

WPA



City College
Mesa College
Miramar College
College of Continuing Education

DIVING INTO RESEARCH

Story on page 16



A VISION FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The San Diego Community College District takes pride in its mission of serving the San Diego region and providing accessible, high-quality learning experiences. However, as major local institutions, the SDCCD and its colleges are concerned about more than just education. With this in mind, the SDCCD currently is engaged in developing an affordable housing strategy that addresses both its own needs and those of the region.




A rendering shows what a possible multi-story student residence hall at City College could look like.

Planners estimate that 99,000 affordable homes will be needed in the San Diego region now through 2029. Most affected are individuals at the lowest income levels, including many local college students who must juggle the cost of attending college with rising housing costs. In fact, according to a recent survey by The Hope Center, 59% of SDCCD students experienced housing instability in 2020. The same survey also found that 18% of SDCCD students experienced homelessness that same year. Rising housing costs around San Diego also strain the District's ability to attract and retain talented employees, which itself creates challenges for us in serving our students. A District-led affordable housing strategy will benefit students, employees, and the community in multiple

ways. It will address the basic needs of those who are struggling with rising costs. On-campus, affordable housing will enhance regional sustainability as it reduces travel times and the number of cars on the road. Notably, housing stability will improve educational outcomes, and it would remove what is a significant barrier to higher education for many. While the SDCCD does not have significant funding to build new housing, what it does have is available land. It also has the ability to bring together important local partners, including developers, housing advocates, and local and state government agencies — all with similar goals around affordable housing. These partnerships already are paying off. The state recently awarded City College a \$344,000 planning grant to conduct a feasibility analysis for student housing. The college has plans for a \$130 million, 13-story, 613-bed student residence hall on its East Village campus in downtown San Diego.

The SDCCD is partnering with other regional college districts to provide housing for the region's foster youth population and is seeking state funding to build an approximately 350-bed youth housing complex at the Educational Cultural Complex (ECC) in Mountain View. The District is also working with Assemblymember Chris Ward, who recently introduced Assembly Bill 1719. The bill would extend tax incentives to spur the development of affordable housing for employees of the state's 116 community colleges. The next steps include undertaking a detailed review of each college's campus master plan. In consultation with governance leaders at each college, the SDCCD will look closely at different sites and prioritize potential projects. Long-term, the District may consider asking voters to support additional affordable housing through a bond construction campaign. Achieving success will require bringing together many people to make this vision a reality. It is an important opportunity to achieve greater academic success for students, to attract and retain high-quality employees, and to address longstanding inequities. Sincerely,


Carlos O. Cortez, Ph.D.

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City College history Professor Susan Hasegawa co-organized the exhibition "Call to Serve: Clara E. Breed & The Japanese American Incarceration," held at the San Diego Public Library. Photo courtesy of Stacey Keck

CITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR BRINGS JAPANESE AMERICAN STORIES TO THE FOREFRONT

San Diego City College history Professor Susan Hasegawa has an important story to share. Born and raised in Hawaii, Hasegawa, a Japanese-Filipino American, is bringing awareness to the history of Japanese Americans in San Diego. Her educational career began at Colorado College, where she earned her bachelor's degree; she then moved to San Diego in 1989 for graduate school.

Hasegawa's passion for education continued as she earned her first master's degree from the University of California San Diego and her second from San Diego State University. Now, Hasegawa teaches U.S. history and Asian American history to community college students — a career that has urged Hasegawa to say, "This is where I want to be."

Among Hasegawa's accomplishments, she wrote the book, "Japanese American in San Diego," a publication that "came

together beautifully" in 2008. She also hosted a lecture at the San Diego Public Library in 2021 highlighting the deep history of Japanese Americans in San Diego from 150 years ago to now. The lecture was in conjunction with an exhibit she co-curated, "Call to Serve: Clara E. Breed & the Japanese American Incarceration," which featured librarian and Japanese American advocate Clara E. Breed.

Hasegawa spoke to *With Excellence* (WE) magazine about her influential moments, the impact of her teaching, and her hope for the future generations of Japanese Americans.

What influenced you to dedicate your career to educating the community on Japanese Americans?

"There were a number of incidents that piqued my interest in Japanese American history. In high school I read 'Farewell to Manzanar'

and at Colorado College a friend and I researched and created public programs to increase awareness of redress, the movement to get a formal U.S. government apology and monetary reparations for persons of Japanese ancestry imprisoned in American concentration camps during World War II."

What impact do you hope your work will have on the San Diego community?

"Although my ongoing research is focused on Japanese American history, I'm also Filipino American, so I have a strong interest in Asian American and Pacific Islander history. With the COVID pandemic we saw a huge rise in anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents. People who look like me are scapegoated for all the problems of society and are told to 'go back to where you came.' I believe Asian American and Pacific Islander history is

an integral part of the San Diego story. We are home, and we are San Diego history."

How do you hope the future generation of Japanese Americans will honor their ancestry?

"I know the next generation of Japanese Americans are already honoring and working to preserve the stories of their parents and grandparents. I have participated in student-organized Day of Remembrance programs for several years. Day of Remembrance is when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, authorizing the U.S. Army to forcibly remove all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast and southern border of Arizona. It's great to see students at the forefront of educating their peers."

COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION NAMES NEW PRESIDENT

San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) has a new president: Tina King, Ed.D., an equity-focused educational leader with experience working with diverse student populations in multiple sectors of education.

King's selection follows a national search for a permanent president for Continuing Education, where Kay Faulconer Boger, Ed.D., has served as interim president since July 2021. King will assume leadership of SDCCE, which serves 30,000 students per semester at seven campuses and many community locations, on July 1.

"Dr. King brings a wonderful combination of experience and enthusiasm that make her an excellent choice as Continuing Education's permanent president," said San Diego Community College District Chancellor Carlos O. Cortez, who served as SDCCE president from

2015 until 2021, when he was hired as the district's chancellor. "The Board of Trustees and I were impressed by her vision for growth and deep commitment to serving students."

King comes to SDCCE from Southwestern College in Chula Vista, where she has served as assistant superintendent/vice president of Student Affairs since 2019. She has received many awards and recognitions throughout her career as a community college educational leader, including the prestigious ASPEN Rising President Fellowship in 2021.

"I look forward to working with Chancellor Cortez, the team of dedicated educators and student leaders at SDCCE, and my counterparts and colleagues in the district in delivering educational experiences and career opportunities that are innovative, inclusive, and meet the diverse needs of all San Diegans," King said.



“Dr. King brings a wonderful combination of experience and enthusiasm that make her an excellent choice as Continuing Education's permanent president.”

— Chancellor Carlos O. Cortez



Former Mesa College student Harley Sobreo while on a study abroad trip to Costa Rica.

CITY AND MESA COLLEGES EARN RECOGNITION AS TOP STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

San Diego City and San Diego Mesa colleges were recognized in October by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs for having produced the most Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program recipients over the past 20 years among those colleges awarding associate degrees.

Fifty-three students from City College and 30 students from Mesa College have received Gilman awards since 2001, placing them among the Top 20 nationally for community colleges.

Throughout its 20-year history, the Department of State's Gilman Program has reshaped study abroad

to make it more accessible and inclusive for American students by providing scholarships to outstanding U.S. undergraduate students who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate. Since the program's inception in 2001, more than 34,000 Gilman Scholars from all U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and other U.S. territories have studied or interned in more than 155 countries around the globe.

