because out of the thousands of landmarks in San Diego, ethnic and minority groups are often not truly represented.”

— Continuing Education President Carlos O. Turner Cortez

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Members of ECC's cultural arts and special education programs ride atop a float created for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade in 1981. The tradition continues to this day with Continuing Education regularly participating in the event.

opportunity youth with paid internships, connections to industry, support in securing a high school diploma, and an intensive, 40-hour college and career readiness course.

“ECC has been stalwart in the civil rights movement in the city of San Diego and I would certainly agree that it has had a positive effect and should be acknowledged,” said former Continuing Education Provost (1988-90) and President (1990-92) Robert Matthews.

Current Continuing Education President Carlos O. Turner Cortez and ECC's Historic Preservation Committee are among those advocating for the civil rights landmark designation. The SDCCD Board of Trustees adopted a resolution in 2018 supporting the effort and submitting a proposal to the city of San Diego. Continuing Education leaders also are seeking \$25 million needed to renovate ECC's historic and legendary theater and adjacent stage dressing room, lobby, community room, and public restrooms. Addi-

The San Diego Community College District, the city and county of San Diego, and others begin pooling funds to buy the Preble-Sachem Naval Housing Development on Ocean View Boulevard.



ECC campus opens, with an official dedication on May 15, along with the James P. Beckwourth library on the same property. The latter is, to this day, the only library on a college campus to be operated by the city of San Diego.

1972

1976

1970

1974



After residents of Southeast San Diego expressed the need for a cultural and educational center, the Educational Cultural Complex (ECC) Policy Council, is formed and meets in an adobe-style cottage located at 4365 Ocean View Blvd. A pen and ink drawing of the cottage (left) was created by artist, preservationist, and one-time San Diegan Robert Miles Parker in 1976.



ECC's groundbreaking ceremony is held with inaugural President Dr. Lawrence Davenport (center), then-San Diego Mayor Pete Wilson (second from left), San Diego Urban League Leader Clarence Pendleton, and others in attendance.

tional funds are being sought for 25 plaques to mark specific locations, a virtual self-guided tour, a book about Continuing Education's history, a welcome kiosk, and dozens of framed proclamations, numerous awards, and certificates.

The first in a series of fundraisers, hosted by President Turner Cortez, "The Coretta Scott King Inaugural Benefit: A Gospel Brunch to Support the Historic Preservation of ECC," is scheduled for March 7.

"The inclusion of ECC as a civil rights landmark is important because out of the thousands of landmarks in San Diego, ethnic and minority groups are often not truly represented," said President Turner Cortez.

ECC traces its roots to 1972 when the SDCCD, the city and county of San Diego, and others began pooling funds to buy the Preble-Sachem Naval Housing Development on Ocean View Boulevard. The city allocated \$1.5 million, adding some \$400,000 from its Model Cities program. San Diego County contributed



Boxer and activist Muhammad Ali with ECC President Lillian K. Beam in 1981.

Former CE President Robert Matthews and fellow Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity (Zeta Sigma Lambda Chapter) brothers organize the launch of the annual San Diego Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade.

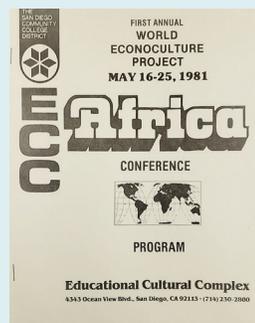


Coretta Scott King, widow of Martin Luther King, Jr., delivers a speech at ECC.

1979 1980 1981 1985



Caryn Elaine Johnson, better known today as Whoopi Goldberg, stars alongside the Rev. Alyce Smith Cooper, a San Diego author fondly known locally as the Golden Brown Fairy Godmother, in ECC theater's December production of *The Sty of the Blind Pig*.



The inaugural World Econoculture Project Conference draws ambassadors, dignitaries, and statesmen from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, and Egypt, as well as the United Nations to ECC. ECC went on to host the event for several years. ECC President Lillian K. Beam was a founding member of the greater World Econoculture Project.

\$467,000 to the effort that, in 1974, culminated with a groundbreaking ceremony involving ECC's first President, Dr. Lawrence Davenport, then-San Diego Mayor Pete Wilson, San Diego Urban League Leader Clarence Pendleton, and others.

ECC opened in spring 1976 serving students in programs such as auto mechanics, graphic reproduction, electronic assembly, and skills labs for clothing and textiles, and office workers. In the following years, the center would earn a reputation as a hub for art, learning, and activism. The city's annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Parade was launched there; King's widow, Coretta Scott King, delivered a speech there in 1985; and Zeta Sigma Lambda chapter of the Alpha Phi Alpha

fraternity met there regularly and would play a role in creating the California Commission to Establish the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday. Both the city's Mountain View/Beckwourth Library and the Common Ground Theatre, which is home to the third-oldest African-American community theater company in the nation, are situated at the Ocean View Boulevard location.

