

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

---

## **2019-2020**

# Defining Tomorrow CREATING TOMORROW

BY THE  
NUMBERS  
2019-2020

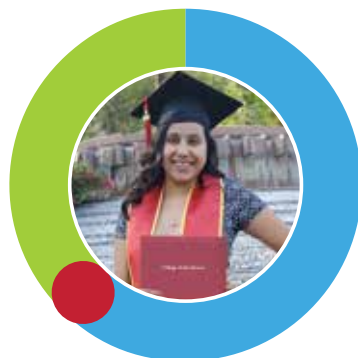
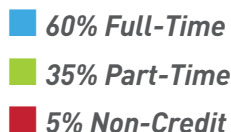


COLLEGE  
*of the*  
DESERT

## ENROLLMENT

17,000

## STUDENTS AT-A-GLANCE



## TOTAL DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

AWARDED: **2,006**

## VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

SUPPORTED: **500+**

## ECONOMIC IMPACT

COLLEGE OPERATIONS:

**\$302** MILLION+  
ANNUALLY

ALUMNI:

**\$243** MILLION+  
ANNUALLY

## STUDENT IMPACT

SINCE 2017:

**62%** INCREASE  
IN DEGREES &  
CERTIFICATES

**70%** INCREASE  
IN UC/CSU TRANSFERS

As the largest institution of higher education in the Coachella Valley, College of the Desert has everything our students need to earn a degree or certificate, learn valuable job skills, transfer to a 4-year institution, or find a career. With extensive support services and tuition-free programs, we help every student create their tomorrow.

## 2019-2020 BOARD OF TRUSTEES



**Dr. Fred E. Jandt**  
Chair



**Rubén AríAztlán Pérez**  
Member



**Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton**  
Vice Chair



**Dr. Bonnie Stefan**  
Member



**Aurora Wilson**  
Clerk



**Keanna Garcia**  
Student Trustee

# OVERCOMING A YEAR OF CHALLENGES

## *Focus Remains on Student Success, Despite Pandemic.*



I am proud of the collective efforts over the last year that have improved student success outcomes. The programs and services we have built since I joined College of the Desert in 2012, such as EDGE/plEDGE, the Dreamer Resource Center, on-campus food pantries and many others, help students overcome economic and social barriers so they can focus on their education.

The recent accomplishments, particularly in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, are especially bittersweet since this will be my last annual report message for College of the Desert. I will be retiring from my position on March 31, 2021.

My years of work at the College have been a highlight of my 30-year career, but it is critical at this stage in my life to focus on my family. It has been an honor to work with such incredibly talented faculty and staff who were instrumental in helping fulfill our mission of accessible higher education for all. And I will miss the students who are working hard to create their tomorrow.

**Student success has always been the central focus at College of the Desert.** When the global pandemic struck in March 2020, College of the Desert confronted the challenges it posed head-on. Through the leadership and tenacity of our employees, we effectively shifted to remote learning in a matter of weeks and addressed all related issues for a successful transition. The coronavirus made a profound impact and will continue to affect all of us for some time to come. Even as we adapt to new realities, College of the Desert finds new and innovative ways to help students realize their dreams.

The success of EDGE and plEDGE grows every year as more students take advantage of these opportunities. Dedicated resource centers for veterans, Dreamers, Black Student Success, LGBTQ+ and foster youth students provide support for those who can benefit from additional guidance and encouragement.

College of the Desert also made significant enhancements to facilities to improve the overall learning environment. The newly renovated Hilb Library offers students enhanced research and study capabilities at the Palm Desert Campus. The expansion of the Indio campus moves forward, with design adjustments to add touch-free amenities and increased social distancing. The upcoming Palm Springs Campus will create an entirely new learning space with additional educational opportunities. And through a partnership with Cal Poly Pomona, students will be able to earn an architecture degree without needing to leave the desert.

This past year demonstrates our ability to overcome significant challenges and emerge triumphant. I know the College will continue to flourish given the strength and dedication of College of the Desert's students, faculty, staff and supporters. And I remain confident that together we will create a better tomorrow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Joel L. Kinnamon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

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





## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### DIVERSITY

6

*College of the Desert continued to dismantle the social and financial barriers to higher education and give students the tools they need to succeed. In addition to award-winning academic and support programs and services, we prioritized equity, inclusion and the right of all people to access a high-quality, affordable college education.*

### ACHIEVEMENT

12

*Talent comes in all shapes and sizes, all disciplines and interests, and at College of the Desert, we make sure that it's celebrated. We are proud of the recognition our students, athletes, faculty and programs garnered over the last year.*

### COVID-19 RESPONSE

20

*In the face of a worldwide pandemic, the College shifted all educational and operational services to an online, virtual environment and took steps to protect the health and safety of students, staff and the entire College community.*

### EXPANSION

26

*College of the Desert continues to expand to accommodate the needs of students across the Coachella Valley. Significant progress was made on capital projects in every corner of the Valley, growing with our community and building a foundation for a brighter future.*

