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**Moody's Assigns Aa2 Rating, Stable Outlook
to College of the Desert's GO Bonds**

PALM DESERT, CA — Moody's Investors Service has assigned an Aa2 rating and a stable outlook to all of College of the Desert's rated General Obligation (GO) Bonds.

The Aa2 rating reflects the Colleges' "very large and growing tax base, below-average socioeconomic profile, and solid financial profile supported by fiscal prudence," Moody's wrote in its ratings analysis.

"The stable outlook reflects our expectation that the district's tax base will continue to grow, financials will remain healthy, and debt and pension burden will remain manageable."

Among the bonds receiving the Aa2 rating is the college district's \$50 million GO Bond, Election of 2016, Series 2018 -- proceeds of which will finance acquisition and construction of facilities for College of the Desert.

In November 2016, Coachella Valley voters overwhelmingly approved a \$577.8 million bond measure to invest in the future of the College and its students. Funds will be dedicated to building a Palm Springs Campus, reducing overcrowding by building new classrooms and laboratories throughout the valley, and expanding educational opportunities and access to meet the expanding needs of the desert community and economy.

About College of the Desert:

Established in 1958, College of the Desert (COD), located in Palm Desert, is an accredited community college in the Desert Community College District that serves 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 15,000 each year and is the number one source of transfer students to California State University, San Bernardino's Palm Desert Campus. For more information, visit www.collegeofthedesert.edu.

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