During the 2021-22 academic year, the San Diego Community College District welcomed students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators back to its campuses. In my first year as chancellor, I am beyond proud of the resiliency shown throughout the District during the COVID-19 pandemic and a return to in-person instruction in order to uphold our mission of improving the lives of our students.

Leadership and Innovation
At San Diego Mesa College, Professor Emeritus Starla Lewis has taught thousands of students in her nearly half-century career in education, and she still finds new ways to make her classes fun and innovative. And, alongside long-tenured careers such as hers, a new era of leadership was ushered into the District, including the installation of two new presidents, Ashanti Hands, Ed.D., at San Diego Mesa College, and Tina M. King, Ed.D., at San Diego City College of Continuing Education. At the District Office, Joel L.A. Peterson, Ph.D., a higher education leader and former business executive, was named vice chancellor of Facilities Management of one of the largest community college districts in California.

Student Success
The nation and Mexico were abuzz when San Diego City College alumna Katya Echazarreta became the first Mexican-born and the youngest American woman in space when she took to the sky aboard Blue Origin’s New Shepard rocket over the summer. Echazarreta, an electrical engineer, attributes much of her success to the college’s innovative MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Program.

Community Engagement
Thanks to continued success from donors like philanthropist Roger Frey, the San Diego Promise exceeded $2 million in cumulative monies raised since the program’s inception in 2016. Frey is just one of the many community partners who support the District in its various endeavors to bolster student success. Community participation was also a key driver in a six-month-long project to develop a new districtwide strategic plan to shape the District’s future mission, vision, and direction.

Workforce Development
District career education programs specifically have a whopping $1.6 billion annual impact on the regional economy and support more than 19,000 jobs – just one aspect of the SDCCD’s greater $4.3 billion overall impact on the region. One such example of a successful career education program is College of Continuing Education’s free Apprenticeship Readiness Program, which is placing students into trade union apprenticeships at a 97% success rate. Additionally, led by Executive Director and Professor Tanya Hertz – who was nominated last year for a San Diego Startup Champion of the Year award – San Diego Miramar College’s Regional Entrepreneurship Center (REC) Innovation Lab helps student entrepreneurs launch diverse startup companies.

As chancellor of the SDCCD, I am proud to present the 2021-22 Annual Report to the community.

CARLOS O. CORTEZ, PH.D.
CHANCELLOR

2021-2022 Annual Report to the Community
It was a year of transitions and significant progress for the San Diego Community College District’s five-member governing board.

Elections

Elections were scheduled in trustee districts A, C, and E this year for three incumbents, Trustees Maria Nieto Senour, Ph.D., Craig Milgrim, and Geysil Arroyo. After none of the three races drew challengers, the election was cancelled, saving the District approximately $320,000. Each incumbent will serve an additional four-year term with their colleagues Bernie Rhinerson (District B) and Mary Graham (District D), who will be up for re-election in 2024.

Earlier in the year, the Board voted to make the 2022 election cycle the first to be done using “by-trustee area” elections. Previously, trustee candidates would first run in trustee area-only primary elections with the top two vote-getters in each district then running in a citywide general election. Going forward, only voters in each trustee area will participate in both the primary and general elections. Also this year, the Board completed a redistricting process that includes revisions to the trustee area boundaries and an adjusted trustee area map.

Naming New Leadership

Continuing the theme of transitions and progress, in July 2021 the Board welcomed Carlos O. Cortez, Ph.D., as he began his new role as chancellor. In spring 2022, the Board selected Tina M. King, Ed.D., as president of College of Continuing Education and Ashanti Hands, Ed.D., as president of Mesa College, both of whom began their new roles on July 1, 2022.

Strategic Plan

With a new chancellor in place, the Board participated in a districtwide strategic planning process to guide the future of the colleges and the District through 2030. The process included dozens of meetings, online presentations, and input from roughly 10,000 employees, students, and community members.