### ACCESS

34

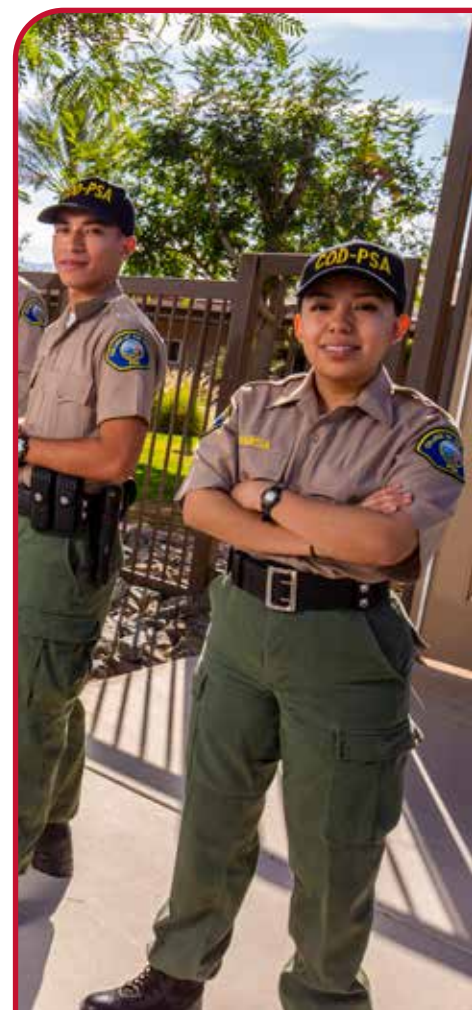
*New technology made students' lives easier, particularly as they worked remotely during the pandemic. The College introduced various improvements, including open learning resources for online books, and apps for instant communication and access to help.*

### CAREER PIPELINE

38

*The College continued to offer the exceptional career programs and community partnerships necessary to develop a skilled workforce to support the local economy.*







# Diversity

---

College of the Desert continued to dismantle the social and financial barriers to higher education and give students the tools they need to succeed. In addition to award-winning academic and support programs and services, we prioritized equity, inclusion and the right of all people to access a high-quality, affordable college education.







## COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

### *Where Diversity Thrives*



College of the Desert is an open-door institution that embraces diversity and the right of all people to have access to quality higher education in a safe environment that supports equity and inclusion.

Over the last year, College of the Desert joined 60 other community colleges in the California Community College Equity Leadership Alliance, which facilitates and provides resources to address individual and systemic racism. The College also partnered with the USC Race and Equity Center to administer a survey of students on race and campus climate.

Other areas of progress include the Chancellor's Office Call to Action, with a review of police and first responder training and curriculum.

Faculty leadership issued a Statement of Equity, acknowledging their commitment to create inclusive classrooms and anti-racism curriculum, which began in the fall.



*"Education is often seen as an important component to creating social justice. Our faculty knows that they are not only teachers, but mentors and role models. We must ensure that they are equipped with the tools they need and the support they deserve to teach our students and create the leaders of tomorrow; the leaders we will depend on to be part of the solution to the answers we seek. We must foster understanding, acceptance and tolerance in our classrooms and on our campuses so that it flows out into our community and our world."*

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

As seen through the pandemic and American landscape, the racial divide is still clearly present in our society. College of the Desert continues to pursue new resources and adaptations to create an environment conducive to learning for all students, further closing this gap and enabling everyone to attain their educational goals.

## BILL TUMELTY, LEGACY LEADER

### *— Empowering the Future*

LGBTQ+ is one of the populations that traditionally has less representation and completion rates for higher education. Because College of the Desert promotes diversity and inclusion, Bill Tumelty saw a need to help the LGBTQ+ population so he created the CV Pride Scholarship Fund to help with tuition and living expenses.

Many LGBTQ+ students don't have family support and struggle to make ends meet. Not only does the fund help to overcome financial barriers and encourage student success, but it also supports equity in education and helps shape cultural progress in our communities, and in our country.

Scholarships range from \$500 to \$2,500. The fund continues to grow and to date has been supported by Coldwell Banker Commercial Real Estate in Palm Desert.



With Tumelty's rich history over the span of his career in working for and giving back to nonprofits,

combined with his love of education, he was inspired to create the CV Pride Scholarship Fund to fill a gap and create a meaningful legacy.

*"It is rewarding to be a part of the continued evolution of the College in meeting the needs of all those who seek a higher education,"* he said.





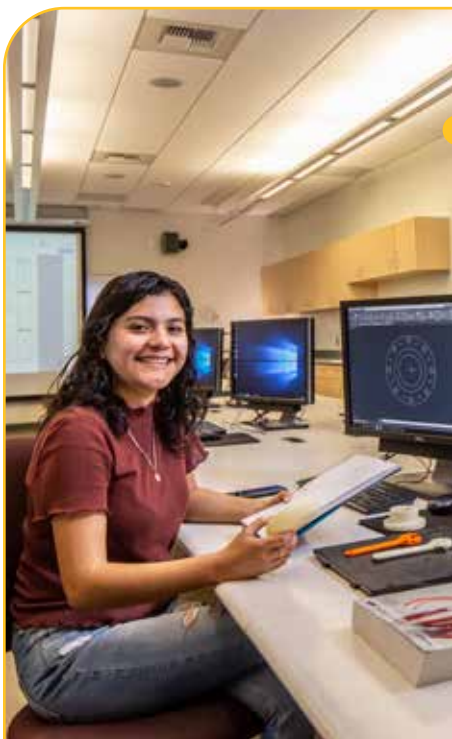


## DREAMER *Resource Center Supplies Hope to Undocumented Students*

College of the Desert celebrated the opening of a new student success initiative – the Dreamer Resource Center – on November 4, 2019. The center is dedicated to students who are in an unsteady position with the uncertainty of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA).

By opening the Dreamer Resource Center, the College became a beacon of hope for about 900 undocumented students who seek their education here. The center represents a commitment by College of the Desert to embrace and serve the students who reflect a diverse community.

The mission of the Dreamer Resource Center is to improve student success by providing academic advising, counseling and student services program referrals in a welcoming environment. The center also provides California Dream Act application assistance, scholarship resources and informational workshops regarding DACA Renewal, Know Your Rights and more.

