



CREATE

Tomorrow

ANNUAL REPORT

2018 - 2019

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ENTIRE COACHELLA VALLEY

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT HAS EXPANDED ITS REACH ACROSS THE COACHELLA VALLEY TO **SERVE STUDENTS WHERE THEY LIVE AND WORK.**

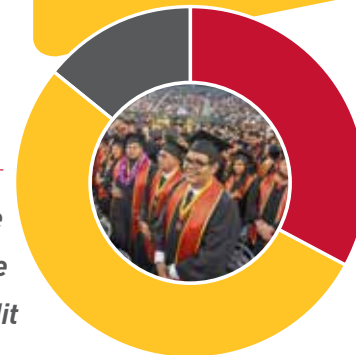
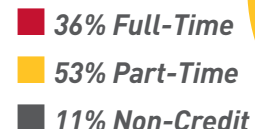


BY THE NUMBERS 2018-2019

ENROLLMENT

17,000+

STUDENTS AT-A-GLANCE



TOTAL DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED:

1,576

VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES SUPPORTED:

400+

ECONOMIC IMPACT

COLLEGE OPERATIONS:

\$302 MILLION+ ANNUALLY

ALUMNI:

\$243 MILLION+ ANNUALLY

STUDENT IMPACT

OVER THE LAST 6 YEARS:

70% INCREASE In Graduates

62% INCREASE In Degrees & Certificates

33% INCREASE In UC/CSU Transfers



COLLEGE *of the* DESERT

2018-2019 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



Bonnie Stefan, Ed.D.
Chair



Fred E. Jandt, Ph.D.
Vice Chair



Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton
Clerk



Aurora Wilson
Member



Rubén AríAztlán Pérez
Member



Jonathan Ramont
Student Trustee



From students and alumni, to business and industry, College of the Desert Foundation significantly impacts the vitality and quality of life in the valley through our support for College of the Desert. The College's stories of success can be found everywhere you look. Whether you are a parent, student, alumni, faculty member, business partner, philanthropist or investor, foundation or organization, part- or full-time resident, or just a fan of College of the Desert, when you step up for College of the Desert with a membership or donation you make a significant difference in higher education, career advancement and lifelong learning.

2018-2019 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill S. Chunowitz
President

Marge Dodge
Vice President

Donna Jean Darby
Past President

Diane Rubin
Treasurer

Christine Anderson, Ed.D.
Secretary

Charles Monell, M.D.
Parliamentarian

Jean Carrus

Norma Castaneda

Peggy Cravens

Carol Bell Dean

Diane Denkler

Melinda Drickey

Carl Farmer, Ph.D.

Barbara Fromm

Diane Gershowitz

James Greene

Gale Hackshaw

Brian Holcombe

James B. Johnson

Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.

Vern Kozlen

Donna MacMillan

Penny Mason

Thomas Minder

Joanne Mintz

Barbara Foster

Monachino

John Ramont

Jane Saltonstall, Ed.D.

Arlene Schnitzer

Dominique Shwe

Aurora Wilson



COLLEGE
of
the DESERT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	1
BUILDING THE FUTURE	2
INSPIRING ACTION	10
CHALLENGING EXPECTATIONS	16
DARING TO DO MORE	22
CREATING TOMORROW	34



MESSAGE FROM THE **PRESIDENT** A YEAR OF GROWTH, A FUTURE OF POSSIBILITIES



College of the Desert has a long history of success and excellence in providing top-quality, affordable and accessible higher education in the Coachella Valley.

Since our founding in 1958, we have graduated more than 125,000 students in degree and certificate programs, including Business Administration, Film, Television and Electronic Media, Psychology, Environmental Sciences, Agriculture Business, Nursing, Public Safety, Early Childhood Education, and Computer Information Systems. The academic opportunities at College of the

Desert are multi-layered: preparing students for transfer to four-year universities and giving them the skills necessary for gainful employment.

The College has been nationally recognized for programs that address some of the biggest issues facing community colleges: improving college readiness, increasing completion rates, and partnering with local business and industry to guarantee that graduates succeed in the workforce. But we cannot stop there.

Our past achievements must be the foundation for our future success. That is why we are constantly evaluating, refining and evolving the offerings at College of the Desert to keep pace with changes in our region, the workforce and higher education.

As the College strives to fulfill its mission to meet the needs of all those who seek a higher education, we are expanding our reach across the Coachella Valley. This includes system-wide campus expansions, renovations to better accommodate future students, and the addition of the latest technology to keep pace with educational and workforce needs.

We are expanding into new frontiers, giving our students the edge they need to be successful, and responding to the challenges of a 21st century learning environment. This is an exciting time at College of the Desert, where we have the opportunity to Create Tomorrow.

Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/ President



PHI THETA KAPPA
HONOR SOCIETY

KINNAMON RECEIVES AWARD OF DISTINCTION

Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D., Superintendent/President at College of the Desert, was recognized with a prestigious award from the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society in April for showing strong support of student success.

Kinnamon was one of 18 community college presidents honored with the Shirley B. Gordon Award of Distinction during the Society's annual convention in Orlando, Florida.

The award is given to college presidents who support student success on their campus by recognizing academic achievement, leadership, and service among high-achieving students at their colleges. Recipients are nominated by students.

The award is named in honor of the late Dr. Shirley B. Gordon, Phi Theta Kappa's longest-serving Board of Directors Chair and a founder and long-time president of Highline Community College in Washington.

BUILDING THE FUTURE

College of the Desert offers a wide range of learning opportunities for students in every stage of life. A multi-pronged approach to higher education provides both a foundation for transfer to a four-year university and development of the skills needed to enter the workforce.

To remain competitive, the College's programs, services and offerings are constantly evolving to remain focused and relevant. From partnerships with local industry to programs that provide additional student support, the College is always responsive to the needs of the 21st century student.