Reopening Amid COVID-19

During 2021-22, the Board set policy that helped the District in fully reopening each of its 10 campuses across San Diego after they were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of these efforts, the Board approved more than $33 million in funding and other support for students. A highlight of the year for Board members was participating in the colleges’ commencement ceremonies, the first to be held in person since 2019.

In spite of challenges caused by the pandemic, the Board continued to be active in the community and advocate with policymakers in both Sacramento and Washington, D.C. These efforts helped the District to have a record year for new contracts and grants, which exceeded $57 million during 2021-22. In addition, advocacy efforts played a key role in the passage of Assembly Bill 927, which made permanent California’s baccalaureate pilot program and opened the door to as many as 30 new bachelor’s degree programs each year at California’s 116 community colleges.
Leadership and Innovation

San Diego Mesa College Professor Emeritus Starla Lewis never set out to become a teacher. Her epiphany arrived after graduating from high school and enrolling in a Black Studies class at Pasadena City College in 1968.

“I said to myself, ‘I’ve been in school for 12 years and I had never heard any of this before. Why had I never learned that?’ I realized that was the information I had needed to know, love myself, and see myself as others. That’s when I decided to pursue a career in education.”

Lewis not only became a teacher, but she also became a transformational figure whose leadership and innovation, combined with her commitment and love for her students, has impacted thousands of lives for nearly three generations.

In her own words, Lewis is a woman on a mission. A professor emerita at Mesa College, whose full career in education spans a half-century, she is also a transformational speaker and life coach who has developed lectures and facilitated seminars in the areas of diversity, life mastery, and women’s empowerment, both nationally and internationally. She is the founder and chief executive officer of C.E.L.L. (Celebration of Everlasting Life & Love) consulting.

Lewis not only became a teacher, but she also became a transformational leader whose leadership and innovation, combined with her commitment and love for her students, has impacted thousands of lives for nearly three generations.

Lewis’s secret? “Learning should be fun,” she said. “And in many innovative, and fun. I want to connect my lessons with a person’s passion. If you like baseball, a project in a Black Studies course could include a report on the Negro Leagues, or how Puerto Rican baseball academies develop players of African descent. I encourage students to use their gifts and talents by becoming independent learners and analytical thinkers. My students say, I teach them how to see themselves, love themselves, and use love to address life issues.”

Leadership and innovation permeate the San Diego Community College District, and the 2021-2022 academic year ushered in a new era of leadership in the District. Some examples:

- On July 1, 2021, following a national search, Carlos O. Cortez, Ph.D., took over as chancellor at the SDCCD. Cortez succeeded former Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D., who served in the position for 17 years. Just nine months later, as he set his vision in motion for the District’s future success, the American Council on Education recognized Cortez with the 2022 Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award. He also oversees the reopening of SDCCD campuses and is working to restore enrollment lost during the pandemic.
- Ashanti Hard, Ed.D., was named president of Mesa College to take the largest college in the SDCCD to the next level of community engagement and success. Mesa College, a Hispanic Serving Institution and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution, offers nearly 200 associate degree and certificate programs and was among the first community colleges in California to offer a baccalaureate degree.
- Equity-focused educational leader Tim M. King, Ed.D., was hired as president of San Diego College of Continuing Education to provide her brand of energetic and strategic leadership to help the college as it continues to redefine noncredit education and expand opportunities to even more San Diegans. College of Continuing Education serves approximately 30,000 students with free workforce training certificate programs, English as a Second Language (ESL), Citizenship, and High School Diploma/Equivalency classes.
- Higher education leader and former business executive Joel L.A. Peterson, Ph.D., was named SDCCD’s chancellor of Facilities Management, a post responsible for overseeing facilities, construction, and policing at one of the largest community college districts in California.
- A $975,000 federal grant was awarded to the SDCCD to help fund a zero-cost Project Funding grant came through the support of U.S. Rep. Scott Peters, who sought the funds.
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EMERITUS

STARLA LEWIS
MESAS COLLEGE
PROFESSOR EMERITUS

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Learning should be fun, and in many ways, we’ve taken the fun out of it. I try to make my classes interesting, innovative, and fun. I want to connect my lessons with a person’s passion.”
As a leader in social justice, equity, and academic excellence, San Diego City College has been intentional in its efforts to provide education and certificate programs, as well as access to student support services and basic needs.