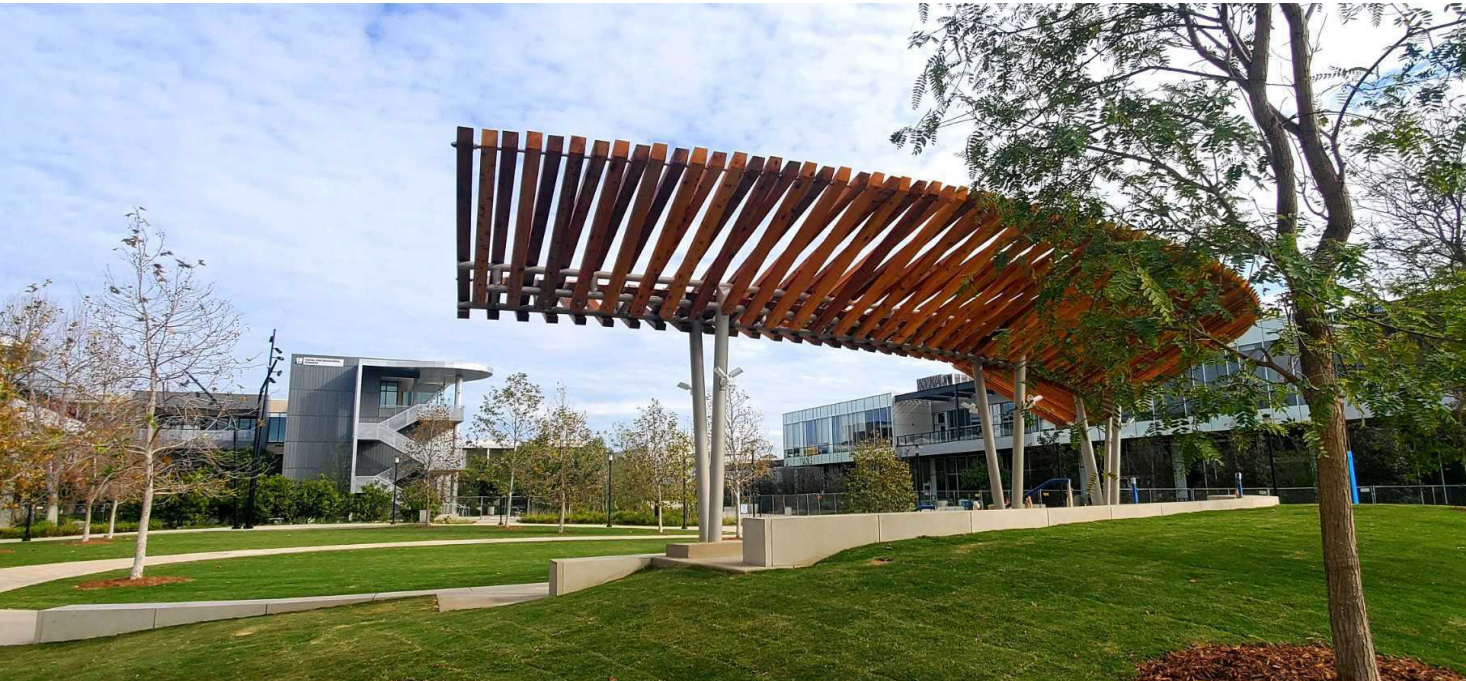
"Study abroad is such an important aspect for student learning," said City College President Ricky Shabazz. "Our students are members of the global community that are charged with leading the world forward in solving global issues."

Along with other top-ranked institutions, City and Mesa colleges were recognized for their support of equity, diversity, and accessibility in

study abroad for American students through the Gilman Program. The State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, in collaboration with the Institute of International Education, compiles the lists, which are organized by institution size and degree-awarding category.

"Studying internationally opens a wide array of opportunities for our students, and helps to broaden their access to rich, unique and long-lasting learning," said Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster.

In addition to City and Mesa colleges, study abroad opportunities are offered at San Diego Miramar College. Suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, plans are to resume study abroad for San Diego Community College District students at the start of 2023.



Mesa College recently completed a new Quadangle, which is the final major project from the District's Propositions S and N bond construction program.

MESA COLLEGE IS SEEING GREEN

Students returned to San Diego Mesa College in March to find some new green in the form of a lush new Quadangle in the center of campus. The quad, which is the final major project from the Propositions S and N bond construction program, was finalized at the start of the year. The new “heart” of the campus will provide a main thoroughfare for the college.

“We envision this as the bustling center for the Mesa campus with the focus on creating a sense of belonging for all students and providing them easy access to adjacent campus resources,” said Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster.

To make room for the quad, the outdated I- and J-buildings were demolished, creating an expansive outdoor venue for social gathering with terraced

seating, benched tables, and an outdoor stage area. The design includes strategically placed walkways around lush grass areas to help students and visitors navigate the campus. The project’s landscaping plan includes native and drought-tolerant plants, and a computer-based, high-efficiency irrigation system.

An official ribbon-cutting ceremony for the space took place in-person on April 14.



“We envision this as the bustling center for the Mesa campus with the focus on creating a sense of belonging for all students...”

— Mesa College President Pamela T. Luster



BEACH VOLLEYBALL SET TO DEBUT AT MIRAMAR COLLEGE

San Diego Miramar College will soon offer beach volleyball as its seventh intercollegiate sport. The San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees unanimously approved the development and implementation of a women’s beach volleyball program at its October 7, 2021, board meeting.

Given its large base of participation and popularity in the surrounding colleges and high schools, the sport of women’s beach volleyball is a fast-growing sport in the region. The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCAA) currently has 36 teams competing, including five within the



New sand volleyball courts were installed at Hourglass Park for the new Miramar College women's beach volleyball program, which will start competing in the 2023 season.

San Diego region at SD-CCD’s San Diego Mesa and City colleges, as well as Grossmont College,

Palomar College, and MiraCosta College. San Diego Miramar College currently fields a

women’s indoor volleyball team and adding a beach volleyball team will help complete and complement both programs. The college also offers state-of-the-art facilities and staffing to support an intercollegiate women’s beach volleyball team.

Last month, championship-winning San Diego high school and club coach Nancy Ros was chosen to lead the Miramar College women’s volleyball program.

The Miramar Jets expect to field a team for the start of the spring 2023 season. The team will play its home matches at a new four-court facility, which is currently being constructed on campus.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

An earlier version of the WE magazine contained a story about a May 31 investiture event for Chancellor Carlos O. Cortez. The event has since been cancelled.