By offering two years free of tuition and fees for recent high school graduates, supplying summer academic help to support student success, and providing non-academic assistance to increase completion rates, the College is unlocking the future for thousands of Coachella Valley residents.





STATE OF THE COLLEGE



At this time almost a year ago, the College was celebrating its 60th anniversary and the Nursing Department was recognizing 50 years of accomplishments. Last year's State of the College address recognized the growth, progress and achievements over those many years.

The event also focused on what the College is doing to build on that history and embrace the future. Part of that work involved two of our programs – EDGE (Engage, Develop, Grow and Empower), which provides wraparound support services for students, and pLEDGE, which provides two years free tuition for Coachella Valley High School graduates. The programs have garnered numerous awards for their innovation and achievement, including a Bellwether Award for Student Success and the Chancellor's Student Success Award by California Community Colleges Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley.



State of the College is an annual event generously supported by College of the Desert Foundation and Peggy Cravens.

The State of the College highlighted a new partnership with DIGICOM to create a Center for Digital Media Education, securing of the old Palm Springs Mall for a permanent West Valley Campus and expansions and improvements on our other campuses.

The address also detailed the College's many programs and pathways for career and transfer to a four-year university.

All of those efforts continue today, with additional initiatives to help realize student success.

“College of the Desert will be a center of collaborations and innovations for educational enrichment, economic development, and quality of life in the Coachella Valley and surrounding communities”

— College of the Desert Vision

NEW PALM SPRINGS CAMPUS

The future is in sight in Palm Springs, where planning is underway to turn the former mall into the permanent home of the College of the Desert's Palm Springs Campus.

The site will serve as a regional workforce innovation center, where students can learn and train for jobs and careers in the areas of digital media and film, hospitality and culinary arts, healthcare, and sustainable technologies.

When the expanded academic space opens in 2023, it will replace temporary classrooms and computer labs now used in Palm Springs and provide greater accessibility to college classes for residents of the western Coachella Valley.

The 29-acre campus will feature a boutique hotel and restaurant, teaching kitchen, modern instruction space, experiential labs, student commons and event space, and a high-tech digital accelerator space.

The permanent campus will allow College of the Desert to accommodate enrollment growth and continue our efforts to increase opportunities to help students realize their dreams.



CENIC BROADBAND INTERNET

College of the Desert is preparing for an increasingly digital future by partnering with technology leader CENIC to provide a world-class computing network for students.



The Palm Springs campus will be the hub for a high-speed, 100 gigabyte link to CENIC's nonprofit California Research and Education Network (CalREN), a high-capacity network designed to meet the unique needs of more than 20 million users.

The network will allow students to interface seamlessly with current and future industry partners as they enter the workforce and look for placement with industry-leading employers.

The CENIC partnership also puts the College on par with leading public and private four-year universities across the state.

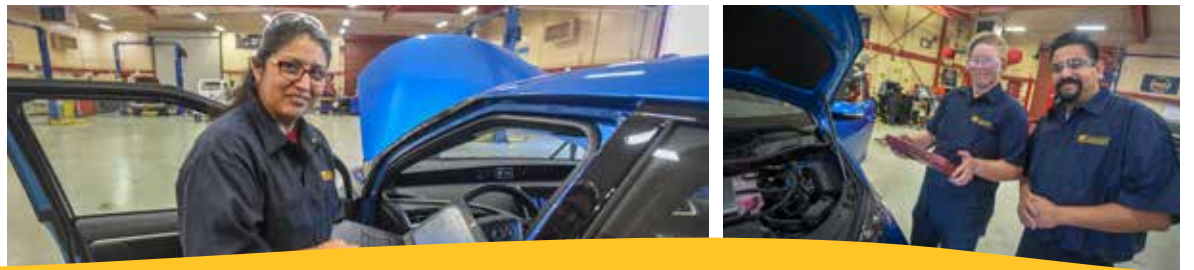


CATHEDRAL CITY

Automotive and Advanced Transportation Facility: Roadrunner Motors

Also in the West Valley, the College is planning a new automotive and advanced transportation facility adjacent to the Cathedral City Auto Park at Perez Road and Highway 111. The center will become home to the current automotive program and provide internship and work opportunities for students. The program is under development and plans are being drawn up with input from a workgroup that includes faculty and industry partners.

Community colleges have a critical role to play in meeting the needs of those who desire a higher education. College of the Desert is a gateway to a better future, particularly for those who are low income and the first in their family to attend college and who need the affordable, accessible education we provide.



MODERN LIBRARY AT THE PALM DESERT CAMPUS

The College is constantly striving to meet the needs of students and expand learning opportunities.



We will be a step closer to realizing that goal with the return of the College library to its original home on the Palm Desert campus. The library was moved from an edge-of-campus building shared with the city and county back to the heart of campus in the newly renovated Hilb Library.

Consolidating the library with the Tutoring and Academic Skills Center creates a centralized learning complex and increases student access to the library.

The new complex will provide more space for student study, computer use, library services, tutoring, and other academic support. It will provide a tremendous boost for students' out-of-classroom learning experiences and contribute to increased student success.

The three-level Hilb, named in honor of its benefactors, Jeane and Justin Hilb, has been rebuilt to environmentally sustainable standards while maintaining its iconic, mid-century modern style. The update creates modern study spaces and more than doubles the size of the library and improves functionality by adding more natural light.

Outside the library is the 35-year-old International Fountain of Knowledge that was originally funded by Dr. Reynaldo J. Carreón, who dedicated his life to furthering education and creating opportunities for local Latino students. This campus landmark is a reminder of the important contributions of Dr. Carreón in the region and his own words that are still so relevant: "Education will make for individuals who will better serve their fellow human beings."

These latest improvements on our campus, which were made possible by Measure B funds, create contemporary spaces for learning and teaching. They encourage collaboration and foster a sense of community, elevating College of the Desert and in turn, elevating the student experience.