A look at high points from the past year include:

• The campus celebrated the 50th anniversary of Chicano/a Studies and held its inaugural Chicano Latino Graduation within the A Building Patios.
• Four mural projects have been completed, adding to the richness, diversity, and culture of the campus: Chicano/a mural in City Commons, Kameyay mural and Avian mural in the Arts and Humanities (AH) parking structure; and the Social Justice mural between the AH Building and Sardis Theatre.
• The campus hosted several events to build connections and engagement with students, employees, and the community: Welcome Back Week, Open House and Student Research Symposium, City Lights the Way inaugural alumni mixer, and Coffee Hour sessions in the Science Building.
• Basic needs and mental health services continue to be a priority. Since December 2020, the college’s Hunger Action Days food distributions have provided free, fresh, and nutritious food to nearly 1,850 households and feeding more than 11,480 people.

unceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation was established with intentional efforts to take it even further by hiring a Native American Studies professor and forging the education-related link of Native American students.
• The college received $344,000 to support planning efforts on the feasibility to construct and offer affordable student housing on campus.
• The college held the first Lavender Graduation for LGBTQIA+ students and opened the Pride Hub.
• The Presidential Scholarship for continuing students was launched, with a total of $50,000 awarded — $2,500 and a MacBook laptop to 10 students.
• More than $7.32 million in grants was awarded in 2021-22.
• City College had four semifinalists for the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, with one being named a winner, Janice Marie Gilgeous.
• East Village Middle College High School and concurrent enrollment student Lucia Carolino-Martinez earned her high school diploma and three associate degrees.
• The Adopt-a-School program for elementary and middle school students so they can complete their education, mentorship, and career exploration from a specialized perspective.

Since December 2020, the college’s Hunger Action Days food distributions have provided free, fresh, and nutritious food to nearly 1,850 households, feeding more than 11,000 people. The Kameyay Table, located in the T Building, is City College’s food pantry. The campus installed water bottle filling stations and solar charging stations around campus. The Student Health Center provided mental health workshops and support for students and employees throughout the year.

A land acknowledgment that the college was built on the unceded territory of the Kumeyaay Nation was established with intentional efforts to take it even further by hiring a Native American Studies professor and forging the education-related link of Native American students.

The following are highlights from the year:

• Mesa College was named a 2021 Equity Champion of Higher Education by the Campaign for College Opportunity for awarding Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADT) to Black and Latinx students, as a result of the college’s intentional actions to ensure that Black and Latinx students who have transfer goals earn an ADT.
• Mesa College has been included in the second cohort of higher education institutions participating in the Generation Hope FamilyU technical assistance program.
• The college held the first Lavender Graduation for LGBTQIA+ students and opened the Pride Hub.
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• The Adopt-a-School program for elementary and middle school students so they can complete their education, mentorship, and career exploration from a specialized perspective.
The following are among the college’s accomplishments and highlights:

- SDCCE appointed new executive director, Tina A. King, Ed.D., who was selected as SDCCE president in March. Dr. King is SDCCE’s first female, Latino president. Additionally, Shakerra Carter, Ed.D., was selected in January to serve as the vice president of Student Services.

- SDCCE was able to appoint a student to serve on the SDCCE Board of Trustees, which historically has not had student representation from the noncredit programs. The student was selected to serve as the SDCCE student trustee representative for the 2022–23 academic year in a special election where all ASB presidents from the seven SDCCE campuses competed for the position. She now represents the 30,000 students enrolled at SDCCE.