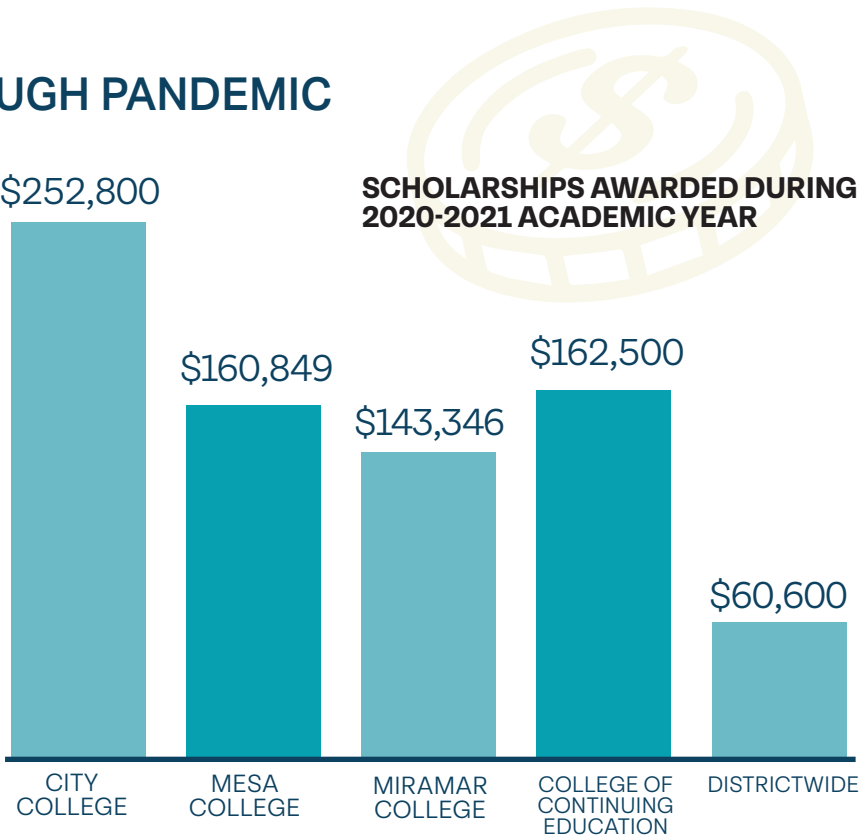
SCHOLARSHIPS HELP SUPPORT STUDENTS THROUGH PANDEMIC

During the 2020-2021 academic year, student aid was one of the many ways the San Diego Community College District helped support students through the COVID-19 pandemic. The District received \$7,779,070 in Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act funds and Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds (HEERF), some of which directly supported more than 17,300 students.

In addition to these emergency funds, the District and its four colleges, San Diego City, Mesa, Miramar and Continuing

Education, distributed \$780,000 to students in the form of scholarships during the 2020-2021 academic year.

In December, it was announced that the Scott A. and Elizabeth V. Christensen Charitable Foundation renewed its funding of the Board of Trustees Scholarship, increasing its donation to each of the District’s four college foundations from \$2,000 to \$5,000 for a total of \$20,000. With this additional support, each college can now award five to 10 \$500 to \$1,000 Board of Trustees Scholarships in 2022.



STRONG WOMEN

INSPIRE  A NEW GENERATION

Programs, organizations throughout the District focus on mentorship, empowerment, and growth

Multiple studies have shown that women who have a supportive circle of other women are more likely to land leadership roles, be happier in their lives, and be more productive in their work.

At the San Diego Community College District, these findings have proven true. Women who hold multiple roles throughout the District — from Tanya Hertz, a San Diego Miramar College associate professor who inspires the next generation of female entrepreneurs, to Isabel O'Connor, the vice president of instruction at San Diego Mesa College — regularly inspire other women to step out of their comfort zone and empower them to rise to the top.

DRIVING CONNECTION

Mariam Mena knows the importance of women leaders firsthand. Mena, a counselor at San Diego City College, leads the City Women Rock program. City Women Rock is a student-run organization that aims to empower women on campus to continue their education while advancing socially, politically, and economically in society.

Mena said she has seen several students grow to become leaders because of the programs available to them at City College. Aside from City Women Rock, the college also offers career development opportuni-

“Having more women in leadership greatly benefits our students and the community as they bring knowledge and experience to enrich the fabric of the District.”

—Isabel O'Connor, vice president of instruction at Mesa College



From left, Ashley Burch, Brittney Carroll, Mariam Mena, Leslie Easton, Lori Oldham, and Kimberly La Rue, pictured in front of a mural by artist Natalie Lanese, are just a handful of City Women Rock committee members who, among other programs and activities at City College, help organize an annual conference held on International Women's Day in March.



As a co-sponsor of Mesa College's chapter of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges, an organization that helps women uplift one another, Vice President of Instruction Isabel O'Connor (right) believes in the power of connection.



ties, workforce development programs, and more.

"I can tell you about dozens and dozens of students who broke down barriers and had amazing transformations," Mena said. "At City Women Rock, our core values are unity, respect, and academic excellence — we work to make sure women feel valued and connected."

Connection is key for many students, said Mena, who makes it a point to share her own story. Mena, who as an immigrant moved between "war-torn" Iraq to "male-dominated" India, said she struggled throughout college, but opportunities brought a new perspective to her outlook on life.

"I like to share this experience with my students because I know that experience provides connection," Mena said. "I want my students to feel a sense of confidence and pride in who they are — giving them opportunities to lead will do that."

Nesha Savage, a career counselor coordinator at City College, said seeing women in leadership roles means "everything" to students.

"Representation is important," said Savage, who also co-founded Nandi, a Black women's empowerment organization founded by leaders from across the

SDCCD. "It's important in terms of gender and race. I've had women students share how our stories and experiences are the same as theirs, and to see other women speak up was empowering for them."

But, Savage said, women don't just inspire other women — they inspire men as well.

"When women speak, they speak for everybody," Savage said. "We lead from whatever seat we are in."

Nicole Austria, a chef and instructor in San Diego College of Continuing Education's Hospitality and Culinary Arts & Sciences department, also understands the importance of her story to her students. Coming from a male-dominated industry, Austria represents what's possible.

"As an instructor in this District, I get to introduce the art of cooking to fellow women aspiring to find their niche in the food industry, and I'm a visual representation of what they could achieve," Austria said. "We have had some great women that were students and started small businesses in San Diego — that's what it's all about for me ... knowing that we are empowering these individuals to achieve their goals in our industry."



(Clockwise from above) Empowerment is what Nicole Austria, a chef and instructor in San Diego College of Continuing Education's Hospitality and Culinary Arts & Sciences department, says is a key factor in helping women succeed in the culinary industry. Vice Chancellor of Educational Services Susan Topham shares her story with participants of the 2022 City Women Rock conference. As the Executive Director of the REC Innovation Lab at Miramar College, Tanya Hertz (right) helps women entrepreneurs launch their businesses.





Members of Nandi, co-founded by Nesha Savage (third from left) participate in the Women's Leadership Institute during the 2022 African American Male Educational Network and Development (A2MEND) Summit.

O'Connor, the vice president of instruction, understands the importance of connection as well. She is the co-sponsor of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges at Mesa College alongside Veronica Gerace, a communication studies professor, where more than 150 women of diverse backgrounds share a space to celebrate, support, network, and grow together.

The pandemic did not stop the group from supporting each other either. O'Connor said they used Zoom to continue to uplift each other and hear from inspiring role models, such as Constance M. Carroll, the District's recently retired chancellor. Together, they have inspired a new generation of women.

"Having more women in leadership greatly benefits our students and the community as they bring knowledge and experience to enrich the fabric of the District," O'Connor said. "Women in leadership also become role models for other women, including our students, who see themselves reflected and inspired by women role models, whether it is in the classroom, an office, or the athletic field."

Although O'Connor did not have a mentor in her academic or professional career, she found inspiration in her circle of support, which included her mother and grandmother who taught her the importance of a strong work ethic as she was growing up in poverty and a dictatorship in Franco's Spain.

"My best advice to other women is to be themselves," O'Connor said. "You have strength in you, so you don't have to imitate others. Start from your foundation, adapt and build your strength and abilities, but don't feel that you have to be someone else."

INSPIRING POSSIBILITIES

SDCCD Board of Trustees President Maria Nieto

Senour said the District realizes the influence a diverse leadership has on its students, and she encourages other women and girls to think about their futures. To do that, the District has implemented a number of initiatives to support classified professionals, faculty, and students. The District also offers training for employees on issues such as gender, equity, and sexual orientation, and ensures the leadership is diverse, particularly among genders.