In celebration of ECC's 40th anniversary in 2012, then-San Diego City Councilmembers David Alvarez, Myrtle Cole, and Marti Emerald issued a proclamation honoring its contributions.

"We've had so many special people on this campus," Matthews said. Indeed, Stevie Wonder staged a show at ECC in 1986, and civil rights activist and poet Maya Angelou performed and spoke at



ECC President Lillian K. Beam (right) with Anthony Ewaleifoh, a Nigerian dramatist and Peace Corps representative Peola Spurlock during the inaugural Econo



Stevie Wonder, who was in San Diego for a concert at the Sports Arena (now Pechanga Arena), stops by ECC prior to his June 26 show to receive awards and resolutions, some presented by President Robert Matthews, for his work on such humanitarian causes as apartheid and preventing drunk driving.

The ECC theater hosts student productions of *West Side Story*, *The Wiz*, and *Grease*. The Boys Choir of Harlem performance sells out, and the cast of The Old Globe theater's production of Joe Turner's *Come and Gone* perform before heading to Broadway.

The San Diego Symphony stages a concert in the park on the front lawn of ECC.

Working Women in the Trades program begins at ECC to support specific issues women in skilled trades face when breaking into careers and jobs traditionally held by men.

1986

1988

1990

1987

1989



The Rev. Jesse Jackson speaks to a crowded ECC theatre filled with faculty, staff, administration, and community members.

Civil rights activist and poet Maya Angelou performs and speaks at ECC.



ECC's Occupational Opportunities Program successfully launches to help learning and developmentally disabled students find paid employment and strengthen opportunities to remain employed.



Artist and one-time teacher of African Theatre at ECC, Culture Conference in 1981. (Photo courtesy of San Diego History Center)

ECC in 1987. When it opened, the San Diego Union called the 300-seat theater “the best medium-sized playhouse in the city.”

In addition, ECC, for several years hosted a World Econoculture Conference as part of a larger World Econoculture Project that a 1982 San Diego City Council resolution noted served as “an important link between international cultures and economies” and drew ambassadors, dignitaries, and statesmen from Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, and Egypt, as well as the United Nations. The 1983 World Econoculture Conference three-day event, titled “Diologo de las Americas,” brought together a cross-section of the San Diego and Baja California academic communities and aimed to address

“specific cultural and economic issues in Mexican-American relations.”

“Using ECC to develop the World Econoculture Project program enables the campus to fulfill its purpose of combining education, culture, and communication in its public role,” said Lillian K. Beam, who served as ECC President from 1979-1984 and was a driving force behind the project.

Said longtime resident Wilbur Smith about recognizing ECC’s impact on the community: “I think it’s important because ECC, in a way of speaking, was at the center of the cultural revolution in Southeast San Diego at the time, so I think a historical designation is quite appropriate, because it brought a lot of people together — it brought a lot of ideas, a lot of energy.” **WE**

A new 38,000-square-foot building opens at ECC as the Continuing Education Campus of Excellence for Career and Technical Education.

Funds from Propositions S and N are put to use for a new wing at ECC, which houses classrooms for English as a Second Language and Disability Support Programs and Services.

2009

2013

1991

The Charles E. Reid Book fund is established by the ECC Citizen’s Advisory Council to acknowledge the contributions of long-time district trustee Charles E. Reid, who was instrumental in creating ECC.

2012

The San Diego City Council issues a proclamation to mark ECC’s 40th anniversary.



2019

The San Diego City Council issues a proclamation pronouncing August 28, 2019, as San Diego Continuing Education Day. The proclamation recognizes Continuing Education as the largest adult education provider of noncredit college instruction in the state, as well as several important historical events that impacted the history of American civil rights.



For students, including Mesa College's Rickian Williams, The Stand provides access to nutritional food that might not otherwise be available or affordable for him.

# STEPPING UP TO ADDRESS HUNGER

*Campus pantries and farmers markets provide food, clothing staples for students in need*

During his first semester at San Diego Mesa College, Rickian Williams slept in his cousin's car. Or on a friend's couch. Or on a park bench. If it wasn't for Mesa College's The Stand campus pantry and free farmers market providing the staples, Williams would have been without hope.

"It's hell. There's just no other way to describe the feeling of not knowing where you're going to stay or what you're going to eat," Williams said. "Going hungry, it's just like, I don't know how to explain it. Without The Stand, without the farmers market, I don't know where I'd be."

Williams embodies the impact the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) and San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and San Diego Continuing Education are having in keeping thousands of students dealing with housing and food insecurities from dropping out of school. From food pantries and free farmers markets to assistance with housing and child care, services are growing for those not sure of where they will sleep or get their next meal.