By ensuring our facilities are innovative and functional and investing in educational excellence, we are building a better community for tomorrow.

CALIFORNIA INDIAN NATIONS COLLEGE

College of the Desert has partnered with the recently formed California Indian Nations College (CINC), which offers courses incorporating indigenous culture, native language revitalization and traditional Native American values.



CINC, which is housed at University of California, Riverside's Palm Desert campus, started with \$3 million in seed money from the Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians. When the doors opened in 2018, there were 40 students and seven classes offered over two semesters. By 2019, enrollment had nearly doubled, along with the number of courses.

Classes are accredited through College of the Desert and credits are transferrable to other community colleges, the UC and CSU systems, and other universities. The goal of CINC is to increase the number of Native American college graduates.

While there are 37 accredited Tribal Colleges in the country, CINC is the only one in California, according to the American Indian Higher Education Consortium.

In addition to specialized certificate programs and associate degrees with Native-enriched curriculum, CINC offers a series of educational programs providing opportunities for students to engage with issues of race, identity, class, power, and privilege.

STUDENT SUCCESS SUPPORT SERVICES

In California, community colleges serve a critical role in providing an affordable education for all, particularly those who have historically experienced economic and educational disadvantages.

AT COLLEGE OF THE DESERT, WE ARE PROUD TO OFFER PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT.

Our Foster Youth Services Program helps current and former foster youth navigate the higher education system



by linking them to campus and community resources, helping them apply for financial aid and scholarships, and providing an academic counselor to help them create an education plan.

According to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, such programs empower foster youth to better understand their choices and actions and transition into adulthood. Each year, approximately 4,000 of California's foster youth turn 18 and become independent, many without the necessary skills to support themselves. Foster youth programs address students' academic and emotional needs, helping to set them up for success in college and beyond.

In support of students who are Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual and others (LGBTQIA+) the College offers scholarships, such as the William C. Tumelty Scholarship.

College of the Desert also has the LGBTQIA+ Safe Zone, which works to create a safe and welcoming environment where all students, staff, and faculty have the resources and support needed, both on campus and in the community, to ensure academic and personal success.

California's community colleges also serve the largest number of undocumented students of any of the state's higher education systems. This is a responsibility we are honored to uphold, particularly as the status of undocumented immigrants at the federal level remains uncertain.

In October, the College celebrated the opening of a Dreamer Resource Center where undocumented students can receive the academic advising, counseling and referrals they need to navigate the process for accessing higher education in the United States. Last year, College of the Desert enrolled nearly 900 undocumented students.



The Dreamer Resource Center is funded by a three-year, **\$375,000 grant** from the California Campus Catalyst Fund, an initiative to expand support for undocumented students and their families.

These immigrants, including those without permanent legal status, fuel the national, state and local economies through billions of dollars in taxes, mortgages and rent. With higher earnings tied to completion of higher education, support of undocumented students is important for California's economic well-being.

The new Dreamer Resource Center complements the College's active student club, *Alas Con Futuro*, which provides support, financial resources and a safe place for undocumented students.

Students at every level of financial need are supported at College of the Desert. To eliminate non-academic barriers to education, the College provides food pantries on campus for students who don't have enough to eat and locker room showers are made accessible for homeless students.

Our campus has long been a beacon of hope and opportunity for marginalized students. When people are able to pursue education and careers, they can create brighter futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



INDIO CAMPUS



College of the Desert is committed to improving educational opportunities for students in our entire region, which is why we are in the process of doubling the size of the Indio campus.

The project that will add a second three-story building, plaza and outdoor pavilion is in the design stage. The expansion will give the College the capacity to serve students with additional classrooms, labs, student collaboration spaces, food service areas, and an Early Childhood Education Center.

The addition of a 6,500 square-foot child development center adjacent to the campus will provide care for the children of students and staff and hands-on experience for students studying early childhood development.

Construction is scheduled for completion in late 2022 and the new buildings will open in spring 2023.

In addition to the **3,300 students already served** at the Indio campus, the completed projects will accommodate **5,000 more**. These additions will enhance student life and experiences while providing new and innovative learning opportunities.



PARTNERING WITH THE COMMUNITY

The College's recent collaboration with the City of Coachella to offer additional English as a Second Language classes is an example of how partnerships provide enrichment opportunities that contribute to the success and vitality of our community.



In January 2019, the College started offering the non-credit English as a Second Language classes, which are designed to improve English reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. The classes are held at the new Coachella Library.

ESLN courses are tuition-free and require only a \$20 health and service fee each semester.



After completing the ESLN Program, students are empowered to apply their English language skills to advance their careers or further their education, including completion of their high school diploma, preparing for the GED test and enrolling in for-credit college coursework.

COMMENCEMENT 2019 – LARGEST GRADUATING CLASS

The 2019 commencement ceremony not only included the College’s largest-ever graduating class, it also marked the graduation of the first participants in the award-winning pLEDGE program.



Since its inception, the pLEDGE program has removed financial barriers that keep some students from pursuing a higher education. In April 2019, the College Board of Trustees approved an extension of the program for 2020 high school graduates, marking its fourth consecutive year providing student assistance.



Extension of pLEDGE will help College of the Desert carry out its mission to provide quality educational opportunities and close the college achievement gap, particularly among low-income and first-generation students.

In 2019, more than 10,000 parents, family and friends joined College of the Desert as it celebrated its graduates during a record-breaking commencement ceremony held at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on May 24.

The College live-streamed the event in which it conferred more than 1,576 degrees and certificates. That number represents a **70 percent increase** in College of the Desert graduates since 2012.

This was the first year the College held its commencement at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, having outgrown its previous ceremony locations.