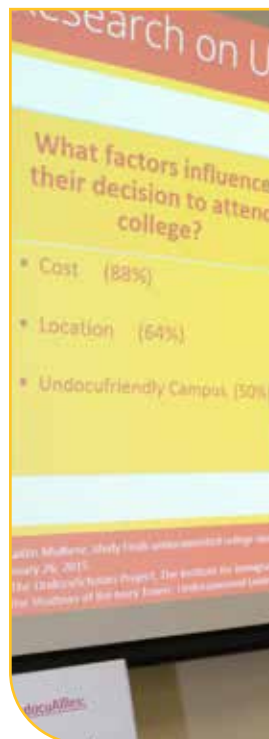


### Exploring Racial Equity

College of the Desert leaders, faculty and staff are working with USC's Rossier School of Education to obtain an executive leadership certificate in Race and Equity.

The USC Equity Institute program will include 100 College employees who will take eight weekly modules dedicated to improving and advancing racial equity on campus.

Participants will also explore the campus' recruitment, retention, and hiring data against national data to better understand gaps and opportunities.



### Undocumented Student Action Week

With the goal of education for all people regardless of citizenship, College of the Desert participated in Undocumented Student Action Week, October 14-18, 2019.

A partnership of community colleges across California provided support and advocacy for undocumented students throughout the state.



## EDGE and pLEDGE *Participation Grows*



College of the Desert's EDGE and pLEDGE programs, designed to help students overcome challenges and achieve academic success, have been growing steadily, and 2019-2020 was no exception.

EDGE works with students from the day they choose to pursue their education at College of the Desert. This starts with personal assistance on expectations and financial aid, followed by a two-week review of math and English skills. Once classes begin, EDGE continues to guide students by providing counseling resources and other support to keep them on track for graduation.

The pLEDGE program takes this a step further, providing two years of free tuition and fees for EDGE participants. Removing these financial burdens keeps students focused on their academic studies.

### COMBINED, THESE AWARD-WINNING PROGRAMS HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE:

- **Since the pLEDGE program began in 2017**, the number of students transferring to four-year universities after College of the Desert has increased **70%**.
- **The EDGE program has increased degree and certificate completion rates.** Those who also enroll in pLEDGE are **62%** more likely to complete their studies to attain a degree or certificate and they are finishing those programs quicker.
- **Thanks to the access afforded by the pLEDGE program**, the number of first-time, full-time students has grown from **40% to 85%**.

The EDGE and pLEDGE programs reached new enrollment records last year, as students increasingly recognized the value of these programs from both educational and financial perspectives. The continued success of the EDGE and pLEDGE programs depends on generous backing from the Richard Brooke Foundation and the College of the Desert Alumni Association. Together, these organizations work together to create tomorrow by providing more than a million dollars in funding each year.

## EDGE Makes an Impact



EDGE program staff were recognized for significant contributions to the Coachella Valley business community at the 5th annual SBEMP Awards from the law offices of Slovak, Baron, Empey, Murphy & Pinkney.

Jessica Enders, Director, Education Centers; Amanda Phillips, Dean of Counseling; and Katie Chartier, Assistant Director, First Year Experience, were honored with the SBEMP Impact Award for their contributions to the development and ongoing success of the EDGE program.





## Central Pantry

*College of the Desert established food pantries in various locations across its campuses where students who don't have enough to eat can grab a healthy snack.*

### COMBATING *Student Hunger*

In a recent survey, 41% of California community college students skipped meals or ate smaller portions because they couldn't afford food; 12% said they had gone without food for an entire day within the previous month because they did not have enough money.

Understanding the extent of student hunger, College of the Desert has emergency food pantries on every campus and education center to serve those in need. These pantries offer nutritious snacks that can be accessed by students.

In addition to the individual food pantries across the campuses, the College began work on the Palm Desert campus to create a centralized food pantry. Once complete, students will be able to obtain fresh food from the central pantry.

### FIND Food Bank on Campus

New and expanded partnerships helped tackle the issue of food insecurity, which is a significant concern for many students.

College of the Desert partnered with FIND Food Bank and the Hunger Free Campus Grant to bring a FIND food truck to campuses in Palm Desert, Palm Springs, Indio and Mecca/Thermal twice a month.

The food trucks offered free fruits, vegetables and non-perishable goods.



### Supporting our Foster Youth

Foster youth often face unique challenges to higher education. To ensure they have support and guidance at a crucial point in their lives, the Foster Youth Service Center helps foster youth apply for financial aid and scholarships.

Thanks to generous donations from Jim and Cynthia Williams, the Foster Youth Success Initiative also provided ongoing support through academic counselors and connections to beneficial resources on and off campus.



# Achievement

---

Talent comes in all shapes and sizes, all disciplines and interests, and at College of the Desert, we make sure that it's celebrated. We are proud of the recognition our students, athletes, faculty and programs garnered over the last year.









# 2020 GRADUATES CELEBRATED *in Historic Virtual Commencement Ceremony*

College of the Desert celebrated its largest graduating class with its first-ever virtual commencement ceremony.

The ceremony could not be held at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden as planned because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but College of the Desert would not allow social distancing regulations to dampen the celebration.

"Members of the Class of 2020 worked hard to finish their degrees as the world around them grew more uncertain," said Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D., Superintendent/President. "Now is the moment for these graduates to celebrate and be celebrated because they didn't give up on creating their tomorrow."