Included in the efforts are outreach programs aimed at signing up students for CalFresh benefits ([getcalfresh.org](http://getcalfresh.org)), which is especially important when considering the Government Accountability Office

(GAO) estimates that 57% of students whom are at risk of food insecurity and eligible for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits (CalFresh in California) do not collect those benefits

Mesa College President Pamela Luster serves as co-chair of the statewide Affordability, Food & Housing Access Taskforce, which for the past two years has been investigating housing and food insecurities and making recommendations on its findings. Recommendations include building student residential housing on community college campuses to address the needs of the homeless-student population; creating a seamless system to connect students to services for which they are eligible without having to complete multiple applications; and expanding financial aid.

The need is profound.

A 2019 Hope Center #RealCollege survey found that 21% of students at City College do not have a stable place to live, along with 18% of Mesa College students

# A Helping HAND

and 17% of those enrolled at Miramar College and San Diego Continuing Education. In terms of hunger, 52% of students surveyed at City College said they faced challenges of being able to afford nutritionally adequate food within the previous 30 days, with 47% of students at Mesa College, 41% of students at Miramar College, and 33% of students at Continuing Education facing food insecurity.

“Students who are in college right now are going through such enormous hardships,” said Sara Goldrick-Rab, a professor of higher education policy and sociology at Temple University and the founding director of the HOPE Center for College, Community, and Justice in Philadelphia. Goldrick-Rab is perhaps best known for her research on food and housing insecurity in higher education.

Indeed, a 2018 GAO report noted the nation’s nearly \$600 billion investment in higher education is at risk if college students drop out because they cannot afford basic necessities such as food and housing. The catch-22 is that so many students enroll at the SDCCD because it is a path toward upward social mobility.

“More important than the pantries our colleges provide is the education these students are receiving,” said Kirin Macapugay, a City College professor of human services and social work who has mentored several students unsure of where their next meal will come from or where they are staying for the night. “They can get relief at a few places; we are the only ones providing these services and an affordable college education and training that will give them the skills to lift themselves out of poverty.”

Contributing to the challenge, Goldrick-Rab said, is that the real cost of going to college has never been higher, even with a growing, tuition-free, state- and locally backed Promise movement. Family incomes have been stagnant for years. The safety net is shredded. Entry-level jobs in the San Diego area don’t pay enough to

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In response to the 2019 Hope Center #RealCollege survey, SDCCD students said they faced challenges of being able to afford nutritionally adequate food within the previous 30 days, including:

**52%**

at City College

**47%**

at Mesa College

**41%**

at Miramar College

**33%**

at Continuing Education

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Volunteers hand out food during City College’s farmers market.



Anyone can help address the challenges that students are facing with food and housing insecurity. Donations can be made to City College through “Give to City, Help a Student” links at the bottom of the college’s homepage, [sdccity.edu](http://sdccity.edu). Information about making donations at the campus’s oft-used Emergency Food Pantry is available by contacting Leroy Brady at [lbrady@sdccd.edu](mailto:lbrady@sdccd.edu).

Those interested in addressing Mesa College’s food insecurity efforts can go online to The Stand at [sdmesa.edu/thestand](http://sdmesa.edu/thestand) and make a monetary donation there or purchase items from The Stand Amazon Wish List. General inquiries can be sent to Mesa College Student Services technician Johanna Aleman at [jaleman@sdccd.edu](mailto:jaleman@sdccd.edu) or by calling (619) 388-5940. In addition, donations to the Mesa College Resiliency Fund to assist students in need can be made online at [sdmesa.edu/resiliencyfund](http://sdmesa.edu/resiliencyfund). Further information on the fund can be obtained through the Office of Resource Development at (619) 388-2285.

In 2019, Miramar College distributed 72,679 pounds of rescued produce at its Free Farmer’s Market, which is held once a month on campus. Additionally, Miramar College picked up and distributed another 29,200 pounds of food from the Feeding San Diego Retail Rescue Program. Information about making donations to Miramar College’s Jet Fuel: Students United Against Hunger initiative is available by contacting Joseph Hankinson at [jhankins@sdccd.edu](mailto:jhankins@sdccd.edu) or by calling the Office of Student Affairs at (619) 388-7313. Donations can be dropped off at the Jet Fuel Pantry in Room K1-211A or at the Associated Students office in Room K1-208.

SDCEats! is Continuing Education’s food pantry at the Educational Cultural Complex in Mountain View. Donations of non-perishable, dry goods are always welcome and may be dropped off at Continuing Education’s Rising to Success Centers from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday. Rising to Success Centers are located in Room 116 at the Educational Cultural Complex; Room 125 at the Mid-City Campus; and Room 212 at the César E. Chávez Campus. In addition, volunteer opportunities are available for faculty, professional staff, administrators, and students by emailing Dean of Student Equity Maureen Rubalcaba at [mrubalcaba@sdccd.edu](mailto:mrubalcaba@sdccd.edu) or by calling SDCEats! at (619) 388-4933.



