



**COLLEGE**  
*of the*  
**DESERT**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **COD Receives Federal Grant to Assist Students in Middle School through College in Desert Hot Springs Area**

PALM DESERT, CA—College of the Desert (COD), in collaboration with Palm Springs Unified School District is pleased to announce the award of a renewable 5-year Federal TRiO Educational Talent Search Grant.

The \$1.2 million grant for this award period, 2016-2021, will serve 500 student participants in the Desert Hot Springs community. The services are for first generation students that meet the federal income eligibility in middle and high school levels attending either Desert Hot Springs High School, Painted Hills Middle School or Desert Hot Springs Middle School.

The process began last spring when PSUSD expressed interest in pursuing this opportunity with COD. Many hours went into preparing the grant last fall. "I want to recognize the outstanding writing team at COD that included Angel Meraz, Tula Marin, Adell Bynum, Maria Jasso, and Elise King, and the K-12 writing team including Director of Secondary Education PSUSD Ann Kalisek, Desert Hot Springs High School Erica Watson, Painted Hills Middle School Pearl Vongpree, Desert Springs Middle School Sarah Kennedy," said COD Transfer Counselor Scott Cooper. There were also community supporters who assisted with the process such as: Congressman Raul Ruiz, M.D., Pathways to Success Ernie Rios, CVEP, the Ophelia Project, Boys and Girls Club of Desert Hot Springs, and many COD administrators.

"Students in Desert Hot Springs now have the ability to receive TRiO services beginning in the sixth grade with Educational Talent Search, continue in Upward Bound through high school and extend services into college with the Student Support Services programs such as ACES, TRiO DSPS, and TRiO Veterans," Cooper stated.

TRiO is a federally-funded program geared toward assisting high school students that meet the federal income eligibility, whose parents never attended college, to finish high school and enter and graduate from the college or university of their choice. The program provides counseling and tutoring services, in addition to providing supplemental academic instruction, field trips to various colleges and cultural events, and parent workshops covering such topics as financial aid sources and college entrance requirements.

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Services provided by the program include:

- Academic, financial, career, or personal counseling including advice on entry or re-entry to secondary or postsecondary programs
- Career exploration and aptitude assessment
- Tutorial services
- Information on postsecondary education
- Exposure to college campuses
- Information on student financial assistance
- Assistance in completing college admissions and financial aid applications
- Assistance in preparing for college entrance exams
- Mentoring programs
- Special activities for sixth, seventh, and eighth graders
- Workshops for the families of participants

### **Program Description**

The Talent Search program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assist participant with the postsecondary application process. Talent Search also encourages persons who have not completed education programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

### **Types of Projects**

Projects provide tutorial services, career exploration, aptitude assessments, counseling, mentoring programs, workshops, information on postsecondary institutions; education or counseling services designed to improve the financial and economic literacy of students; guidance on and assistance in secondary school reentry, alternative education programs for secondary school dropouts, entry into general educational development programs or postsecondary education; and programs and activities previously mentioned that are specially designed for students who are limited English proficient, students from groups that are traditionally underrepresented in postsecondary education, students with disabilities, students who are homeless children and youths, students who are in foster care or are aging out of the foster care system or other disconnected students.

### **About College of the Desert:**

Established in 1958, College of the Desert (COD), located in Palm Desert, is an accredited community college serving eastern Riverside County, California. The College leads the region in providing quality, higher education, technical training and lifelong learning opportunities, in response to the dynamic needs of our diverse community. The College serves more than 14,000 credit students and 1,000 non-credit students each year and is the number one source of transfer students to California State University, San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus. For more information, visit [www.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu).

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