CLASS OF 2019



1,576

**DEGREES/
CERTIFICATES
CONFERRED**

BY THE NUMBERS

- 42** VETERANS GRADUATED
- 24** COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN
- 69** OLDEST GRADUATE
- 94** PERCENT OF GRADUATES FROM THE COACHELLA VALLEY



INSPIRING ACTION

College of the Desert has proven itself as a progressive leader, fostering a culture of excellence and innovation for educational enrichment, economic development, and quality of life in the Coachella Valley.

Our efforts to break down financial and sociological barriers to education and improve outcomes for students continue to be recognized at the local, state and national levels.





AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS

This year, we were nominated for the Bellwether Legacy Award, a follow up to our 2018 Bellwether Award for the EDGE program, which provides wraparound services for our students and has helped increase access, retention and completion. The College was one of only 10 national finalists for the Bellwether Legacy Award, which recognizes programs that illustrate five or more years of successful implementation and replication.

College of the Desert was also recognized with a 2018 Chancellor’s Student Success Award for California community college programs that help students achieve their higher education goals. College of the Desert was one of only two colleges to be recognized – for innovations in counseling that support the EDGE and pEDGE programs.

These recognitions are testament to the influence and inspiration our programs provide for community colleges across the nation.

“The Board of Trustees and I are extremely proud of this recognition and of the efforts of everyone at College of the Desert.”

— Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.
Superintendent/President

pEDGE students earning community service hours, giving back to the community while supporting their education



EDGE IMPACTS SINCE 2012

8,500%
INCREASE IN PARTICIPATION

6,200 STUDENTS SERVED

\$923,601
IN STUDENT COST SAVINGS

\$13+ MILLION
IN COLLEGE COST SAVINGS

FOSTERING HEALTHCARE EXCELLENCE



College of the Desert has a robust nursing program whose graduates contribute to health and wellness efforts across the Coachella Valley.

To accommodate the high number of students applying for entry, the College increased the number of openings for incoming registered nurses and licensed vocational nurses and doubled the number of students admitted into the nursing assistant program. As a result, the number of teachers and clinical sites also increased.

In 2019, the Nursing Department gained endorsements from the following regulatory agencies for its curriculum, faculty and facilities: Board of Registered Nursing, Board of Licensed Vocational Nursing, and Board of Public Health for the Nursing Assistant program and Home Health Aide course.

Because there is a predicted need for pharmacy technicians over the next few years, College of the Desert's Partnership and Community Education (PaCE) program offers a six-month training course. The pharmacy technician training program includes in-class and online instruction and a 120-hour externship leading to a national certification exam.

TO FURTHER ADDRESS REGIONAL HEALTHCARE DEMANDS, the College is laying the groundwork for creation of a Center of Excellence for Healthcare Education, a shared community of education and service space at the new Palm Springs Campus.

The Center will be designed to help mitigate shortages in the healthcare workforce and respond to the skills needs of regional employers, as well as scale advances in the quality, availability, access, and equity of healthcare education and services.



The project team envisions the Center as a flexible, adaptable space where theoretical and practical education meets community health services. The space will enable community stakeholders from the Coachella Valley to cultivate innovations, test disruptive and transformative approaches to healthcare education and services, and influence health-related educational programming.



ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING STUDENTS

IN ADDITION TO THE COLLEGE OF THE DESERT FOUNDATION SUPPORT, LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS ARE RECOGNIZING AND SUPPORTING COLLEGE OF THE DESERT STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER SERVICES. THIS AID RELIEVES FINANCIAL BURDENS, OFFERS INSPIRATION AND VALIDATES THEIR COMMITMENT TO EDUCATION.

Four College of the Desert students – all of them single mothers pursuing a higher education degree – were awarded a total of \$6,000 in scholarships from Soroptimist International of Palm Springs and Palm Desert.

The women were recipients of the **LIVE YOUR DREAM AWARD** in April, which assists women who provide the primary financial support for their families with resources they need to improve their education, skills and employment prospects.

The winners for 2019 were: **Nicola Warren**, 27, of Indio, and **Danitra Jackson**, 42, of Desert Hot Springs, who are both nursing students at College of the Desert and each received \$2,000; **Dulce Herrera**, 20, of Thermal, a biology student, and **Angela Valle-Gaxiola**, 28, of Indio, who is studying social work, were awarded \$1,000 scholarships.



THE GIRLFRIEND FACTOR OF PALM DESERT provides renewable educational grants and emotional support to adult women from the Coachella Valley who choose to improve their position in life through higher education and occupational training at College of the Desert and other local institutions. Since 2006, the group has **supported 177 local women** with more than **\$604,000** in educational grants. Their motto is: **"If you want to change the world, educate a woman!"**

In 2018-2019, **SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON** awarded the College of the Desert Foundation **\$25,000** to provide **21 scholarships** in science, technology, engineering and math for minority, under-represented and special populations.

The financial support from Southern California Edison to the College totals **\$250,000 since 1998**.

In June, **MOTHERS AGAINST PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE** funded its first scholarship at College of the Desert, with support from Renova Energy. The group was founded by Cathedral City resident Janet Janes in 2011 after the drug-related death of her son, Chris.

THE DESERT SUN

NEWSPAPER also fosters College of the Desert students through a paid internship program for those wanting a career in media. In 2019, **Alexandria Rosales**, a journalism major, and **Shane Tate**, a communication studies major, worked at the newspaper following their graduation, pictured above with **Julie Makinen, Executive Editor of the Desert Sun**.



The internship program was made possible by the new Bruce Fessier Internship Fund at the College of the Desert Foundation. Major supporters of the fund include Harold Matzner, Peggy Cravens, Jim Johnson and Shirley Miller, Bill and Joanne Chunowitz, and the College of the Desert Foundation.

Such honors are important encouragement for students, who often battle tremendous odds to attain a college education.

COD ATHLETIC AWARDS

THE COLLEGE'S ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT ALSO LOGGED NUMEROUS ACCOLADES AND DISTINCTIONS IN 2019.