A volunteer hands over fresh red onions during SDCEats! at the Educational Cultural Complex.

live in one of the nation's priciest regions.

"We have under-resourced students from under-resourced families in a really difficult work environment with far fewer supportive policies entering colleges that are less likely than ever to actually have enough staff to be able to step up and meet their needs," Goldrick-Rab said. "All of those things need to be addressed if we really want to eradicate food and housing insecurity from our colleges."

In class, she added, "They're listening to someone talk and in the back of their mind they're thinking, where am I sleeping tonight?"

Williams knows that feeling well.

A native of San Diego, Williams, 20, was adopted by a relative as a toddler and moved to the remote town of Manchester, Georgia, where he was raised with three older siblings. Poverty was a constant, and Williams moved back to San Diego when he was 17, graduated from Mark Twain High School in Linda Vista, and resolved to enroll at Mesa College. Williams said his troubles there began after a relative ordered him out of the home if he wasn't going to work full time.

"The choice was easy," he said. "I was going to go to college to better myself and find a future."

Without a home, Williams found himself couch surfing the first six months he was at Mesa College. Jobs would come and go, each affording an opportunity to save up money and move into an apartment with short-lived roommates. At one time, he was paying \$500 per month for a room at a City Heights apartment while going to school full-time and working up to 50 hours per week at Target. That was followed by a move to a North Park apartment, a fallout with roommates, a loss of his job, and a return to couch surfing.

Hunger never seemed to go away.

On October 8, he was accepted to YMCA's Turning



Point: Transitional Housing program, which provides a multitude of services, case management, and support, in addition to 18 months of subsidized housing. He pays \$275 each month, lives with a roommate, and works 20 hours each week at the Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) office at Mesa College earning \$12 per hour, or \$240 per week. He gets his food from The Stand and The Stand: Farmers Market. If he has any money left over after paying the bills, he will sometimes splurge and buy something from the market.

He is on track to earn an associate degree in communication studies in fall 2021, after which he has his heart set on transferring to San Diego State University, and launching a career in geology or environmental science.

"As we work on the system-level changes, we also have to focus on the student experiences happening right now," President Luster said. "Students don't have the luxury of waiting for us to connect effectively and create a seamless network. We are doing both at Mesa College."

Said Williams:

"I have nothing but love for all that Mesa College has provided me; the support, the mentorship, the food, the resources, all of it. With things the way they are now, if I fail at this point, it's because of me, not because of my circumstances." **WE**



A student browses through racks of clothing at The Stand at Mesa College.



Above: A volunteer helps restock the shelves of the Miramar College food pantry. Left: Volunteers hand out food during Mesa College's The Stand: Farmers Market.

# INSPIRED SPACES

*In the rush to get to class, sometimes it's nice to slow down and enjoy the views*

Ask San Diego Community College District Architect Lance Lareau what his favorite space is among the District's various campuses and he will tell you that is like asking him to choose a favorite child — it is too difficult to call out just one.

Lareau, who has worked at the District since 2006, said one of the biggest challenges of his job is to figure out how to get students to stay on campus and collaborate — especially at community colleges where students are traditionally commuting. “As architects, we try

to create spaces that are cool, inspirational, and nice to hang out in,” he said. “It’s a thoughtful process.”

Look around City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, or any one of Continuing Education’s seven campuses and you will find much more than just classroom

spaces. According to Lareau, there are spaces for individuals, small groups, and big groups both indoors and out, and it is his job “to make the space a space you want to be.”

Whether it’s enjoying downtown skyline views from City College’s lush Seeds@City Urban Farm,

people watching in the lobby of Continuing Education’s Mid-City Campus, grabbing a bite to eat at Mesa Commons, or learning about endangered San Diego Fairy Shrimp in the Vernal Pools at Miramar College, here are some favorite spaces around the SDCCD.



MIRAMAR COLLEGE | Vernal Pools

“It’s really cool to see how it changes throughout the year. The air feels nice out here; you can smell the dirt and plants. It’s a mini nature connection.”

— Abby Watt, a Research Assitant II for the Office of Planning, Research, and Institutional Effectiveness, who usually walks the quarter-mile path around the Vernal Pools twice a day



