



**MEDIA ADVISORY:**

May 23, 2017

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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## **College of the Desert to celebrate largest graduating class**

**PALM DESERT, CA** — For the third straight year, College of the Desert will break the record for the largest graduating class in the school's history.

The media is welcome to cover the festivities, which begin at 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 26 (more coverage details below, including how to RSVP).

This year, the college will award about 1,220 degrees and credentials – up 7 percent compared to 2016.

At this point, about 490 students are expected to walk the stage during Commencement Ceremony. College Superintendent/President Dr. Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D., and Desert Community College District Board of Trustees Chairwoman Aurora Wilson will hand the graduating students their credentials.

Here are some statistics from the three record-breaking years for comparison.

**2017:** 1,220 credentials

**2016:** 1,137 credentials

**2015:** 1,067 credentials

Following graduation, many of the students will transfer to other colleges, including 12 campuses within the California State University system, eight University of California campuses, and other universities as far as Birmingham Music Conservatoire-Birmingham City University in England.

### **DETAILS ON HOW TO COVER IT LIVE**

As mentioned previously, the media is welcome to cover Commencement. Please let us know if you'd like to join us so that we can help you navigate and set up at what'll be a very busy scene at our football stadium, Boone Field.

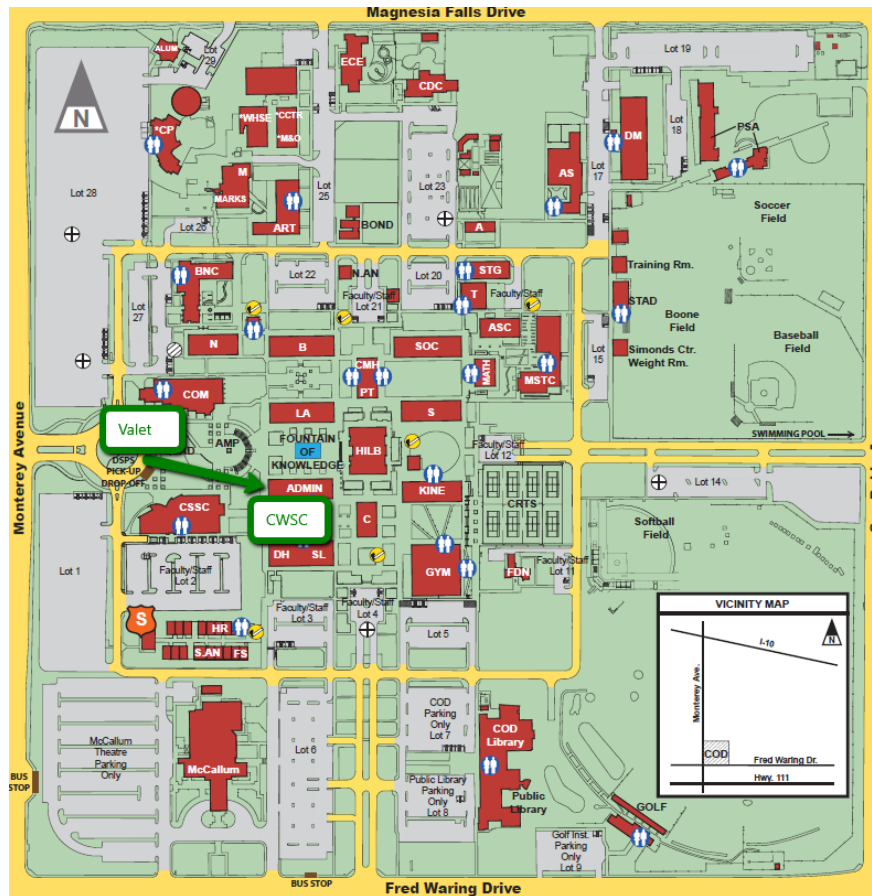
**RSVP:** Please email or contact James Meier by noon Thursday, May 25, at (760) 773-2589 if you plan to cover Commencement. On Friday, he'll be reachable at the college's Public Relations cell phone at (760) 848-8230. Please show up closer to 7 p.m. Friday to get yourself situated. James will help with that.

**What:** Nearly 500 graduating students will walk the stage at Commencement.

**When:** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Friday, May 26, 2017

**Where:** Boone Field (see convenient map below). Enter the campus through the main Monterey Avenue entrance and you'll be directed by our public safety officers to a convenient parking spot near the stadium.

No parking permits are required and trams will be circulating the campus to provide transportation from the lots.



**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 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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