- During National Brain Injury Month held in March, students and faculty from SDCCE’s Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Programs worked together to raise funds and awareness for the San Diego Brain Injury Foundation’s 15th annual fundraiser, HEADSTRONG — Walk for Recovery. SDCCE ABI programs have been a top fundraiser for the foundation, helping to raise more than $280,000 since 2008.

- SDCCE welcomed the community for Exploration Days, an inaugural open house series for prospective students and families. Attending experienced SDCCE through events at the college’s seven campuses of learning labs and makerpaces, interactive demonstrations, and a meet-and-greet with faculty and staff.

- The Clothing and Textiles department at SDCCE hosted the college’s first ever Cut and Sew Industry Summit. The two-day event in June was designed for industry professionals and prospective students interested in clothing and textiles. Project Runway Designer Korto Momolu was the guest lecturer, and student designers displayed their original designs in an online fashion show at West City Campus in Point Loma.

- A special breakfast to thank industry partners was held at North City Campus in May. SDCCE, one of the state’s largest providers of post-secondary workforce training, honored local corporations like the San Diego Airport Authority, Jacobs Center for Neighborhood Innovation, and corporations like the San Diego Padres — including members who served on SDCCE’s career technical advisory boards, which inform curriculums based on industry trends — were in attendance.

- The return of in-person ceremonies was a huge win for SDCCE adult education students, who are among the most vulnerable populations. SDCCE recognized the accomplishments of more than 150 career- and college-bound students at the college’s first ever Cut and Sew Industry Summit. The two-day event in June was designed for industry professionals and prospective students interested in clothing and textiles. Project Runway Designer Korto Momolu was the guest lecturer, and student designers displayed their original designs in an online fashion show at West City Campus in Point Loma.

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While Katya Echazarreta was using her classes at Eastlake High School in Chula Vista, she had her sights set on the likes of UCLA, UC Berkeley, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to pursue her goal of studying electrical engineering. "That life happened — her parents split up, and the money to fund her education was no longer available. That's when she learned about San Diego City College and made what she calls "the best decision of my life."

"Everything I've accomplished is a direct result of City College and the San Diego Community College District," said the native of Guadalajara, who moved with her family to Chula Vista when she was 7. "I would not be here today if it were not for the education and support I received at that campus."

Her accomplishments are the stuff of dreams. Recipient of the prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Foundation's Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship, Research opportunities at Rutgers University in New Jersey; Master's degree in electrical engineering at Johns Hopkins University; Engineering at NicheJet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. And, most recently, the first Mexican-born woman and the youngest American woman in space when she was selected for a June 4 jaunt aboard Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket — her journey hailed by Space for Humanity, a nonprofit with a program called the Citizen Astronaut Foundation. Her long-term goals include establishing a foundation in Mexico to create opportunities in space for residents of her homeland. Echazarreta is hardly an outlier. "So many of my classmates from City came from a range of backgrounds and are all succeeding in whatever field they pursue," she said. "Some are working at NASA. Several earned scholarships to Georgia Tech, UCLA, Berkeley, you name it. They really care about you and they provide you with the resources that if you put in the work, will take you where you want to go."

For Echazarreta, those resources included First Year Services, a year-long program focused on encouraging first-year students toward academic achievement, social integration, and personal success via a strong support network of peers, professional staff, and caring faculty; a crop of dedicated counselors; Peer Mentor Services, and, above all else, the San Diego City College MESA Program, an acronym for Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement.

"The MESA Program helps you figure out what your gaps are, gets you to address them, and then works with you to help others employ the same improved learning techniques," Echazarreta said. "Most important, the MESA Program made me realize I couldn’t just mail it in. You have to apply yourself."

Expanding Success

• San Diego City and San Diego Mesa colleges were among 33 California Hispanic-Serving Institutions that received a $5 million U.S. Department of Education HSI grant this fall.