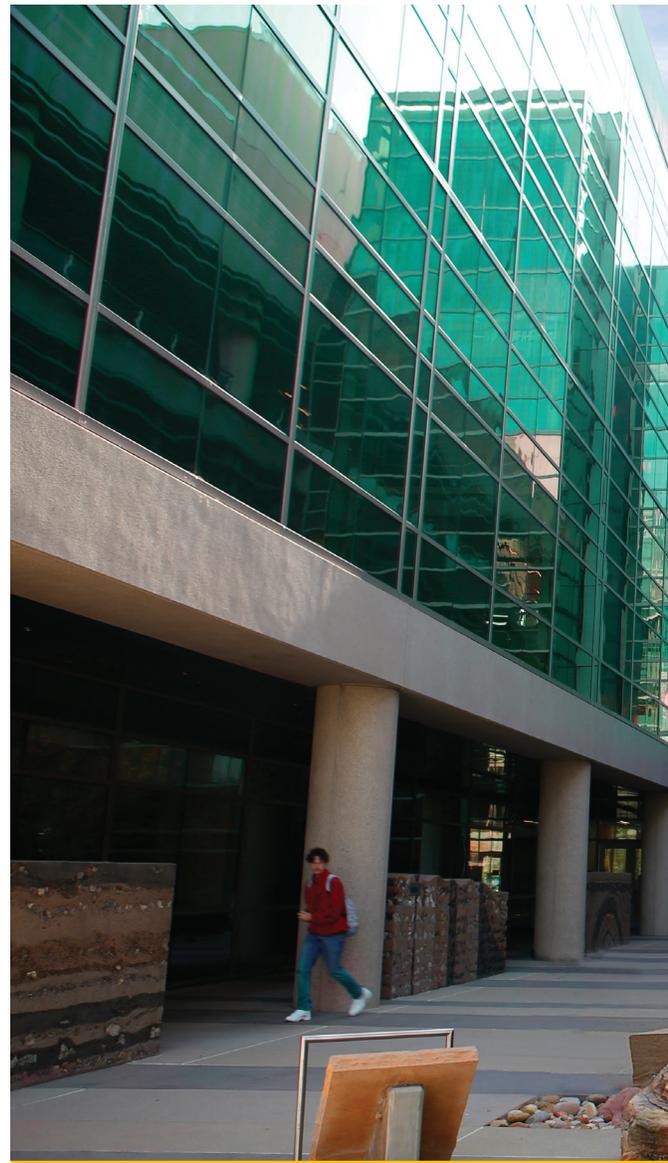
CITY COLLEGE | Seeds@City Urban Farm



CONTINUING EDUCATION | César E. Chávez Campus Rooftop Deck



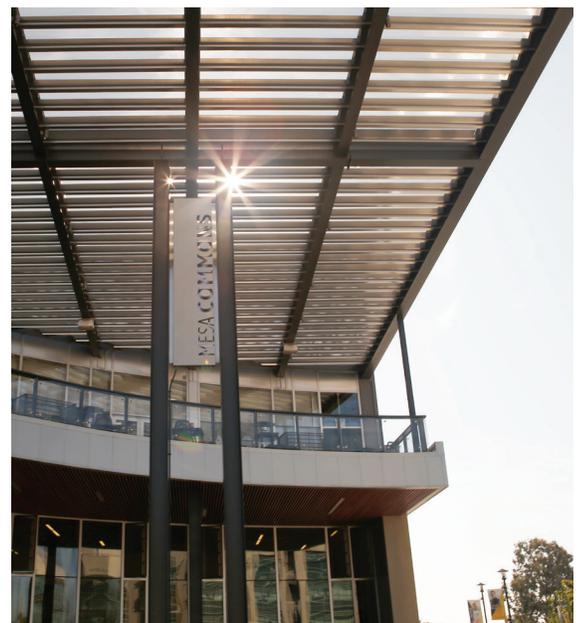
**CONTINUING EDUCATION | Mid-City Campus Lobby**



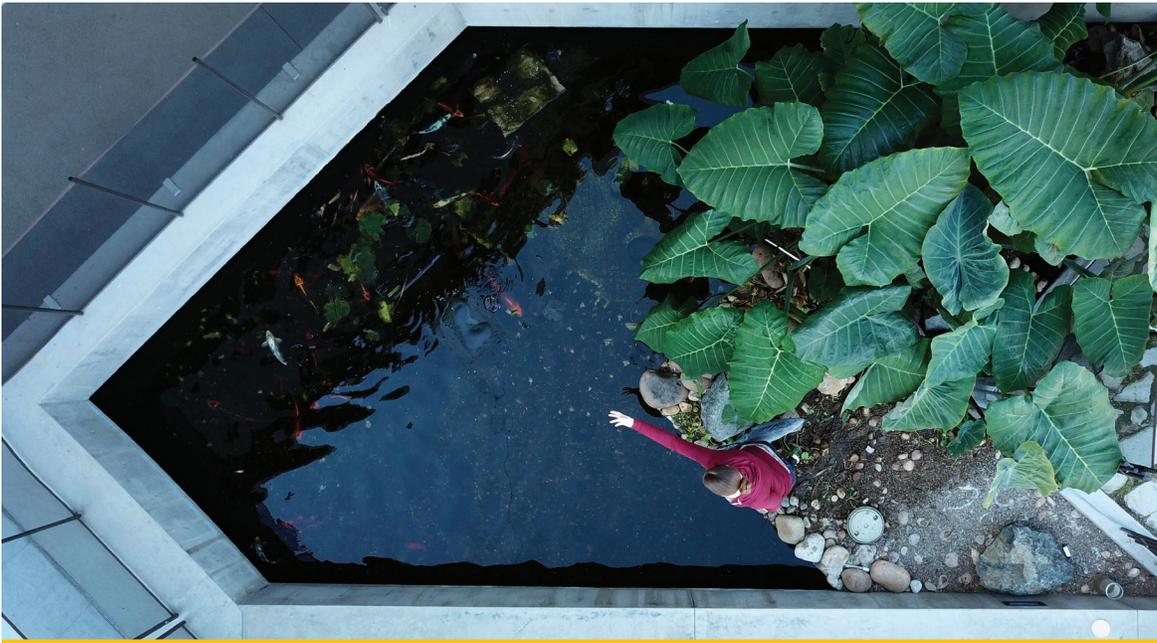
**MESA COLLEGE | Geo Garden at the Math and Science Complex**