Basketball – The Roadrunners Men's team had a season of equal wins and losses for the first time in 12 years and numerous players were recruited to play at four-year universities, including: Riley Welch, University of Kentucky; Gunnar Mogolis, Westcliff University; Anthony Ogradnick, Westcliff University; and Shaquille Russell, Dakota State University. Alissa Munayco from the Women's team signed with Dakota State University.

Tennis – Roadrunners Men's Tennis won their first California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) State team title since 2011 and secured a rare "Triple Crown" by winning the Singles and Doubles titles. Women's Tennis ended the season in the CCCAA Quarter Finals as Claudia Stepien completed her run in the Singles State Championship. Claudia Stepien signed with Portland State University.

Beach Volleyball – The pairs team of Ashtyn Lyneis and Kelsey Smith won third place at the 2019 CCCAA Beach Volleyball Pairs State Championship.

Volleyball – The Women's team won the inaugural Inland Empire Athletic Conference title.

Softball – Pitcher Lauren Robinson was named to the California Community College Fastpitch Coaches Association (3CFCA) All-California Team and received the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference Player of the Year (MVP) Award.

Baseball – Izayah Alvarez signed with Point Loma Nazarene University.

Golf – Women's Golf finished 6th in the State at the CCCAA State Championship.

Soccer – The Men's team won the inaugural Inland Empire Athletic Conference title.

Cross Country – The Women's team sent three student athletes, Naibe Ruelas, Jasmin Gallegos and Stephany Ramirez-Lopez, to the CCCAA State Championship.



CHALLENGING EXPECTATIONS

College of the Desert has made great strides in helping students overcome financial challenges to higher education. Our tuition-free pLEDGE program for incoming students, along with academic scholarships and grants, help many of our students with the financial aspect of college.

But the obligation to our students goes much further than finances. College of the Desert serves a large percentage of disadvantaged students from a variety of backgrounds and experiences. The majority of our students must work while attending classes and they often face non-academic hurdles such as lack of housing, food, transportation, childcare and healthcare.

It is a fact: Disadvantaged students need more resources to succeed. And 60 percent of our students qualify for financial aid. It is our responsibility to serve students' life needs, because doing so will help our students complete their education and go on to careers and economic stability.

According to an April 2019 report by The Century Foundation, only 38 percent of students entering the 1,000 community colleges nationwide complete their degree in six years. That is why College of the Desert has instituted wraparound services that address all of our students' needs.





SERVING THE WHOLE STUDENT



Borrego Health has begun delivering basic medical care to College of the Desert students with a weekly mobile clinic that offers free flu shots, reproductive health services, HIV testing and more.



The College partnered with Borrego Health last year to provide insured and uninsured students with regular healthcare as well as an option for treatment and prescriptions, which are not available at the Student Health Center.

The College has also worked on expanding free food programs to address the issue of food insecurity, which impacts more than half the students attending a California community college, according to the 2019 #RealCollege Survey by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and The Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice.

Of the nearly **40,000 STUDENTS SURVEYED**, **41 percent** said they skipped meals or ate smaller portions for financial reasons, and **12 percent** had not eaten for an entire day during the previous month because they did not have enough money.

College of the Desert has emergency food pantries on every campus and every education center.



FIND Food Bank also distributes food to hundreds of students at the Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Indio and Mecca/Thermal campuses to further serve the needs of struggling students.



Last spring, the College launched a new meal plan to make on-campus food more affordable and convenient for students. They can now purchase a food plan using their student identification card for \$50, \$100 or \$250, and financial aid awards may cover the cost.

Where there is hunger, there are often accompanying issues with housing and transportation. That's why the College continues its HaulPass Program with SunLine Transit Agency, which allows students free unlimited SunBus rides with their student ID. This innovative aid program exceeded over 200,000 rides in its first year.

BROADENING HORIZONS

Technology allows communities around the world to grow more connected, and so does College of the Desert.

The College offers short-term, faculty led international trips to enhance the educational experience, spur personal growth and build global awareness and a deeper understanding of other cultures.



Taking education global can also improve students' future career options by demonstrating an understanding of international perspectives and the ability to navigate challenges and work effectively across cultures.

For two weeks in June, Dr. Sara Butler, a political science instructor, led a group of College of the Desert students to Vietnam to explore culture, cities and natural sites. The Foundation-supported trip was worth three units in Global Issues transferrable to the UC/CSU system.

In August, the College's International Education Program welcomed a large group of students from one of its Japanese partner institutions for a summer "COD Experience" program.

Toyo University students attended a three-week, Intensive English Academy and participated in a number of cultural activities and field trips. They were able to be part of the close-knit student community, participate in campus activities that allowed them to integrate with other students, and develop a more personal relationship with professors and instructors. The experience also gave College of the Desert students a chance to experience another culture.



Students from Alas con Futuro, a campus club led by counselor Jose Simo that supports undocumented students, volunteered to help migrant families in need at the Valley Missionary Program. On a weekend in May 2019, the students organized activities for children and parents such as soccer matches, coloring, bean bag toss and three-legged races. The students also collected and distributed donated socks, undergarments and other much-needed supplies.



DIGITAL MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT



Symphonic Band

In one of the College's finest moments of the year, members of its distinguished Symphonic Band were invited to perform at New York's Carnegie Hall last April.

The band had 28 minutes of total stage time for a solo guest appearance. The performance invitation was extended after Michael Fleischmann, an adjunct faculty member, sent an ensemble audition recording and received a response "recognizing the quality of this recording and your program."



The trip for 44 student musicians and six faculty and chaperones, including airfare, lodging, and shipping musical instruments, was largely underwritten by the **College of the Desert Foundation** and donor **Peggy Cravens**. The outpouring of support was evidence of the respect for and reputation of the College's arts programs.