"Our District's core values include diversity and inclusion — that extends to women, people of color, differing sexual orientations and more," Senour said. "We bring people together because we know the potential that exists, and see that it's possible. My hope is that our programs inspire women of all possibilities."

At Miramar College, Tanya Hertz knows personally the impact of such programs. Hertz, an associate professor of entrepreneurship, is also the executive director of the REC Innovation Lab, a community business incubator that offers more than \$60,000 in resources to student entrepreneurs. Students who participate in the programs receive access to mentors, reliable internet services, and crowdfunding guidance, among other services.

"The purpose of our REC is to make sure resources are available to women and people of color — people who typically wouldn't have access to these resources," Hertz said.

From helping women entrepreneurs launch their businesses to working with investors and preparing for an IPO, Hertz said the REC and its mentors provide support every step of the way. Another key factor? The mentors, many of whom are women.

"It is critically important for women to see other women who made it," Hertz said. "We go beyond just showing them successful women. We give them mentors and role models." **WE**

HOW SDCCD COLLEGES ARE INSPIRING WOMEN

Below is just a snippet of program offerings at each of the District's four colleges:

City College: Students can find a number of programs at the downtown campus that support academic and professional growth. City Women Rock, which was founded in 2016, empowers women to go beyond any limitations they may face to achieve academic excellence. Aside from City Women Rock, support is found with the Umoja Community, a program designed to support African American and other underrepresented students. For a list of programs available to students, go to sdccity.edu and click on "Student Services."



Mesa College: This central San Diego campus offers a Women's Studies Program where students can learn about the women's experience by industry, ethnicity, religion, and more. The program supports women in finding extracurricular activities, careers in different industries, and finding mentors. For more information, go to sdmesa.edu and click on "Academic Programs" then "Women's Studies." For a list of student services, go to the college's website and click on "Student Services."

Miramar College: In north San Diego, students will find the REC Innovation Lab and Entrepreneurship Program at Miramar College. The program offers resources for underrepresented students to launch their own startups. With access to technology, tools, and mentors — including women leaders — the program has increased diversity in innovation. For more information, go to sdmiramar.edu/programs/entrepreneurship/rec.



College of Continuing Education: With seven campuses across the city of San Diego, there are a multitude of programs that aim to offer accessible classes to all students, including in industries that have historically been male-dominated, at little to no cost. This includes programs in culinary arts, information technology, automotive, and skilled, technical trades. For more information, go to sdcce.edu. Learn more about the Apprenticeship Readiness Program, which encourages women and other underrepresented populations to join construction trade unions, on page 20.

After a 'Life of Service,' Prez Pam Retires

Campus transformation, baccalaureate program are just a few of her accomplishments during 11-year career leading Mesa College

For Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D., every day of the past 11 years has been a blessing. Luster, the president of San Diego Mesa College, will retire in June, leaving a college that has evolved in multiple ways during her tenure. As she reflects on her time on the Mesa, she's grateful for the opportunity to live a "life of service."

"It's been an incredible privilege," said Luster, who goes by "Prez Pam." "Not many people get the opportunity to do this, and the fact that I've been able to do this for 11 years has been an honor."

Luster was not always an educator. She began her career with a private practice in audiology when a friend recommended she work with students with disabilities at West Valley College in Saratoga, Calif.

"I started teaching and loved the

students," Luster said. "I loved the process of learning."

Luster — who said her inspiration is her grandmother, a social worker during the Great Depression — went on to become dean at West Valley College. She then went on to serve at Las Positas College in Livermore, Calif., as Vice President of Student Services and Instruction before joining Mesa College.

It has been a whirlwind of accomplishments, including most recently receiving the 2022 Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award from the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), and challenges for Luster.

During her time as president of Mesa College, she also served as chair of the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community Colleges Association (SDICCCA), served as president of the Chief Executive Officers of California Community College Board (CEOCCC), and chaired the California Community College Athletic Association Board. She also was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to the Task Force of Basic Needs in Higher Education.

The capstone of her career is creating a culture, along with amazing colleagues, to establish the college vision as "The Leading College of Equity and Excellence." This vision helped Mesa College focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion in all of its work. Luster also noted that she is proud of many new programs, including the Health Information Management (HIM) bachelor's degree program, The Stand Resource Center, The LOFT (Learning Opportunities for Transformation), and centers for STEM, Honors, and veterans, and for traditionally underserved students, including Dreamers and foster youth, among many others. Looking back, the work and growth of the San Diego Mesa College Foundation, which has expanded its capacity through Board and resource development, stands out as an important achievement as well.

Luster also led the college in the recent adoption of the Mesa2030 Roadmap, which outlines plans for the growing campus, including programs that focus on racial equity. In her final semester, she also saw the completion of the Mesa Quadrangle, the final project in a \$280 million development of the campus, which included 12 new buildings and spaces, as part of the larger San Diego Community College District's \$1.55 billion Propositions S and N bond construction campaign.

"I hope people will remember I really loved the work I did and the people I worked with — I hope that is demonstrated in the beautiful, new buildings, the hundreds of folks we hired, and the families we grew together," Luster said. "I hope people remember I wasn't afraid to ask for more so that our students could succeed."

In fact, students have driven Luster's career in education from the very beginning. She said every interaction with students is a reminder that she was meant to be an educator. She recalled a time when she worked with a student who had muscular dystrophy who had big dreams of being an environmental scientist.

"I watched the student do a demonstration in his chemistry class for 30 minutes. It really changed how the chemistry teacher and other students saw him. When you support people and you give them the resources they need, they can take it from there. It's a win for everybody," Luster said of the student who, with the use of adaptive technology, successfully went on to transfer to UC Santa Cruz and realize his dream of studying environmental science.

Although she plans to continue her community work in diversity, equity, justice, and inclusion after she retires, Luster said you may catch her finally enjoying "a good book on a beach somewhere." **WE**

"I hope people remember I wasn't afraid to ask for more so that our students could succeed."

— Mesa College President
Pamela T. Luster, Ed.D.

A LASTING IMPACT



"When Dr. Pam Luster was hired as president of Mesa College, major changes took place that benefited the college, the District, and the state of California. Devoted to students, diversity, and equity, Dr. Luster will always stand out as a great leader, which is why she was awarded the highest administrative honor, the Buttimer Award."

—Constance M. Carroll,
president and CEO of California
Community College Baccalaureate
Association and chancellor
emerita of SDCCCD



"Dr. Pam Luster's indelible mark will be left on the students she has served, the graduate students she has taught, and the aspiring leaders she has mentored. I am certain she will continue this work for a very long time albeit in a new capacity!"

—Sunny Cooke,
superintendent/president
of MiraCosta Community
College District



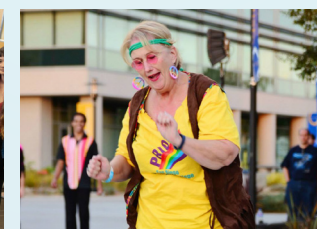
"What Pam Luster has accomplished during her time as president of Mesa College is remarkable. Not only has she overseen a physical transformation of the campus, but she's established Mesa as the leading college of equity and excellence. Her personal commitment to her students and their well-being is truly inspiring. She will be greatly missed."