• San Diego Mesa and San Diego Miramar colleges were named in 2021 Equity Champions of Higher Education by The Campaign for College Opportunity based on the number of Associate Degrees for Transfer awarded to Black and Latina students. The achievement is indicative of the equity work in which the colleges engage daily.

• The SDCCD’s success with the San Diego Promise program, which provides full-time students tuition-free education, is leading to even greater contributions from donors eager to support student success. More than 4,800 students enrolled in the San Diego Promise in fall 2021 and more than $2 million in philanthropic gifts have been received since the San Diego Promise was established in 2016.

• San Diego Gas & Electric donated $10,000 for the San Diego City College program, which provides academic, social, and emotional support to facilitate formerly incarcerated students’ successful transition to college.

• The Immigrant-based Support Program (ISP) at San Diego City College of Continuing Education, paired with free English as a second language citizenship and high school diploma/espanol courses, is helping immigrants and refugees increase their earnings and apply for college. In fall 2021, with the support of the San Diego Promise, 24 immigrant students, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Dreamers, made the transition from SDCCD to the District’s credit colleges.

A Roadmap for a Bright Future

While experiencing weightlessness during her flight aboard the New Shepard rocket, City College alumnus Katya Echazarreta donned a sticker from Space for Humanity, which selected her as the organization’s first citizen astronaut ambassador.
Among the Highlights this Past Year

- The SDCCD awarded 14,278 degrees and certificates to students attending San Diego City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges and San Diego College of Continuing Education. Twenty percent of the awards conferred were associate and bachelor degrees and 80% were certificates or College of Continuing Education high school diplomas.
- The credit colleges of SDCCD (City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges) awarded 3,955 associate degrees.
- SDCCD offered 8,407 career technical certificates, while the credit colleges awarded 1,060 career technical certificates, a 13% increase from last year, and a 19% increase from two years ago.
- In 2021-22, 491 Promise students (from all cohorts) earned a total of 660 associate degrees.
- SDCCE awarded 9,403 career technical certificates, while the credit colleges (City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges) awarded 3,595 diplomas.
- Among the Highlights this Past Year—
- SDCCD served 4,292 high school students in the Career Access Pathways (CCAP) program. Enrollment in the CCAP program—taught tuition-free during the regular school day—continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as 2021-22 was the second year that saw a decrease in students served by the program (CCAP 2019-20 to 2021-22).
- The SDCCD served 4,636 high school students in the CCAP program taught tuition-free during the regular school day.
- The SDCCD served 4,292 high school students enrolled in college coursework through 2021-22—3,541 of whom participated in a College and Career Pathways (CCAP) course. Enrollment in the CCAP programs—taught tuition-free during the regular school day—continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, as 2021-22 was the second year that saw a decrease in students served by the program (CCAP 2019-20 to 2021-22).
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- SDCCD offers two dual enrollment options for high school students. College and Career Pathways (CCAP) is offered to students at SDUSD high schools with classes taught tuition-free during the regular school day. The SDCCD offers its own dual enrollment, optional, dual enrollment credit/college courses. Nineteen percent of high school students were enrolled in dual enrollment courses offered by San Diego City, Mesa, or Miramar colleges outside of the high school day.
- Student success and degree completion continue to be at the top of the San Diego Community College District’s list of priorities—never more so than through the continued COVID-19 pandemic. More than 10,500 career technical certificates were awarded, helping better the local workforce with more skilled employees.
- Student success by degrees better the local workforce with more skilled employees. More than 10,500 career technical certificates were awarded, helping.
Community Engagement

From neighborhood organizations to local business leaders, the San Diego Community College District has grown in success by building relationships with the community it serves. San Diego philanthropist Roger Frey is Exhibit A.

“More than half the college students in our region attend a community college, yet those students receive only a fraction of the private financial aid that students in public universities are granted,” Frey said. “As a consequence, I decided to devote my charitable giving to help fund the San Diego Promise program, which provides scholarships and critical wraparound support to help students navigate their educational journey.”