College Radio Station KCOD

College radio station KCOD and its student staff was also recognized nationally, with nine nominations that included best community college station in the country.

At the Intercollegiate Broadcasting System Awards in New York City in March, Station Manager Giselle Woo took the top award for best staff newsletter/email. In addition to the nod for best station, KCOD was a finalist in seven other categories: Best Production Director, Abraham Cervantes; Best Public Service Promotion; Best Overall On-Air Schedule; Best Station Playlist/Music Selection; Best Station Facilities; Best Promo Series; and Best Promotional Video.

Performing Arts

The performing arts provide many other school and career benefits, including self-confidence, public speaking and improved academic performance – all skills important to students, whether they are theater majors or not. At College of the Desert, performers and students alike are exposed to large-scale productions in our annual musical.



In May, the College's theater department staged Andrew Lloyd Weber's "Phantom of the Opera" at the McCallum Theatre. The four-show run played to a sold-out crowd.



DIGICOM

Digital arts also take a prominent role at College of the Desert. As part of the effort to prepare students for high-tech careers, College of the Desert has partnered with DIGICOM and its CEO, David Vogel, former president of Walt Disney Studios, to create a Center for Digital Media Education, which will be the cornerstone of the West Valley Campus in Palm Springs.

DIGICOM has agreed to partner with College of the Desert in incorporating PSUSD and other K-12 and higher education faculty to help design both the instructional space and a broad menu of career pathway programs, degrees and certificates that build on existing K-12 and higher education efforts in digital media.

It is our intention to fully engage the business community in the creation of this center to ensure that our students are provided with workplace experience in the application of digital media and digital storytelling to a variety of industry clusters in the region.

College of the Desert has a long and distinguished history of linking with public- and private-sector partners to create academic- and career-themed programming that is vital to the growth of our region and workforce.

The development of the **Center for Digital Media Education** will serve as a focal point for the study and application of digital media in today's society and as the next chapter in the College's service to the region.

STEM – NASA Summer program

In another effort to meet industry demand for highly trained and qualified talent, the College has developed curriculum in the STEM fields – science, technology, engineering and math. Employers and industry have taken notice, as illustrated by the College's partnership with NASA.



The space agency's Community College Aerospace Scholars program selected College of the Desert as a home base for its exciting five-week program exploring space-related topics.

As part of the free program last summer, 26 College of the Desert students formed teams and established fictional companies interested in Mars exploration. They developed and tested a prototype rover, forming a company infrastructure, managing a budget, and developing communications and outreach – all skills that will serve them well in the future. The program culminated with a five-day onsite event focusing on STEM.

The experience included briefings by NASA subject matter experts, information on how to apply for NASA internships, a tour of STEM labs at UC Riverside and a visit to the Space Shuttle Endeavour at the California Science Center in Los Angeles.

The program is funded by NASA's Minority University Research and Education Program. Many of the participants receive NASA internships and pursue careers in the aerospace industry.

DARING TO DO MORE

College of the Desert has been on the forefront of eliminating financial barriers to higher education through its tuition-free pLEDGE program.

The initiative, which debuted in 2017, has changed the lives of thousands of local students by offering two years of college – free – for full-time students who graduated from a Coachella Valley high school. In 2018-2019, pLEDGE provided tuition-free education for 1,416 students.

In 2019, members of the first pLEDGE class collected their diplomas and certificates, a watershed moment for College of the Desert.

The Desert Community College District Board of Trustees has approved another extension of the program to cover the full-time annual tuition of \$1,104 for 2020 high school graduates. The decision unlocks unlimited opportunities for local students, who will be able to complete degrees and certificates or transfer to four-year universities.

pLEDGE students earning community service hours by assembling packets and giveaways for Family Night.







pLEDGE AND EDGE

The pLEDGE program is combined with EDGE (Engage, Develop, Grow and Empower), which prepares students for their college journey. EDGE provides a summer bridge component that includes a three-week, fast-paced review of math and/or English, as well as resources needed to be a successful college student. Completing EDGE is a requirement to receive free tuition and fees for two years.



EDGE also provides wraparound support services for two years while students are enrolled at College of the Desert. These support services include follow-up calls, informational emails, dedicated counseling, financial aid assistance and student success workshops.

The summer bridge program is offered at the main campus in Palm Desert, as well as Indio, Mecca-Thermal, Palm Springs, and Desert Hot Springs.



The EDGE and pLEDGE programs are generously supported by the Richard Brooke Foundation led by Melinda Drickey, who is also a member of the College of the Desert Foundation Board of Directors.



THE VALUE AND INNOVATION OF EDGE WAS RECOGNIZED OVER THE LAST YEAR WITH NUMEROUS AWARDS

EDGE was recognized by the League for Innovation in the category of Student Services and Activities.

The League for Innovation in the Community College: Innovation of the Year Award went to the team behind the EDGE/pLEDGE program, which included Dr. Annebelle Nery, Reid Sagara, Amanda Phillips, Laura Graff, Jessica Enders, Felix Marhuenda-Donate, Katie Chartier, Gary Bergstrom, and Dr. Joel L. Kinnamon.

The American Association of Community Colleges named College of the Desert a finalist in two categories: Advancing Diversity and Student Success. Both recognized the EDGE program for its impact on eliminating achievement gaps for diverse student populations and for its significant impact on student success outcomes.

College of the Desert was a top-ten finalist for the coveted Bellwether Legacy Award, which recognizes cutting-edge, trendsetting programs that other colleges would find worthy of replicating. It was a follow up to the Bellwether Award, which the College won in 2018.



FACULTY OF THE YEAR



College of the Desert is fortunate to have strong, talented and dedicated professors on staff. Tops among them this year is Assistant Professor of English **HEATHER BENES**, who was named Faculty of the Year for 2019.