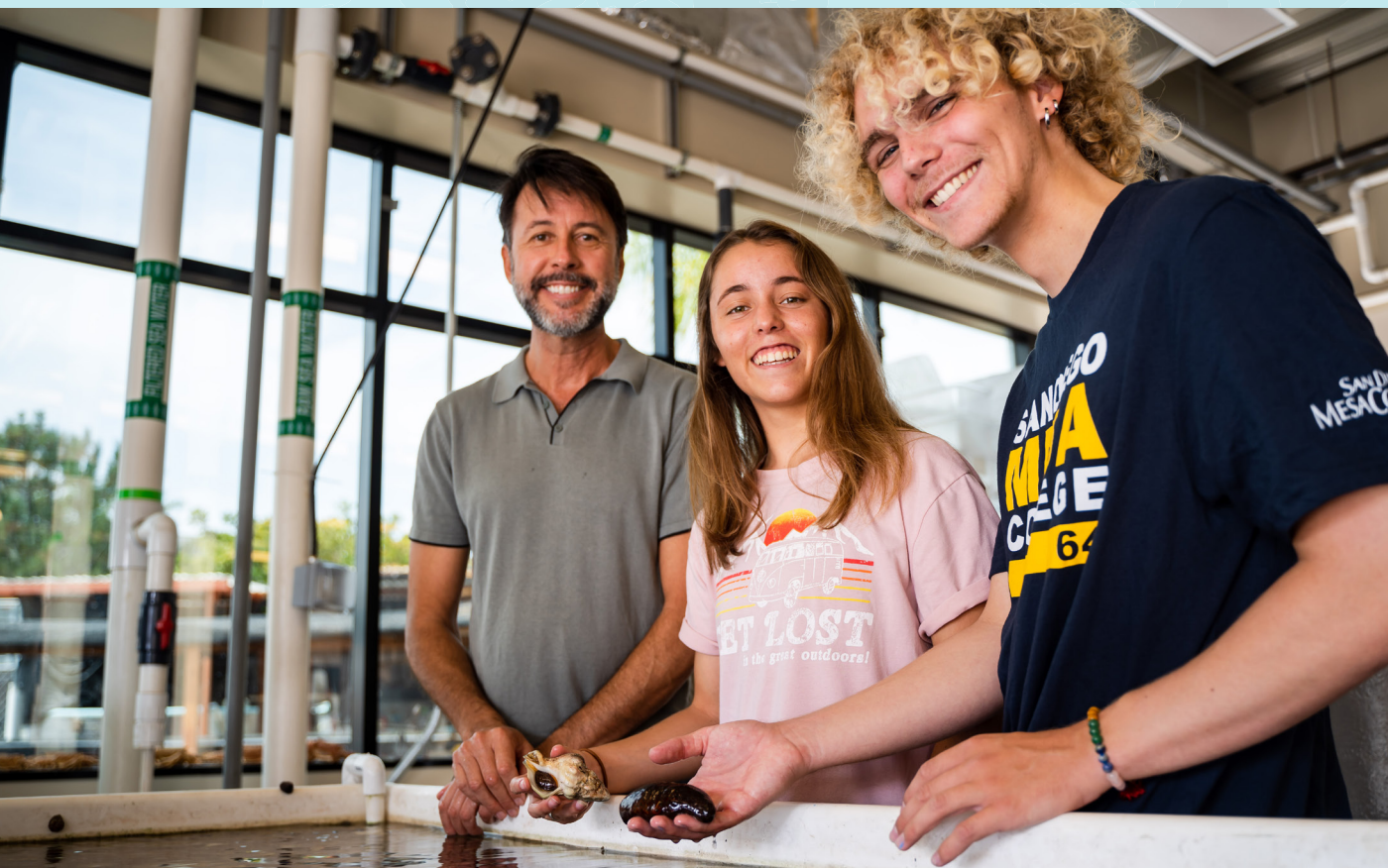
—Carlos O. Cortez,
chancellor of SDCCCD

REFLECTIONS

IN HER OWN WORDS, HERE ARE PREZ PAM'S TOP FIVE MEMORIES AT MESA COLLEGE

1. Always the first day of school.
2. The 50th anniversary celebration of Mesa College in 2014.
3. Every commencement — I love commencements.
4. Any celebrations of faculty members or students — including recognition and scholarships — are awesome.
5. My first day as president when we had cake in the library.





Mesa College biology Professor Paul Detwiler, left, said he believes that when students have direct access to a research lab, "it really ignites their sense of what's possible."

MAKING A SPLASH

Students help protect the ocean through coastal internship program

San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) students are playing a hands-on role in research that explores how climate change and other factors are affecting local sea life through a new internship program at the Coastal and Marine Institute Laboratory (CMIL), a state-of-the-art research facility owned by San Diego State University.

The CMIL Summer Research Program was created by Jessica Griffin, a Ph.D. candidate at SDSU whose work focuses on the interactions between bivalves and seagrass in a changing ocean. Griffin said she wanted to provide vital research opportunities to community college students who might not otherwise have access to them.

Griffin worked with San Diego Mesa College biology Professor Paul Detwiler

to successfully apply for an Innovation Grant from the San Diego Mesa College Foundation, and used the grant to launch the program last summer with four interns from Mesa College. The grant has been renewed for a second year, and the program is being expanded to include students from any college in the SDCCD. This summer's program will include five interns, who will each work one day a week at CMIL, from June 6 to

August 5.

The internship program pairs each SDCCD student with a graduate student mentor conducting research at the lab. The interns support that research by helping to analyze data, monitoring equipment, doing hands-on fieldwork, and more. Interns may also work on other graduate students' projects if time allows.

As an undergraduate at UC Berkeley, Detwiler said he spent an unforgettable summer learning how to conduct research at a marine science lab. He is thrilled to see local community college students have that same opportunity.

Detwiler said the internships can be life-changing for students, regardless of whether they decide to pursue a career in marine biology.

"When students have that kind of direct access to a research lab it really ignites their sense of what's possible," said Detwiler, who teaches a marine science course at Mesa College. "They're learning something about their own abilities and potential, and that's an invaluable experience."

CMIL was built in 2006 on property near the San Diego Bay that was previously the old Naval Training Center. Scientists and students use it to perform research

that helps them better understand the environmental problems affecting the Southern California coastline and find interdisciplinary solutions to protect critical coastal environments.

"CMIL is one of the very few urban marine labs in the country positioned to help us understand how urban factors like pollution and nutrient loading have affected marine life," said Griffin, who leads the summer program with fellow graduate student Lily McIntire. "It's a great environment where students are taking on a variety of research projects — everything from understanding kelp habitats to exploring intertidal species and climate change."

If the work sounds intimidating, it isn't, said McIntire. The atmosphere is collaborative and fun. The students do not have to be experienced in marine science, he added, they just need a healthy sense of curiosity and a willingness to learn.

"The point of the program is really to give students a chance to get hands-on experience working in a lab," she said. "It's one thing to read about research in a book but it's another to be out there in the field doing the work," said McIntire. "It really crystallizes everything for you."



Mesa and City College student Joseph Burch, left, works on a robotic arm as part of his CMIL Summer Research Program internship.

Joseph Burch, a Mesa College and San Diego City College student studying aerospace engineering, was part of the first group of interns last summer.

“I became passionate about the ocean after moving to San Diego a few years ago, so when one of my professors told me about this opportunity I jumped at the chance,” he said. “I really wasn’t sure what to expect, but on Day 1 our mentors did an amazing job of walking us through a typical day of a marine ecologist and really taking us under their wings.”