CONGRATULATIONS  
*College of the Desert*  
CLASS OF 2020



Student speaker Graciela Morales, a Business Administration graduate, said, ***"College of the Desert Class of 2020, you all have inspiring stories that shaped you into the successful individuals you are. We are now better prepared to face anything! Let's continue working on our big dreams."***

Briana Jandt, a Liberal Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences major, added, ***"More than anything, College of the Desert has given me a second chance at life. Today, I feel successful, worthy, empowered and intelligent...I could never say thank you enough for all the pieces of hope you have given me."***

**In addition to being the largest graduating class in the history of the College with 2,006 degrees and certificates, the Class of 2020 celebrated the second graduating class of students from the PLEDGE program, which offers local high school graduates two years of free tuition.**







*To honor this year's graduating class and their accomplishments, graduates were sent diplomas, complimentary caps, tassels, diploma covers, and certificates by mail over the summer. Graduates used the hashtag #Roadrunner2020 to share their individual story of success on social media.*



*Commencement regalia was provided to each graduate, courtesy of the College of the Desert Foundation. Supplying students with their caps and sashes allowed them to have traditional pictures taken and lent an air of celebration for their significant rite of passage.*





# 1979 CHAMPIONSHIP *Football Team Returns*

The community celebrated the return of the 1979 College of the Desert championship football team, which reconnected with the campus at the 2019 homecoming celebration on October 26.

The 2019 game marked the 57th College of the Desert Homecoming and 40 years since the 1979 team earned the title of Desert Conference Champs. The day honored the 1979 team, including quarterback Roman Gabriel III.

Several members of the championship team, including Gabriel, traveled from across the country to meet and give motivational remarks to the team.

In a special message to the College, Gabriel said, "It means a lot to me to come back; the two years I spent at COD were the most fun I had playing football. It was a great place to get an education and catapulted me to the opportunity to move on to get a scholarship to the University of New Mexico, play in the Senior Bowl, play professional football with the Oakland Raiders and the United States Football League in Boston."



In 1962, football was the first team sport introduced at College of the Desert. Since then, the football team has earned a conference championship title nine times, including in 1979. The 2019 game was dedicated in memory of Benjamin Anthony Di Iorio III, a member of the 1979 championship team, who arranged much of the anniversary reunion with Gabriel.





## ATHLETIC COACHES

### *Earn Accolades*



As the Roadrunners excelled in a number of athletic endeavors, team leaders also gained recognition for guiding students to success.

- Former Men's Soccer coach **Enrique Cardenas**, who was an outstanding student athlete out of Coachella Valley High School, guided the team to a second consecutive conference title, and was chosen as the Inland Empire Athletic Conference Coach of the Year.
- Women's Golf coach **Erin Lind** was named 2019 Golf Coach of the Year by the Orange Empire Conference. Lind guided the team to its second consecutive Orange Empire Conference title and a sixth-place finish at the 2019 CCCAA State Finals.
- Men's Basketball coach **Trent Skinner** was named one of 50 impactful coaches this spring by Silver Waves Media, a national publication. He was recognized for a 16-12 season after inheriting a team that had not won a single game the season before.

## Men's Soccer Nets Second Straight Conference Title

For the first time in 40 years, the Men's Soccer Team earned a second consecutive conference title.

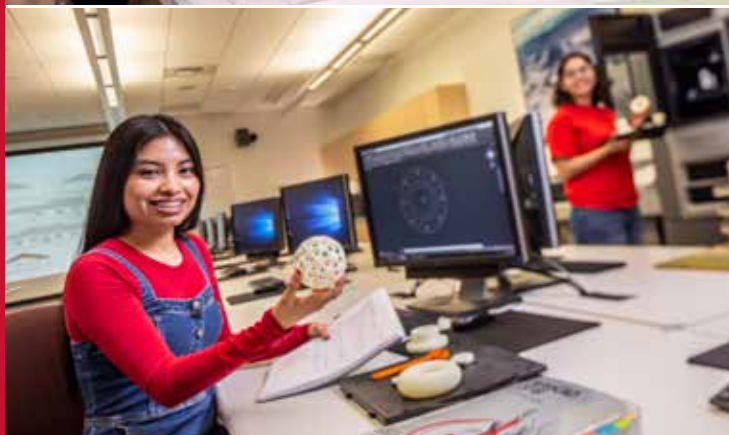
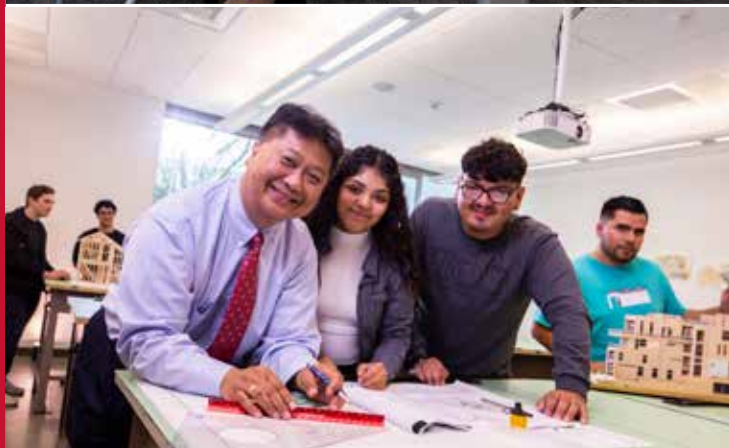
Several players marked standout seasons: Sophomore forward Alejandro Pimentel earned the Inland Empire Athletic Conference (IEAC) Most Valuable Player Award; goalkeeper Uriel Lopez, midfielder Lucas Rosales and midfielder Jonathan Zambrano – all sophomores – were named First Team All-IEAC. Three other players shared Second Team All-IEAC honors.