Benes, who began teaching at College of the Desert in 2008, was recognized for giving more than 100% to her students, whether it's providing extra help, a recommendation, a phone call or a resource from the community.

She is also a 10-year Marine Corps veteran and mother of seven. Benes was a first-generation college student who started her higher education at a community college and has encouraged many others to pursue advanced degrees.

On campus, she has been the faculty sponsor or co-sponsor for 10 student clubs and served on the Faculty Senate and in other leadership roles.

ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY EDUCATORS

A college is nothing without quality professors, which is why College of the Desert invests in faculty development through the Association of College and University Educators (ACUE).



This program prepares, credentials and supports faculty to teach with the practices that improve student achievement. Courses address the evidence-based approaches that increase student engagement, learning, persistence to graduation, and career readiness.

Last year, ACUE gave 22 College of the Desert faculty the tools they need to teach more effectively, engage students and help them persist in their studies.

OTHER COLLEGE OF THE DESERT FACULTY AND STAFF RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK



LAURILIE JACKSON received the Helene Galen Excellence in Education Award at the Women Leaders Forum of the Coachella Valley's 7th Annual Women Who Rule Awards Luncheon in January 2019. The award recognizes women who make a difference in the community. Jackson is a College of the Desert full-time Arts and Media faculty member, who helped launch the national award-winning radio station KCOD CoachellaFM and serves as the faculty advisor for The Chaparral campus newspaper. She teaches courses in mass media, journalism, radio and television broadcasting.



Early Childhood Education Instructor **MARIA AVALOS** won the 2019 Distinguished Teaching Award at the International EarlyEdU Institute in Seattle in May. The award recognizes her work in teaching EarlyEdU courses, her diligence in gaining student feedback, her active involvement in the EarlyEdU Faculty Community of Practice and her involvement in the Institute planning committee.

In October, Avalos received the Ladybug Award for Excellence in Early Childhood Education in the Coachella Valley. She was nominated by her peers and was acknowledged at the annual Stan Little Early Childhood Education Conference that takes place at the McCallum Theatre and on campus.



Music Professor **DARLENE ROMANO** was honored with the 2019 Desert Star Lifetime Achievement Award from the Desert Theatre League. Dr. Romano joined College of the Desert in 1985 and has served as Fine Arts Division Chair, Associate Dean of Instruction and Chair of Arts & Media. She is a versatile performer, conductor, composer and educator whose singing credits include operatic roles and concerts with the Los Angeles Philharmonic and San Diego Symphony Orchestra.



DR. ANABELLE NERY, Vice President of Instruction, was named as the state's Distinguished CSSO of the Year by the California Community Colleges Chief Student Services Officers Association in March for her work in developing the College's EDGE program. She was also recognized for her leadership in the K-14 Consortium, her efforts to provide mentoring services on campus and statewide, and advancement in the College's Student Equity and Achievement gaps.



The College's award-winning faculty and administrators need to be supported with quality programming. One way to support professional development and innovation is through grant funding. College of the Desert applied for and received \$427,000 as part of the Improving Online CTE Pathways grant program developed by the California Community Colleges' Online Education Initiative.

The College is using the funds to develop new online Career & Technical Training Education curriculum in the Administration of Justice, Building Inspection Technology, and Business Information fields. Courses will be developed in partnership with local industry to fulfill targeted workforce needs.

The expanded options will provide more opportunities for working adults and those looking to improve their skills.

Over the last 12 months, the College has submitted 32 competitive grant and categorical funding requests and has received 30 that total more than \$10 million from federal, state, and local grant programs. From a student success and learning perspective, this external funding enhances critical programs and services by supporting faculty and staff costs to mitigate pre-collegiate, financial and social barriers, improve college readiness, promote post-secondary access and retention, and accelerate student achievement.

For the College, the funds enhance planning, achievement of strategic goals, equity outcomes, the ability to provide support services, purchase equipment and supplies, and promote professional development.

FUNDING SUCCESS

Many of the College's programs are also made possible by the donor-supported Fund for Student Success through the College of the Desert Foundation.

In 2019, the Fund assisted more than 500 students with the cost of books, tuition, supplies and other expenses.

College of the Desert Students address donors during Stepping Out for COD 2019



The Fund for Student Success allows donors to make a gift, no matter the size, to address critical financial needs that might prevent a student from coming to the College or cause them to drop out. Other benefits include childcare for students with young children, academic counseling and other support for veterans returning from active duty, help for homeless students, and assistance with the cost of graduation ceremony regalia for students.

Stepping Out for COD 2019

The College of the Desert's Foundation's largest fundraiser of the year, Stepping Out for COD also supports the Fund for Student Success. **Patti LaBelle**, the Godmother of Soul, was the featured artist for 2019. She put on a rousing show at the McCallum Theatre, entertaining a sell-out crowd.



Co-chairs Nancy Stone and Diane Rubin with Patti LaBelle

Stepping Out for COD 2019 was the most successful fundraiser to date, bringing in a record **\$725,000** through sponsorships and ticket sales.





COLLEGE OF THE DESERT DONOR SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION 2019



A FOUNDATION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS



The College of the Desert Foundation Board also helped the College stage the **15th annual Scholarship Day Reception**, where scholarship recipients were able to meet their benefactors. The festive ceremony and catered reception were held in the Gymnasium, where several donors and scholarship student recipients shared their stories.

Assisting the Foundation with fundraising are the **Academic Angels**, a dedicated group of members who host luncheons, events and guest speakers throughout the year to raise money for scholarships and other College programs and services.

One of the highlight events of 2019 was the **Coeta Barker Memorial Reception** at the BIGHORN Country Club home of College of the Desert Foundation Board Member, Carol Ammon. The event was underwritten by The Coeta and Donald Barker Foundation and showcased a jazz trio and vocalist from the College's Music Department.

College of the Desert is supported by many generous donors who contribute to student success.