**CITY COLLEGE | Spitz SciDomeHD Planetarium**



**MESA COLLEGE | Mesa Commons**



MIRAMAR COLLEGE | Biological Study Pond



SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE

# SEEDS@CITY — A GROWING PROGRAM



The Seeds@City urban farm is growing in more ways than one. From its humble beginnings as a community garden 11 years ago to now an integral part of the Sustainable Agricultural Program, the farm provides a unique, hands-on learning experience for students pursuing a career in agriculture.

“Seeds@City is a great way for students to get their hands dirty and learn what it takes to grow fresh and delicious produce,” said Erin McConnell, assistant professor for the Sustainable Agricultural Program.

Three farm spaces are located on the City College campus — the Main Farm Site between the R Building and Saville Theatre; the S-Beds, which include three raised garden beds near the S Building; and the Orchard Site behind the Harry West Gym.

The sites, totaling one acre of land, are homes to a diverse array of fruits and vegetables, including kale, collard greens, Swiss chard, broccoli,

cabbage, and sugar snap peas. Produce grown and harvested from the Seeds@City urban farm is sold to the campus community at a pop-up farm stand throughout the year.

The Sustainable Agriculture Program, which serves as an outdoor laboratory, offers 10 course topics ranging from vegetable production to soil science, two associate degrees (associate of science in agriculture plant sciences degree for transfer and associate of science in sustainable urban agriculture), and three certificates (Urban Farming Professional, Urban Gardening, and Urban Gardening for the Culinary Arts).

Recently, students have been able to use new facilities in the T Building, including a plant and soil science laboratory, and a kitchen laboratory and classroom space. A new and modern rooftop greenhouse was completed in November and will be fully operational soon. Follow Seeds@City on Facebook and Instagram.



# INNOVATION RESEARCH LAB SERVES AS A LAUNCHPAD FOR STUDENTS

The bold blue and gold script “Somos Mesa” on the wall of the Innovation Research Lab (IRL) at San Diego Mesa College, proudly announces to all students that they belong to a diverse community of innovators. Established in 2018 as a state-of-the-art research center, the IRL provides a unique and thriving space for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) students of all ages, genders, or social and cultural backgrounds. On any given day, the IRL is buzzing with activity — mainly students taking advantage of resources, peer mentors, and faculty guidance. Many of them are encountering this level of support for the first time.

Historically, enrollment data indicates that minority and female representation has been

lacking in STEM fields. This under recruiting takes root long before students embark on their career paths — as low-income families struggle to afford at-home computers and underfunded primary schools operate without proper facilities and support. By addressing the scarcity of resources and how they contribute to inequity in education, Mesa College can break down the barriers that prevent many minority and low-income students from accessing a STEM education.

Mesa College recognizes the importance of providing guidance to reverse achievement gaps in STEM, and employs a team of faculty liaisons in anthropology, biology, and geography who mentor students in research projects. These faculty members

play a supportive role in helping students develop exciting research ideas and encourage scholarship while supporting the center’s mission to provide educational access to Mesa’s diverse student population.

The IRL plays host to a number of events, workshops, and club meetings for students. Workshops have provided information to students relating to the application process for University of California, California State University, and private schools as a transfer student in STEM, as well as how to conduct a research project. Resources at the IRL also go to support student involvement in programs and events both on and off campus, including providing students with the opportunity to conduct research under the advisement of a faculty mentor

and allowing them to present their work at the annual Mesa College Research Conference.

The IRL also provides students access to touch-screen laptops, desktop computers, and printing services. Students can convene over free coffee and hot chocolate, and find community among students interested in STEM. Students benefit from having a welcoming space that reassures them that they have the aptitude to conduct their own research and nurture their scientific identity. Whether they decide to become STEM majors, all students at Mesa College are provided with a space that fosters engagement in scientific investigation with technological resources and faculty support. For more information, visit [sdmesa.edu/STEM](http://sdmesa.edu/STEM).