Burch was paired with Melissa Ward, a postdoctoral scholar with a Ph.D. in marine ecology studying seagrass mitigation. He worked with her and two graduate students on everything from creating a meta-analysis of existing research to conducting carbon-flux readings in the San Diego Bay, then processing and plotting the data. He also helped assemble and deploy subsurface automatic samplers — a cost-effective way to collect water so it can be analyzed for changes in its chemistry that can be harmful to marine organisms — off the coast of Coronado.

“One of my favorite things about CMIL is that it’s so multidisciplinary,” Burch said. “Graduate students are constantly designing and building their own marine science experiments, which might entail a little bit of engineering, robotics, and even remote sensing using satellite data. It checked every box for me and inspired me to try new things.”

Since completing the program, Burch was selected as project manager on an engineering challenge with NASA’s Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program and has seen other exciting doors open, as well.

“CMIL was my first internship, and it quickly became a gateway to other opportunities that I never dreamt were possible,” he said. “I credit this program and the friendships I have made there with all of the incredible things that have come my way.” **WE**



▶ **TO SEE STUDENTS IN ACTION,** watch a video about the CMIL Summer Research Program by scanning the QR code.



(Top) Mesa College student Chloe Van Patten helps navigate the waters near Fiesta Island at Mission Bay as part of SDSU Ph.D. candidate Jessica Griffin's dissertation research project. (Bottom) Mesa College student Joseph Gawlik looks at slide samples during his 2021 summer internship at the CMIL.



Each cohort for SDCCE's Apprenticeship Readiness Program takes up to 30 students from both San Diego and Imperial counties.

TRADING UP

College of Continuing Education Apprenticeship Readiness Program opens doors to new opportunities in construction trade unions

First came the formerly incarcerated students now working in the electrical union who are so overwhelmingly grateful, they return regularly to thank those who helped them.

Then there was Marcus, who could not land on what trade union to enter until he decided on the bricklayers union. Now he cannot picture doing anything else with his career.

Another inspiring story to come out of the San Diego College of Continuing Education (SDCCE) Apprenticeship Readiness Program is from an early cohort two years ago. It involved a woman who came to the program determined, but with a defensive disposition. Even through her struggles with homelessness, she completed the program, learning both a skillset and a different way of dealing with conflict.

One day at a worksite, the student experienced a microaggression. Although her instincts told her to react physically, her training with the Apprenticeship Readiness Program instead taught her to report the incident to her supervisor, who in turn disciplined the offender. In the end, she handled the situation as she was trained, and a promotion ensued.

“This is when fortune just shines upon us because it could have gone really badly,” said Laurie Coskey, CEO/ executive director of the SDCCE Foundation. “The student used her new skills and kept her eye on the target. She decided to use a different way of handling a painful situation and fortunately, the company rewarded her for having worked within the process.”

These stories are just small accounts of success seen in the Apprenticeship Readiness Program, which launched in March 2020 as a worldwide pandemic hit.

“Our intention is to provide opportunity for an extraordinarily satisfying and meaningful career for people who may not have known these opportunities existed for them,” said Coskey, who first designed the program for the City of San Diego.

The free program runs from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday for 12 weeks, and, upon graduation, students are qualified to apply to a registered apprenticeship program in the construction trade

unions. That acceleration is highly desirable because the apprenticeship itself can take four to five years to complete. The program also provides every student with a laptop and personal Wi-Fi hot spot for the program, as well as steel-toed boots and other personal protective equipment to keep them safe on job sites.

Each class takes up to 30 students from both San Diego and Imperial counties. At the end of the program, students complete the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3), earn a certificate in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) 30-hour and CPR trainings, study enough math for the trades to pass the entrance exams, and are ready then to pursue apprenticeships.

“There are so many baby boomers retiring out of the skilled trades, and there just aren't workers there to replace them,” said faculty member Jon Gosen, who noted there are nearly a dozen major projects in the San Diego area either in progress or soon to start, including the Chula Vista Bayfront Project, which will need 10,000 skilled workers.

The fifth cohort of students kicked off a new program with an orientation on March 7. The final Apprenticeship Readiness Program class was to begin in June, but additional funding was made available for a September group that will be held in the evenings and Saturdays in an effort to attract more people who are working and unable to leave jobs while taking classes.

The Apprenticeship Readiness Program is placing students in registered trade union apprenticeships at a 97% success rate.

“We have a lot of young people who are good at things outside of math,” said Stephanie Lewis, dean of Career and College Transition at SDCCE. “They don't want to be an architect. They don't want to be a doctor. They want to build things with their hands. They have all this creative experience that we don't recognize.”

SDCCE partnered with the San Diego County Building Trades Council, Clark Construction, Parsons, PCL Construction, and SANDAG to ensure the program's success. What started with GoldSilver partnerships has blossomed into relationships with more than 50 companies and organizations.

“The Apprenticeship Readiness Program at Continuing Education is incredibly successful, because the faculty and staff have made a strong commitment to learn what students need to be accepted into an apprenticeship program, and provide students opportunities to develop those skills and qualities,” said Carol Kim, business manager for the San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council

Identifying Underrepresented Populations

The Apprenticeship Readiness Program works to diversify the labor force so that it more accurately mirrors the population it serves.

One of the main goals of the program is to offer opportunities for disproportionately underrepresented groups in the building trades such as women, racial and ethnic minorities, disadvantaged young people, individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, and the formerly incarcerated.

“All of a sudden students have opportunities to be

part of the union and to be part of the apprenticeship, something that they would never have had an opportunity to do before,” Lewis said.

After working various jobs as a real estate appraiser and insurance agent before becoming a stay-at-home mom for the past 12 years, Vanessa Arango was ready for a change when she found the Apprenticeship Readiness Program.

“I was looking for something better,” she said. “An actual career, not just a job.”

Arango, who was part of the program's first cohort, is now eight months into an apprenticeship with the Sheet Metal Workers Local Union 206, where she currently is learning about installation.

“As a woman, the Apprenticeship Readiness Program made me feel welcome and open to joining a construction trade. Before, I didn't even think that was an option,” she said. “Now I am in a job where I get paid a livable wage and they are training me to do it. It's a complete game changer; you can start over and it doesn't even matter.”

A major roadblock to joining trade unions is that positions are often family centered — meaning typical trade union members follow in their father's, uncle's, or grandfather's footsteps in the family union business — leaving scarce opportunities for those who too often have been left behind.

“We want a greater diversity of qualified applicants for our programs, because we know that union apprenticeships are life-changing opportunities that can break cycles of intergenerational poverty. But, entry into these programs is highly competitive,” Kim said. “I've taken to handing out my business card to Apprenticeship Readiness Program participants at the program graduation. There's no better feeling than hearing someone who successfully gets into an apprenticeship say, ‘I'm able to provide health insurance to my kids for the first time in my life.’” **WE**



The Apprenticeship Readiness Program at the College of Continuing Education is placing students in registered trade union apprenticeships at a 97% success rate.