In 2018-2019, nearly **\$700,000** was contributed to program support and more than **500** students received **\$847,000** for books, tuition, supplies, and other expenses – a **25% increase** in assistance from the previous year. Through these gifts, donors are helping students build a better future.

FOUNDATION DONOR STORY

Bill Chunowitz

As Bill Chunowitz sees it, College of the Desert's success is the Coachella Valley's success.

That is why he and his wife, Joanne, have been ardent supporters of the College since 2014.

"Most of the students end up staying here and working after graduation, so everybody wins," said Chunowitz, president of the College of the Desert Foundation's Board of Directors.

His donations are used where they are most needed to help the College and its students stay competitive in academic and training programs, whether that means purchasing the latest equipment or hiring talented instructors.

"I love the College. We're doing good things and expanding," he said.

Chunowitz also served on the 2019 Stepping Out for COD Committee, which brought record attendance to the McCallum Theatre. He is also a member of the President's Circle, which supports priority programs at the College.

Chunowitz is a retired CPA who has been a full-time desert resident since 2008. Before coming to Rancho Mirage, he lived in Chicago, where he helped found a Ronald McDonald House to help the families of children with cancer.

Now, fortunately, Chunowitz devotes his energies to College of the Desert.

"I'm a big advocate for community college because of the cost of education today," he said. "It gives young people an opportunity to elevate themselves and fulfill their dreams that they might not otherwise have."



FOUNDATION DONOR STORY

Diane Rubin

Diane Rubin is usually very busy this time of year organizing College of the Desert's biggest annual spring fundraising gala, Stepping Out for COD.

As co-chair of the planning committee for the event in 2019 and 2018, she was responsible for reserving the entertainment, promoting sponsorships and otherwise ensuring a successful event.

The 2019 gala in May was one for the record books, with the "godmother of soul," Patti LaBelle charming a sold-out crowd. It raised \$725,000 for programs and services at the College.

The successful 2018 Stepping Out event featured Lucille Arnaz.

Rubin's involvement in Stepping Out for COD is just part of what she does for College of the Desert. Rubin and her husband, Lenny Eber, have been donors to the College since 2014. She is also a member of the President's Circle, which provides opportunities to support programs that help students with the cost of textbooks and childcare, and provide meal vouchers and emergency funds.

Rubin, a CPA, serves as treasurer for the College of the Desert Foundation Board of Directors, of which she has been a member since 2017.



FOUNDATION DONOR STORY

Justin and Jeane Hilb



In 1998, the generous support of Justin and Jeane Hilb to College of the Desert was acknowledged with the naming of the refurbished student center in their honor.

More than 20 years later, that building has been reborn as a central campus library and the couple's patronage is once again remembered and recognized.

"Our favorite memory was the day that they inaugurated our building," the couple said. "We are proud to support our community college that affects so many lives in such a good way."

Before she married Justin in 1979, Jeane was living in Palm Springs, where she valued the clean air and quality of life. Her involvement with College of the Desert began when she was hired by the head of the Business Department to host weekly television interviews with local business personalities. She was also friends with Fern Stout, who became the second

Superintendent/President of the community college district in 1973.

Jeane served as a College of the Desert Foundation board member in the early years of its development and was the Founding President of the Foundation Auxiliary, now known as the Academic Angels.

As a community college and university graduate and a teacher, Jeane has always believed in the power of education to change lives.

"I think college is the most wonderful resource we have in the valley," she said. "I'm so glad we were in a position to help."



FOUNDATION DONOR STORY

Rob Kincaid

Rob Kincaid appreciates the role education has played in his life and now he's paying it forward by funding scholarships at College of the Desert.

Kincaid, of Palm Springs, is the co-founder of a vacation home management and marketing company that was purchased by Wyndham in 2015.

"We employed a good number of College of the Desert students and graduates in internships and full-time positions and it was a really good experience. This is a way to give back to an educational institution that helped our business grow," he said.

After his company sold, Kincaid returned to college for a master's degree in Executive Leadership. As part of his pay-it-forward passion, he now teaches online and in-person classes in entrepreneurship, innovation and leadership at his alma-mater, the University of Iowa, where he spends part of the year.

Kincaid became a College of the Desert donor in 2017 and joined the Foundation Board of Directors in 2019.

He is always mindful of the challenges that students face, particularly those who pay their way through college as he did.

"I have a lot of gratitude for the mentors and scholarships I had as a student," Kincaid said. "This is about lifting people up and helping people find opportunity."

CREATING TOMORROW

College of the Desert plays a valuable role in the success and future of the Coachella Valley.

With the majority of students continuing to live and work in the region after they graduate, it is imperative that the College prepare them adequately for their next step, whether it be a career or transfer to a university.

We are champions – for those just getting started at college, for those returning, and for those beginning later in life. Because higher education is an equalizing force.

That is why we continue in the relentless pursuit of our mission to provide an affordable education for all and offer support for non-academic barriers such as homelessness and food insecurity. We have also instituted successful, award-winning programs that ready students for the rigors of college and increase completion rates.

This is an exciting time to be part of College of the Desert, where the possibilities are only limited by our imaginations. Over the next year you will see countless changes at the College, both in the physical layout of our campuses and in the spirit of our students, faculty and staff who are the promise of the future.

We hope you will join us in this next chapter and help us **Create Tomorrow.**







Founded more than 60 years ago, College of the Desert serves the residents of Coachella Valley cities and communities. One of the fastest growing community colleges in California, the College has kept pace with the growth of the Valley and is continually looking for ways to serve the needs of its diverse population.

The leading source of job and career training in the region, most of College of the Desert's 125,000 alumni have chosen to stay or return to the Coachella Valley to work—contributing more than \$243 million a year to the local economy.

Investments in student success are creating a brighter future for the Coachella Valley.

WWW.COLLEGEOFTHEDESERT.EDU