## Women's Volleyball Team Wins First Title Since 2007

In 2019, the Women's Volleyball Team made quite an impression during their inaugural season with the newly formed Inland Empire Athletic Conference (IEAC). The Roadrunners reached an 8-2 record in conference play, enough to give them the 2019 IEAC title.

Standouts on the court included freshman setter Judy Figueroa, who was named First Team All-IEAC. Freshman libero Dakota Hansen was named second team all-IEAC with two others receiving honorable mentions from the league.





## STUDENT EDUCATION PROGRAM *Earns Spot as Bellwether Award Finalist*

**At College of the Desert, student success defines our ability to meet our mission, and we continue to be nationally recognized for our wraparound support programs.**

In February 2020, College of the Desert was named a Bellwether Award finalist in Planning, Governance & Finance for our Student Education Program, a tool that establishes a course roadmap outlining the best way for a student to complete the courses required for his or her major. The award category honors programs or activities that are designed and successfully implemented to improve a college's efficiency and effectiveness.

The Bellwether Award, part of the Community College Futures Assembly, focuses on programs that other colleges would consider replicating. In 2018, College of the Desert was named the winner in the Instructional Services & Programs category for its innovative EDGE (Engage, Develop, Grow, Empower) program.

For the same program, College of the Desert was also one of only 10 finalists for the 2019 Bellwether Legacy Award, given every five years.



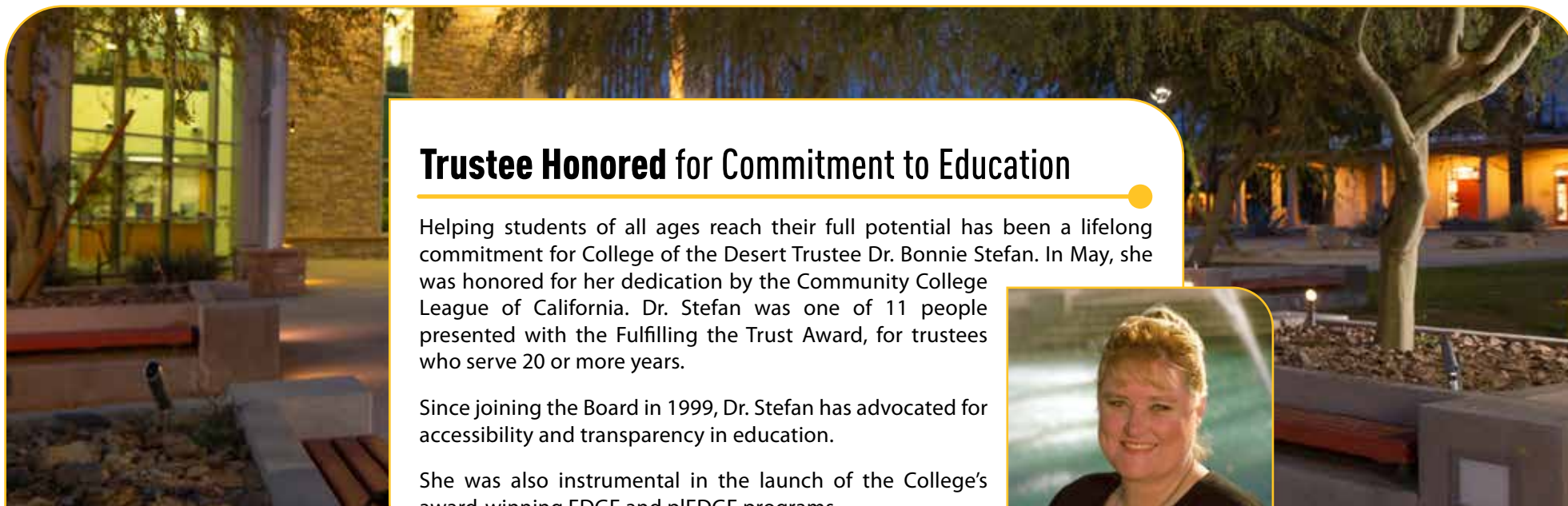


## NATIONAL COALITION *of Certification Centers Recognition*

College of the Desert was selected as a National Coalition of Certification Centers (NC3) School on the Rise for Career and Technical Education (CTE) during the NC3 Virtual Leadership Summit.

**The award recognizes the hard work and dedication within the Automotive Technology Program at the College and celebrates consistent growth in issued certifications.**

NC3 was established to help build a workforce prepared to meet the needs of industries by connecting employers and educational institutions in collaborative partnerships that foster effective training, elevation of skilled careers and employment opportunities for students.



## Trustee Honored for Commitment to Education

Helping students of all ages reach their full potential has been a lifelong commitment for College of the Desert Trustee Dr. Bonnie Stefan. In May, she was honored for her dedication by the Community College League of California. Dr. Stefan was one of 11 people presented with the Fulfilling the Trust Award, for trustees who serve 20 or more years.

Since joining the Board in 1999, Dr. Stefan has advocated for accessibility and transparency in education.

She was also instrumental in the launch of the College's award-winning EDGE and pLEDGE programs.

# COVID-19 Response

---

In the face of a worldwide pandemic, the College shifted all educational and operational services to an online, virtual environment and took steps to guarantee the health and safety of students, faculty, staff and the entire college community.