APPRENTICESHIP READINESS PROGRAM PARTNERS

- ACCO (Pipefitters; Sheet Metal)
- Air Balance Co., Inc. (Sheet Metal)
- American Lung Association
- Balfour Beatty (Carpentry)
- Baker (Electrical)
- City of San Diego Pure Water Project
- Clark Construction (Carpentry)
- CMC Rebar (Iron Workers)
- DPR (Carpentry)
- Dyna (Electrical)
- Gafcon
- IBEW EMMC 569 (Electrical Works Minority Caucus)
- ISEC (Carpentry)
- Kiewit Corporation
- Montbleau (Carpentry)
- Pacific Steel (Sheet Metal)
- Parsons Corporation
- PCL Construction
- PSG (Iron Workers)
- Raymond Group
- Red Cedar Steel (Iron Workers)
- SAFE Zone
- San Diego College of Continuing Education Foundation
- San Diego County Building and Construction Trades Council (27 registered unions)
- San Diego Gas & Electric
- San Diego Green Building Council
- San Diego Sheet Metals
- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- SANDAG
- Swinerton (Carpentry)
- Tru-Duct (Sheet Metal)



ESTABLISHING A LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND BEYOND

San Diego City College is working to establish an official, respectful land acknowledgment to recognize that the campus rests on the ancestral homelands of the Kumeyaay Nation.

“City College recognizes that we gather on land entrusted to the care and protection of the Kumeyaay,” said Robbi Ewell, dean of Information and Learning Technology, who is overseeing the effort. “We acknowledge that, as we occupy this place of gathering and exchange, we should recognize and respect Indigenous knowledge, worldview, and the deep cultural connection of first nations to the natural world.”

The Kumeyaay were the first people to occupy what now is known as San Diego, where they continue to have a presence after more than 10,000 years.

Going beyond just establishing a land acknowledgment and advancing the institution’s collective cultural competency and potential allyship with the Kumeyaay, City College seeks to increase campus awareness of the Kumeyaay Nation, repair relationships with Indigenous communities, and honor the contributions and legacy of native peoples.

Other proposed efforts include:

- Establishing a Native American Studies

program and hiring a contract faculty for Native American Studies.

- Advancing a program for forgiving the outstanding debt of any Native American student. Records suggest that 97 Native Americans carry debt associated with their enrollment at City College with a combined debt estimated to be \$62,197.
- Creating and funding scholarships for Native American students.
- Establishing an Indigenous Students Club.
- Cultivating rapport and possible partnership with Kumeyaay

Community College.

- Establishing an Indigenous Peoples’ Culture and Heritage web presence.
- Sponsoring on-going focus group sessions for Indigenous employees and students.
- Dedicating campus space(s) to acknowledge the heritage and continued impact of the Kumeyaay.

“City College is proud to be a part of the global community,” Ewell said. “We recognize the value of acting collectively to maintain healthy relationships and advance cultural awareness. We hope that our land acknowledgment and related efforts will get us closer to that goal.”



AWARDS SHOWCASE COMMITMENT TO SUPPORTING STUDENTS



In March, San Diego Mesa College was awarded Gold status for the 2022-2023 school year from the Military Friendly Company for being a military friendly school. The survey measures the ability of schools to meet thresholds for retention, graduation, job placement, repayment persistence and loan default rates for all students and specifically for student veterans. More than 1,800 schools participated in the 2022-2023 survey,

with 282 participants selected for Gold award status for their leading practices, outcomes, and effective programs. Of the Gold status colleges, only 10 are in California, and Mesa College is among three in San Diego County. The full Military Friendly Schools list was published in G.I. Jobs magazine’s May issue.

Additionally, Mesa College has been accepted into the 2022 cohort of 52 California Community Colleges to utilize the Military Articulation Platform (MAP), which allows student veterans to maximize academic credits for prior learning acquired through their military service. MAP is an online system that matches college courses to American Council on Education (ACE) Military Guide recommendations. Articulation decisions for Mesa College courses will ultimately be made with input from faculty, evaluators, and articulation officers. Once Mesa College is fully

integrated into the cloud-based system, students with military experience will be able to upload their joint services transcripts into MAP and find out which credits they can receive for courses they took and occupations they held while in the military.

In February, the State Department announced Mesa College as a Top Producer in the Associate Degree Institution category of 2021-2022 Fulbright Top Producing Institutions. More than 125 U.S. higher education institutions sent Fulbright U.S. Students and U.S. Scholars abroad in academic year 2021-2022. The lists of Top Producing Institutions highlight the Fulbright Program’s strong institutional diversity and impact on American communities.

In February, the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA) announced that Pamela T. Luster, president of Mesa College, was awarded the 2022 Harry Buttimer Distinguished Administrator Award. Dr. Luster was recognized based on her outstanding career and significant contributions to the mission of the California Community Colleges. The Buttimer Award is a prestigious, statewide recognition established by ACCCA to honor the late Harry Buttimer, a leading voice in California for the modernization of operating principles and practices, and fair funding of its community colleges. According to the ACCCA, this historic award not only symbolizes the history and evolution of the community college movement in California, it also is an icon for the leadership qualities of integrity, principle, compassion, and resilience, as well as meaningful contributions to one’s colleagues, the profession, the institution, and the community that the college serves.



SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

PROFESSOR SCOTT MOLLER RECEIVES DALE P. PARNELL FACULTY DISTINCTION RECOGNITION



Before embarking upon his career at San Diego Miramar College, Administration of Justice Professor Scott Moller worked in courtrooms as a trial lawyer for almost 20 years. Starting as a civil litigator, then as an Assistant District Attorney, he prosecuted a wide array of criminal cases, from arson and identity theft to mayhem and attempted murder. Never would he have imagined that one day

he would be among 29 community college faculty members nationwide to be honored with the 2022 Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition.

“It is humbling and a great honor to be recognized in this way,” Moller said.

The American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), which represents more than 1,000 two-year, associate degree-granting institutions and nearly 12 million students, awards the Dale P. Parnell Faculty Distinction Recognition. The distinction recognizes faculty who demonstrate passion in the classroom, show willingness to support students both in and out of the classroom, are inclined to participate in college committees, and go above and beyond to ensure that students are successful in their academic endeavors.

In his six years at Miramar College, Moller has taught a range of courses, including Introduction to Administration of Justice, Criminal Law I & II, Criminal Procedures, Criminal Investigation and Rules of Evidence. He also teaches a variety of learning domains as a subject matter expert for the college’s Penal Code 832 courses.

As a student, Moller sought opportunities to learn from professors with actual trial experience, and from justice professionals in the field, providing legal assistance to federal prison inmates, prosecuting cases for the Oneida County District Attorney, and conducting research and writing for the Wisconsin Supreme Court. As a professor, he shares his experiences with students and encourages them to seek opportunities to engage with their communities in a positive way.

Moller teaches using a hands-on approach that guides students through writing police reports, criminal complaints, and case briefs, and as a capstone project, he presides as judge over mock trials, wherein students try cases as attorneys, witnesses, and jurors.

“My goal is to connect legal concepts with real-world scenarios in a meaningful way,” he said. “Briefing landmark cases teaches students to analyze legal concepts and apply precedent. Arguing and presenting evidence at trial brings it all together in a visceral way that is not easily forgotten.”

In addition to his work in the classroom, Moller authored the textbook “Introduction to Criminal Justice,” published in 2020. The book opens with an overview of career options in criminal justice, then offers a primer in legal writing, before launching into a broad-ranging exploration of the American criminal justice system, examining almost 200 landmark United States Supreme Court criminal cases along the way. Moller’s web site, scottmollerlaw.com, offers summaries of his course offerings and publishing, videos explaining legal concepts, and a news feed that helps students find career and educational opportunities.

Moller was honored on May 1 at a private reception in New York City during the AACC’s annual gathering.

“My goal is to connect legal concepts with real-world scenarios in a meaningful way.”