The Innovation Research Lab (IRL) was established in 2018 as a state-of-the-art research center for students studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines.





# FULL SPEED AHEAD AS DIESEL DUO TAKES ON NATIONAL COMPETITION

For diesel technology students Valentino Nevarez and Kevin Croan, the moment couldn't have been bigger. There they were, on a national stage, as the first Miramar College students ever to compete in the American Trucking Association (ATA) and Truck Maintenance Council (TMC) FutureTech competition.

"It was an awesome experience," Nevarez said. "I learned a lot and felt my program at Miramar College prepared me for this opportunity."

The opportunity came during the September 16-17 FutureTech competition at the Raleigh Convention Center in North Carolina. TMC hosts SuperTech, a nationwide heavy-duty trucking competition where dealers send their best technicians to compete. Several years ago, Futuretech was created for post-secondary students. Both Nevarez and Croan were selected as just two of five community college students

nationwide to compete.

"This is a wonderful accomplishment for our students," said Gene Choe, Professor of Diesel Technology at Miramar College. "Last spring I was approached by George Arrants with Automotive Service Excellence (ASE). He invited our program to submit applications for FedEx-sponsored positions in this FutureTech competition. The college submitted several applications and they selected two of our students to compete. What an accomplishment for our diesel program!"

During the competition, Nevarez and Croan tackled 16 competitive work stations, each lasting 23 minutes. "I felt like I did well," Croan said. "It was very exhausting at the end and I was pretty tired, but I am happy how I finished." Croan finished 18th out of 48 competitors while Nevarez took eighth place overall and even won the individual trailer lighting

station.

Both students, who are United States Marine Corps veterans, attended an August "boot camp" in Dallas, Texas, to train for the competition. Three officials from FedEx Freight, the company sponsoring Nevarez and Croan, along with Arrants, Field Manager medium/heavy trucks at ASE, were on campus during the fall semester to present Nevarez and Croan with certificates to commemorate their selections.

"This is a tremendous opportunity for students to show their skills on a national stage to industry leaders," Arrants said. "Every station is important to industry for entry level employees."



**KEVIN CROAN** served in the United States Marine Corps as an M1A1 battle tank operator. Croan has a bachelor's degree in math. He came to Miramar College to learn a trade and entered the diesel program over a year ago seeking his certificate of achievement. "What an honor to have two students from the same college when only five were chosen (from community colleges) nationwide. We now get to showcase our skills in front of potential employers," Croan said.

**VALENTINO NEVAREZ** served for eight years in the United States Marine Corps, where he was a diesel mechanic in Afghanistan. Nevarez is in his last semester of the diesel program, after which he will receive his associate degree. When asked about competing in front of hundreds of potential employers, he said: "I have been to Afghanistan where I saved lives by fixing blown-up trucks; I am not going to be intimidated by this competition."





# A NEW WAY OF TEACHING AND LEARNING: ONLINE AND FREE

Online classes have been widely available for decades but San Diego Continuing Education is pioneering a new and innovative way of learning by using an online approach that offers the flexibility of online education, without sacrificing the benefit of learning and interaction that happens among fellow students and faculty when they engage in traditional brick and mortar classrooms.

ICOM Academy (Interactive Competency-based Online Micro-credentialing Academy), which will launch in fall 2020, is a fully online educational program that will provide adult learners with fast, free, flexible job training, and career placement services. “Our digital platform could potentially house hundreds of online career options for adults, but plans for the initial launch will focus on small business entrepreneurship and information technology,” said Carlos O. Turner Cortez, President of Continuing Education. “These added flexible learning options will enhance career opportunities across the state.”



programs can be completed in as a little as five months. “ICOM Academy has been designed with adult learners in mind,” said Michelle Fischthal, Continuing Education’s Vice President of Instruction. “The relationship between students and faculty is critical in adult online instruction.”

ICOM Academy brings this critical piece of learning into the virtual classroom and allows for group projects to make the learning experience more dynamic and interactive for adult learners.

“Entrepreneurship is woven into the fabric of our institution,” President Turner Cortez said. “We were the first in the region to offer programs for small business, including certificate programs that connect to our maker lab spaces and support the gig economy. ICOM Academy is the most recent academic programming we’re building around entrepreneurship, which is a testament to who we are.”

Students not only learn from faculty, but they learn from each other.

“This platform allows students to interact on projects, whether it’s online live, or other interaction within the platform,” said Matthew Rivaldi, a faculty member in the ICOM Academy.

San Diego Continuing Education was named Heather Van Sickle Entrepreneurial College of the Year by the National Association for Community College Entrepreneurship. The prestigious honor was given in recognition of the institution’s groundbreaking innovation, strong commitment to social justice, and equity through entrepreneurship.

“Entrepreneurship is woven into the fabric of our institution.”