A former vice president of JP Morgan Chase and head of the Energy Lending Group at Fuji Bank of Japan, the Hillcrest resident has contributed more than $400,000 to the San Diego Promise since its launch in 2016. Frey, who grew up in Greater Detroit, earned his bachelor’s degree from Dartmouth College in New Hampshire and his MBA from the University of Chicago. He moved to San Diego after retiring in 2000 and has since volunteered at several nonprofits. For 15 years, he delivered meals for Mama’s Kitchen for a life-threatening disease. He also helped package meals at Mama’s Kitchen for a decade, and he currently volunteers at the Uptown Community Service Center that provides services to San Diego’s unhoused.

Frey’s work with the SDCCD began with the San Diego Promise. “I’m involved with the Promise program because I have seen the benefit higher education has brought to my life and I’m concerned about the amount of debt that so many students today often need to incur,” Frey is among the hundreds of supporters who make the SDCCD among the leading community college districts in the state, if not the nation.

“I am impressed how much the San Diego Community College District has partnered with local businesses to develop programs to teach students the skills they will need for a successful career,” he said. “The advisory and financial support from our business leaders is an important component for the success of the Promise program.

“It is surprising how few San Diegans realize how vital our community colleges are,” Frey says. “They train most of the nurses and healthcare providers, the first responders, the skilled workers, and the teachers who form the backbone of San Diego’s human infrastructure.”

From Mountain View to Miramar, the SDCCD continues to succeed at expanding connections to the community. Examples include:

• Thanks to immense community support, the Educational Cultural Complex Theatre at the College of Continuing Education’s campus in Mountain View received a $35 million grant to modernize an epicenter of arts and culture. The District also is working with the community to build a Civil Rights Museum honoring the historic role the college and the theater has played in the Civil Rights movement.

• The SDCCD worked closely with the San Diego Food Bank and California Coast Credit Union to ensure that students receive only a fraction of the private financial aid that students in public universities are granted. “I am impressed how much the San Diego Community College District has partnered with local businesses to develop programs to teach students the skills they will need for a successful career,” he said. “The advisory and financial support from our business leaders is an important component for the success of the Promise program.”

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“In the future, I hope our community colleges can plan and design new educational models that can provide the promise of a meaningful career or higher education for thousands of underserved students.”

ROGER FREY
PHILANTHROPIST & SAN DIEGO Promise DONOR

It is surprising how few San Diegans realize how vital our community colleges are.”

SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
The San Diego Promise program eclipsed $2 million in cumulative funds raised during 2021-22. The milestone was achieved with the help of a fundraising campaign that culminated with a September 18, 2021, gala titled A Tribute to Chancellor Enett on March 21, 2022, involving Philanthropies.

Promising results for Promise students were in enrolled in the program, with $186,861 students in cumulative, 3%: (6th cohort) having graduated, 18%: (6th cohort) having graduated. The milestone was achieved with the help of a fundraising campaign that culminated with a September 18, 2021, gala titled A Tribute to Chancellor Enett on March 21, 2022, involving Philanthropies.

Increased donor support bolsters Promise Development Committee members serve as liaisons to leadership and staff regarding fundraising and prioritization efforts. This committee advises District leaders and staff regarding fundraising priorities, and assists the District in identifying key prospects. The San Diego Promise Development Committee was formed in 2018 to support District efforts in support of the San Diego Promise. Members of the Trustee Advisory Council (TAC) assist in improving relationships 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.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The District’s capital improvement program is overseen by an independent Citizens’ Oversight Committee (COC), whose members represent various organizations, community groups, and students. These community leaders are appointed by the SDCCD Board of Trustees and are charged with monitoring the $2.55 billion in voter-approved bond measure.