## INNOVATIVE RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC *Supports Student Success*



Critical thinking, creative problem solving and applying innovation, no matter the situation, are vital skills that students learn at College of the Desert. In the months following the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, our campus put these skills to the test. We created tools and solutions to effectively adapt and pivot, in a historic effort that will inspire us and others now and in the post-pandemic years to come.

### **OUR EFFORTS WERE HAILED AS ONE OF THE BEST COMMUNITY COLLEGE PANDEMIC RESPONSES IN THE STATE.**

In March, we quickly moved classes and labs online, working to provide uninterrupted learning and the least disruption to students as possible. This included rapid distribution of Chromebooks, laptops, hotspots and other technology to students and faculty, providing them the tools needed for an effective distance learning environment.

College of the Desert also worked with internet providers to ensure service at home, provided virtual training on remote instruction to 400 faculty, scanned library textbooks for accessibility, and transitioned our student support services online. We launched a smartphone app to keep users informed with campus updates and connect them with the services they needed to navigate a remote college experience.

Not all classes easily lent themselves to remote learning and we tackled those challenges head on. For example, we secured an emergency exemption from the Board of Registered Nursing to reduce clinical hour requirements for nursing students in direct patient care and allowing more simulated hours.

The Desert Community College District Board of Trustees was instrumental in allocating funds for these responses and pushing forward initiatives to ensure students were not academically or financially penalized due to the coronavirus, while continuing to protect the health and safety of employees and students.

### **THE COLLEGE'S CORONAVIRUS RESPONSE WENT BEYOND STUDENTS**

The staff in Early Childhood Education (ECE) drove by to visit children at home who were enrolled at the campus Child Development Center to reassure them during a most uncertain time. The ECE faculty also introduced a free online parenting course for those grappling with caring for children at home while attending virtual classes.

Recognizing a rapidly changing job market and another community need, College of the Desert's Partnership and Community Education program (PaCE) offered 10 free professional development trainings to the public. The self-paced tutorials provided an opportunity for career and personal growth, connecting people to resources specific to these complicated times.

## **CARES Act Supplies Direct Support to Students**

To help mitigate the impacts of the pandemic, the College received \$7.5 Million in CARES Act funding, of which \$3.5 million was designated to directly support enrolled students. The College's CARES Act team developed and implemented a strategic and comprehensive plan to distribute the funds over three semesters. In Spring 2020, 1,713 students received \$864 each, totaling more than \$1.4 Million in direct aid. In Summer 2020, the team disbursed \$417 each to 1,179 students, for a total of \$500,000.



## STUDENT EMERGENCY FUND *Provides Vital Support*

As the community struggled with fallout from the pandemic, College of the Desert students in urgent need of help with food, rent, utilities and more were able to get relief from the donor-supported Student Emergency Fund.

Many students at College of the Desert and their family members lost their jobs or had their hours reduced, complicating already-tenuous living situations. With 48% of the College's students identified as low income and many working part-time to pay for school, books and other expenses, a great number of students already depended on the school's food pantry, FIND Food Bank distributions and low-cost health services to stay in school before the pandemic.

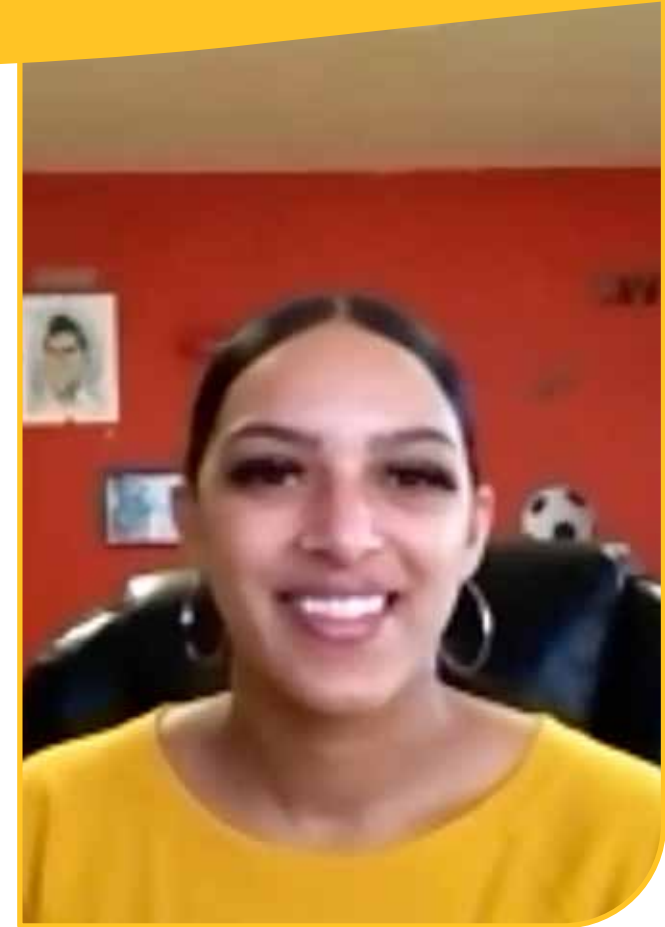
In April, the College of the Desert Foundation's Board of Directors stepped up to help struggling students by authorizing **\$100,000** for the

Student Emergency Fund. In the first week alone, the Foundation reviewed and funded 55 requests for help and the requests kept coming.

Cynthia Williams, the wife of Foundation Board member Jim Williams, was so struck by the staggering student need that she presented a challenge to Foundation Board members: She would match whatever donations they made. Within minutes, **\$26,000** was added to the Student Emergency Fund, supporting 40 students with **\$500 to \$1,000** in emergency grants.

Donor appeal ads raised an additional **\$23,000** from the community.