— President Carlos O. Turner Cortez

ICOM is free, fast, and synchronous and provides adult learners highly interactive career education with options in small business, entrepreneurship, and information technology. A microcredential indicates the student has demonstrated competencies in a specific skill. Industry-recognized, state-approved

# Living the Dream at Miramar College

**L**uis Manuel Garcia embodies the San Diego Community College District's commitment to accessing a high-quality higher education and receiving the support needed to succeed. A native of Acapulco, Mexico, Garcia, who goes by Manny, was brought across the border by his parents without proper documentation when he was just 6 months old. The DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) student — with help from the San Diego Promise program — enrolled at San Diego Miramar College in the fall after graduating from Madison High School with several dual enrollment college courses to his credit. Now 19, Garcia is thriving at Miramar's Fire Technology program with aspirations of becoming a firefighter before continuing his education and earning a Ph.D. WE spoke to Garcia about his experiences.

**Q What is the best thing about Miramar College?**

**A** The people. So far, so many of the people I have met at the college have been in a relatable situation that I have gone through; therefore we share something in common and can help each other out.

**Q How has the San Diego Promise impacted your life?**

**A** The San Diego Promise has impacted my life in a positive way because I come from a situation where I cannot receive a lot of monetary aid. At one point, I thought the best outcome for someone in my situation would be to just to finish high school and then find work, but with this program I was able to pursue my dreams and move forward to a brighter future.

**Q What is one of the things most people don't understand about being an undocumented immigrant?**

**A** How being undocumented impacts you in so many different ways. There are a lot of things that you can't do that your friends are doing, like working where you want. But one of the ways it helps you is it helps you learn how to persevere. It helps grow your character.

**Q What stands out about Miramar College's support of the undocumented community?**

**A** Miramar has a very supportive atmosphere when it comes to the undocumented immigrant community with a Dreamers office

where undocumented students can go to get so much help without having to feel embarrassed or alone.

**Q What are some of the misconceptions people have about Dreamers and immigrants who came to the United States without proper documentation?**

**A** Probably the biggest misconception is that all immigrants are Mexican; this is not true. The majority of immigrants here come from different countries from various places.

**Q Where is your favorite Miramar College spot to hang out and relax?**

**A** My favorite place to sit down and relax would be in the Dreamers office or at the library because of the peaceful feeling it provides.

**Q What advice would you give to younger students thinking about going to Miramar, Mesa, or City college?**

**A** Go ahead and do it, get the best out of it, and pursue your dreams.





# UP TO TWO YEARS OF FREE TUITION

**THE SAN DIEGO PROMISE** is a two-year completion program designed to ensure students complete their educational goal whether it be to earn a certificate of completion and enter the workforce, complete an associate degree, or transfer to a university.

## BENEFITS

- Up to two years of free tuition and health fees
- Book grants for eligible students
- Access to Peer Mentor/Success Coach
- Individualized counseling and guidance support to help you complete your educational goals

## ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a first-time college student
- Must be a Class of 2020 high school graduate (H.S. Diploma or GED)
- Must be a California resident or AB 540 eligible
- Must enroll in and maintain a minimum of 12 units each semester\*
- Must maintain a 2.0 college GPA

\*Does not apply to DSPS students with eligible academic accommodation

## APPLY

- Complete a Fall 2020 application for admissions at City, Mesa, or Miramar College
- Complete a 2020-2021 FAFSA or Dream Act application
- Complete a Promise application
- Attend an on-campus Promise orientation during the summer

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE SAN DIEGO PROMISE PROGRAM VISIT:**

[sdccd.edu/promise/getstarted](https://sdccd.edu/promise/getstarted)

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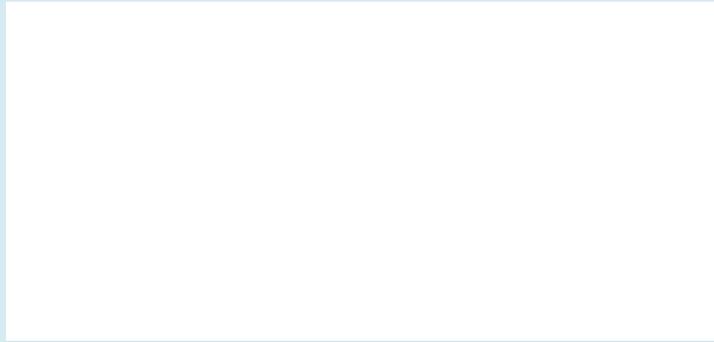
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## 9th Annual Conference



# “Acts of Civility” featuring Cindy McCain

Joan Kroc Institute For Peace and Justice | University of San Diego  
8 a.m. to noon | Wednesday, April 8

To register for the event, go to [bit.ly/38nminp](http://bit.ly/38nminp)



The San Diego  
**Union-Tribune**



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