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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.
Career education programs at the San Diego Community College District are, according to a recent analysis, impacting the regional economy to the tune of $1.6 billion annually and support more than 19,000 jobs. Samantha Marasigan embodies why. Marasigan, a 39-year-old resident of Chula Vista, has earned four automotive certificates and three welding certificates cost-free from San Diego College of Continuing Education and is now planning to transfer to San Diego Miramar College for an associate degree from its Automotive Technology program before embarking on her new career in vehicle repair and maintenance.

“I came in not knowing anything about cars, but the instructors were awesome and really care about you,” Marasigan said. “I was able to play around with tools and learn the correct way to use them. I was never treated like a second-class citizen because I’m female. Instructors went out of their way to help; they responded to emails right away if you had a question. It was just first class all the way.”

Marasigan found College of Continuing Education through happenstance. After working in the medical field for more than a decade, including stints as a certified nursing assistant and as a chiropractor’s aide, Marasigan began looking for something more fulfilling.

“I was going from one job to another job, not sure of what I wanted to do,” she said. “I was just tired of doing what I was doing and wanted to see what else was out there. I went online and started Googling ‘free schools’ and found out about the Continuing Education program in San Diego. I didn’t even know it was there, but it looked intriguing.”

The rest, as they say, is history.

Tens of thousands of students like Marasigan come to the SDCCD to boost their workforce skills. And for good reason:

• An Apprenticeship Readiness Program at San Diego College of Continuing Education is placing students into trade union apprenticeships at a whopping 97% success rate. The free program runs for 12 weeks, and prepares students to apply to a registered apprenticeship program in construction trade unions. Each class takes up to 30 students, and several graduates went on to work building San Diego State University’s new Snapdragon Stadium in Mission Valley, among other large-scale projects around the area.

• The Regional Entrepreneurship Center (REC) Innovation Lab at Miramar College is helping entrepreneurs launch dozens of diverse early startups by providing them the tools to navigate their journey successfully. Executive Director and Professor Tammy Hertz, who was nominated for a San Diego Startup Champion of the Year award, leads a team that helps students with access to high-end resources given through professional mentorship, product development, investor pitch competitions, and more.

• The new SDCCD Emergency Vehicle Operations Center—a $32.4 million, 40-acre facility in Otay Mesa partially funded by Proposition N—provides intensive driver training for current and future first responders. The center comprises areas to practice quickly and safely responding to emergency calls, simulating driving and parking in a city block environment, and for practicing quick lane changes, controlled braking, evasive maneuvering, and driving in reverse.
San Diego Community College District, the region’s largest institution of higher education, had a $4.3 billion impact on the local economy, according to a recent study conducted by the Idaho-based Lightcast. That translates to a combined spending equal to 3.6% of the county’s gross regional product and 36.5% jobs supported.

The SDCCD employs 4,485 full- and part-time faculty and classified professionals who spend much of their combined earnings of $206 million in the region.

All of the District’s colleges – San Diego City, Mesa, Miramar, and Continuing Education – continue to strengthen their business relationships with strategic partners and grants. The District works closely with the Corporate Council, which includes relationships with each local community as BAE Systems, Manpower, Northrop Grumman, and SDG&E.

“we know that our career education programs benefit our students,” said Carlos O. Cortez, chancellor of the SDCCD. This study demonstrates that they also provide an economic benefit to the region. Alumni play a key role in contributions to the local economy. Hundreds of thousands of former students currently are classified professionals who spend much of their combined earnings of $206 million in the region.

Alumni also benefit taxpayers by generating savings via lower healthcare costs, a lower strain on the justice system, and a reduced need for social services. Additionally, the report found that the present value of the benefits associated with an SDCCD education will amount to an additional $11.2 million in savings to state and local taxpayers.

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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, sdccce.edu

CE AT MESA COLLEGE
7350 Armstrong Place
San Diego, CA 92111-4998
(619) 388-1950

CE AT MIRAMAR COLLEGE
10440 Black Mountain Road
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1901 Main Street
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MID-CITY CAMPUS
3792 Fairmount Avenue
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NORTH CITY CAMPUS
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WEST CITY CAMPUS
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