— Professor Scott Moller



SAN DIEGO COLLEGE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



CyberHire Students gain hands-on experience in cybersecurity. (Courtesy of the San Diego Workforce Partnership)

PREPARING CYBER TALENT

SDCCE earns Preferred Provider designation for IT and cybersecurity training

San Diego College of Continuing Education has been designated a Preferred Provider for information technology (IT) and cyber talent by CyberHire. San Diego Workforce Partnership, San Diego Regional Economic Development Corp, and the Cyber Center of Excellence have joined forces to launch CyberHire — a program designed to address the region’s growing demand for cybersecurity skilled workers by creating accessible pathways that are available for job seekers who are under resourced and underemployed.

SDCCE joins CyberHire as a preferred provider alongside MiraCosta College and the National Foundation for Autism Research. Within four to eight months at SDCCE, students can earn one of 11 IT certificates at no cost, including Cybersecurity Analyst, Virtual Datacenter, and Cloud Solutions AWS-Associate. According to the Workforce Partnership, San Diego employers designated SDCCE’s Desktop Technician Certificate as preferred for training for entry-level IT talent, and the Security Essentials Certificate as preferred for training entry-level Cybersecurity talent. “San Diego County is one of the

nation’s leading hubs for military and commercial cybersecurity employers, innovation and talent,” said Omar Baza, career navigator at San Diego Workforce Partnership. “Our partnership with SDCCE will increase diversity within the cybersecurity industry by providing accessible training for quality jobs.”

Upon successful completion of an IT program from SDCCE, MiraCosta College, or the National Foundation for Autism Research, CyberHire supports graduates with certification and practice exam costs in A+, Network+, or Security+, as well as job readiness resources to gain an internship placement or long-term employment.

SDCCE’s partnership with CyberHire is benefiting Jessly Altamirano, who has dreamed of working in the technology field since she was 12 years old. She came to the United States from Managua, Nicaragua, two years ago to protect her family from the country’s worsening political crisis.

Altamirano, 39, holds a bachelor’s degree of engineering and information technology from the Catholic University Redemptoris Mater (UNICA), a private university

in Nicaragua.

“My degree is not certified in the U.S. When I arrived in San Diego, I started to look for programs that would help me find a job,” said Altamirano, who enrolled in the Cybersecurity Analyst certificate program at SDCCE. “Even though the college is free, the classes are hard to get into; you really have to show commitment. When you see all the doors that open, it is worth it.”

After graduating from SDCCE, Altamirano became employed as an associate security analyst by AppFolio, a cloud-based property management software company.

“The career training at SDCCE and the job opportunities that became available to me exceeded my expectations,” she said. “I want to show my daughter that you can be an immigrant and a woman, and become anything you want.”

The Workforce Partnership received a two-year grant of \$1.5 million from the James Irvine Foundation to fund CyberHire. Enrollment for the program began in fall 2021 with the grant in place through 2023. Twenty-seven Workforce Partnership clients enrolled at SDCCE during the spring 2022 semester.

LEARN MORE



To learn more about SDCCE’s information technology programs, go to

sdcce.edu/computers

COMMUNITY is at the HEART of MIRAMAR COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

For San Diego Miramar College Associated Student Government Secretary Emily Smith, her path in higher education has been like so many others around her — nontraditional.

After high school, Smith moved to Tennessee and attended a liberal arts college to which she earned a full-ride scholarship. But, due to an unexpected bump in the road, Smith had to return to the San Diego area soon after.

The North County resident decided to restart her journey at a community college. She ultimately landed at Miramar College after an impassioned friend told her about the great relationships he was able to forge with professors and through club activities while there.

“The opportunities I was met with at Miramar College were probably matched with those of a four-year university,” said Smith, who is also president of the Chemistry Club on campus.

Another 180-degree turn: She transitioned from a focus in liberal arts to studying in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM).

“I’ve always liked science, but never thought I could go into it,” she said. “I’m the daughter of an immigrant and single-parent, and nobody around me did science at all, so I always thought it was out of my reach.”

Ahead of graduating this month with an associate degree in biology, With Excellence (WE) magazine spoke with Smith about her campus involvement, biggest challenges, and most memorable moments while at Miramar College.



Q You are currently the Associated Student Government secretary and a part of the Chemistry Club. Why is campus involvement so important?

A I got involved wanting resources of my own. I was really ambitious in trying to get extracurricular activities needed to transfer, and while doing so I kind of found that getting resources out to others is actually really cool. The more your peers succeed, the more you succeed network-wise. When people are eager, ambitious, and ready to get involved in their community, the community thrives. Student interaction and engagement is really the

foundation for what it takes to make a college community thrive.

Q What are your long-term goals?

A My time at community college has steered me away from the idea that I have to go in a straight path. I will be working for a year at the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine instead of transferring like I was originally planning. I was recently accepted into the Bridges Program at Cal State San Marcos, where I will be doing paid research to further the advancement of stem cell treatment and therapies. Because

of this opportunity being full-time, I am again taking an unexpected delay on transferring. I know I want to transfer to a four-year college as my short-term goal, but I’m trying to decide between research and medicine. Right now, I don’t feel too pressured to make that decision.

Q What has been your biggest challenge at Miramar College?

A Everyone has been really supportive and great, but it is hard as a STEM major to find research. Trying to pave your own unique path and get those experiences has been kind of difficult, especially in

the times that we’re in. I’ve been fortunate to do some undergraduate research through summer Research Experiences for Undergraduate programs. I’ve also gotten some lab experience through the Supply Chain Experience (a scholarship program for students interested in a career in science) at Miramar, so that has really helped my résumé. The struggle is really to find the resources that best fit you. As a STEM student you tend to be a little desperate to get whatever experience you can, but it’s important to remember you have to be in an environment that works for you and in a job that works for you.

Q What has been your most memorable moment at Miramar College?

A In the Chemistry Club, I think our team has really made it its own mission to expose our fellow STEM students to fields of biotechnology, biology, and chemistry. We held a Pathways to Success event last spring with Miramar students who have graduated and moved into their dream careers. Hearing them talk about how Miramar wasn’t a flaw in their résumé, but rather a jumping-off platform to their next step in life, was awesome.



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GRAPHIC DESIGN

Claudia Azcona

PHOTOGRAPHY

David Brooks
J. Kat Photography

CONTRIBUTORS

Campus Public Information Officers:

Cesar Gumapas
Jennifer Nichols Kearns
Stephen Quis
Ranessa Ashton

Aleah Jarin, Melanie Marshall,
Tim Meehan, and Hoa Sanchez,
Writers

WE Magazine

San Diego Community College District
Communications and Public Relations Office
3375 Camino del Rio South, Suite 335
San Diego, CA 92108

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SAN DIEGO PROMISE TUITION-FREE COLLEGE!

Students enrolling at San Diego City, Mesa and Miramar colleges for the fall 2022 semester can apply now for the San Diego Promise, a two-year completion program designed to ensure students meet 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.

ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a first time to college student*
- Must be a class of 2022 high school graduate** (Diploma or GED) OR identify with one of the following groups:
 - Foster Youth Student
 - Veteran of U.S. Armed Forces
 - Formerly Incarcerated Student
 - Undocumented Student
- Must be a California resident or AB 540 eligible
- Must Complete a 2022-2023 financial aid application (FAFSA or CA Dream Act)
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Promise applications for the 2022-2023 academic year are due by **August 15, 2022**



SAN DIEGO CITY COLLEGE SAN DIEGO MESA COLLEGE SAN DIEGO MIRAMAR COLLEGE

*Student who completed college courses while in high school are eligible

** First time to college, class of 2022 high school graduate (High school diploma or GED) may be eligible