The money paid for needs such as gas, groceries, childcare and technology needed for classes that were suddenly shifted to an online format.



## *Thank you*

JP, a first-year nursing student who was laid off from his job because of COVID-19, wrote this letter of appreciation to the College of the Desert Foundation for helping him through a difficult time:

**"I write my story with a hopeful and grateful heart. My spirit is unbroken and my faith still intact. In a time of extreme need, when both my savings and my pantry at home ran dry, the College and the Foundation stepped in when I asked for help. For this, I am forever thankful. The funds that have been granted to me will go a long way.**

**I am committed in doing my part in battling this disease. I am using this time to focus even more on my studies as I prepare to join the ranks of heroic nurses who serve as the frontline warriors in this war.**

**During this dark moment in time, I still believe that we are supported by the universe; this extremely generous gift is an example of such. I am taking this day-by-day, hour-by-hour. I keep my heart open and my head held high, with the strong belief that like all else, this too shall pass."**

## NURSING PROGRAM

### *Donates Supplies*



College of the Desert donated thousands of pieces of personal protective equipment, including masks, gowns, hair bonnets, gloves and shoe coverings to local hospitals and the Desert Aids Project as part of the College's community response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Nursing staff and faculty collected and distributed the equipment, which is normally used as part of the teaching and learning process at the College's nursing program.

*"Staff at Desert Aids, Desert Regional, John F. Kennedy and Eisenhower Medical Centers were very appreciative of the supplies," said Carol Scobie, who is the College's Director of Nursing & Allied Health.*



*"We are pleased that we could provide some additional help to our healthcare partners," said Scobie. "They do a lot to support both our students and our community and we are happy to help them in any way we can."*



**IN TOTAL, THE COLLEGE  
DONATED MORE THAN:**

- **1,000 GOWNS**
- **900 HAIR BONNETS**
- **500 PAIRS OF SHOE COVERINGS**
- **300 MASKS WITH AND WITHOUT SHIELDS**
- **345 BOXES OF PROTECTIVE GLOVES IN VARIOUS SIZES**



## CHAMPIONS *For Our Community*

Supporting the community, and particularly healthcare workers, was a priority for College of the Desert during the earliest days of the pandemic.

College of the Desert staff rose to the occasion by using 3D printers – both their own equipment and from campus – to make face shields for local healthcare workers.

### **The Nursing Department and students also stepped in to help.**

They worked COVID-19 hotlines and information booths at Eisenhower Medical Center and provided health screenings at the Desert Aids Project, which fulfilled their required clinical hours while providing a much-needed community service.



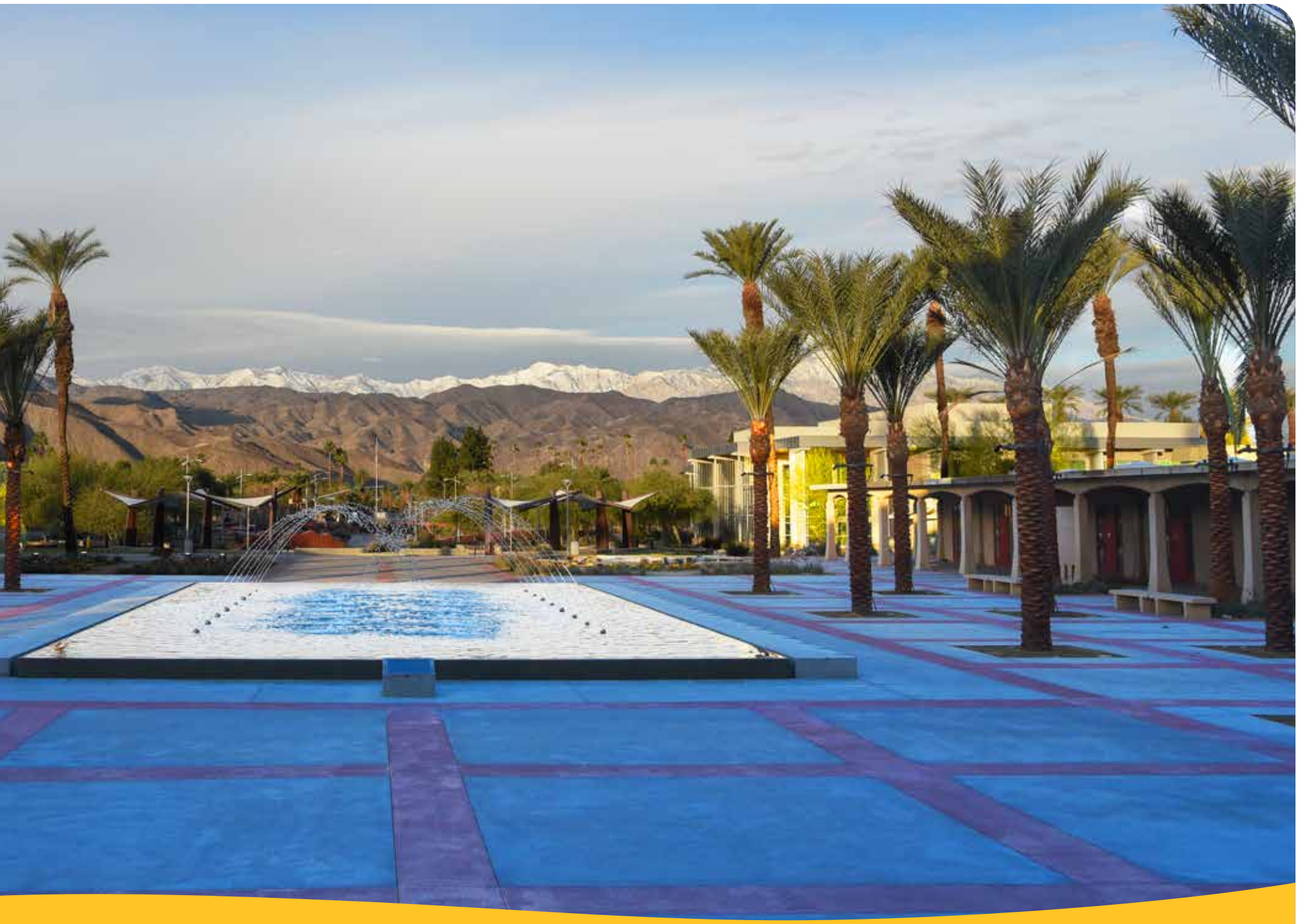
# Expansion

---

College of the Desert continues to expand to accommodate the needs of students across the Coachella Valley. Significant progress was made on capital projects in every corner of the Valley, growing with our community and building a foundation for a brighter future.







## COLLEGE EMPLOYS NEW PERSPECTIVE *on Construction in a Post-pandemic World*



Because of the pandemic, the College began examining potential physical adjustments to protect students at all of our campuses, particularly when it comes to two major capital projects: construction of a new Palm Springs Campus and expansion of the Indio Campus. Considering the significant investments to build these and other projects, we began considering steps to ensure all future work meets the needs of a post-COVID-19 world, one in which the risk of transmission is minimized through smart design that utilizes the latest technology.

We performed a comprehensive review of all planning, construction and design for future renovations and construction projects with an eye toward mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

We evaluated the assessment and drafted a plan detailing suggested modifications. The focus was on cleanliness, adaptability of space and healthy indoor air, including touch-free environments, the addition of sanitation stations and modified layouts to allow for social distancing.

**The review ensures that our campuses and future projects benefit from the best knowledge available today.**



## Cathedral City Races Ahead

Roadrunner Motors, a planned 30,000-square-foot Automotive and Advanced Transportation Facility in Cathedral City, shifted into the design stage – one step closer to providing new opportunities for automotive students.

The facility off East Palm Canyon Drive near Perez Road will be state-of-the-art, with classrooms and maintenance bays. The goal is to increase student learning opportunities beyond auto repair to newer technologies such as hydrogen fuel cells, electric engines, biodiesel systems and hybrids.

In addition to new, high-tech equipment, the location of Roadrunner Motors will also benefit students. It will sit in the heart of the Cathedral City Auto Center, keeping students close to dealerships where more than 60% of the program's graduates start their careers.

**Roadrunner Motors is on track to open in 2023.**





# NEW PALM SPRINGS CAMPUS *Envisioned as Innovative Learning Hub*

Architectural plans for the new Palm Springs campus promise a multi-use education center with state-of-the-art equipment and learning spaces designed for 21st century learning.

Truly “Like No Place Else”, the campus will feature a learning hotel, restaurant and kitchen, culinary institute, modern instruction space, experiential labs, student commons, flexible event space, and a high-tech digital accelerator space and classrooms. Outside spaces will be connected by more than 20 acres of landscape and open space, three entrances to the campus, solar energy generation and digital connectivity supported by the highest bandwidth in the region.

The ambitious project, expected to open in 2025, is designed to be a training environment geared to the needs of industry partners and students throughout the Coachella Valley. The new campus will be a destination for education accommodating not just current students, but those of the future with flexible learning spaces and access for the public.



## A 10,000-square-foot Accelerator will be the cornerstone of the campus. It will include:

- The Innovation/Maker Space with computers, robotics, digital software, large screen monitors, 3D printers and related technology. The space will offer a place for creativity and collaboration, where young entrepreneurs can work with industry partners in developing prototypes, experimenting with digitization and exploring alternative methods of innovation. The Maker Space will provide users access to a wide range of high-quality equipment typically not afforded by students, individuals or small businesses.
- The “I-hub,” a technology lab with hundreds of computers and adaptable spaces that can be reconfigured to accommodate classes, industry workshops, individual study and group collaborations.
- The Center of Excellence for Healthcare Education will allow students and health care professionals to learn real-life scenarios through digital simulation. The center will feature simulation labs with observation and control rooms that can be configured to mimic a health clinic, hospital room, ICU or surgery suite.
- The Center for Digital Arts & Media will include a TV studio, green screen, editing rooms and state-of-the-art screening room. The equipment will be constantly updated to meet the ever-changing needs of the digital world.

## New Campus Plans Steal the Show During Modernism Week

Community leaders and mid-century modern architecture enthusiasts joined College of the Desert officials for a sneak peek at the College’s new Palm Springs campus during a joint Modernism Week presentation on February 21, 2020.



*“We have 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,”* said Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D., Superintendent/President of College of the Desert. *“Partnering with our industry leaders to ensure our programs and facilities meet workforce needs is a core tenet to the new Palm Springs campus.”*

## Other planned features of the Palm Springs Campus include:

- The Learning Hotel, where hospitality students can put their skills to use. The facility will include lodging, dining, swimming pool, fitness center and boardroom.
- The Culinary Institute will feature two large skills kitchens, a 50-seat training and public dining facility and a demonstration kitchen with theater seating.
- An Event Center, planned for Phase II, will offer a variety of meeting spaces, exhibit space, a full-service kitchen, and outdoor amphitheater.

*The new campus will be a cornerstone of the College of the Desert system, offering expanded and improved services to residents throughout the Coachella Valley. The planned enhancements are symbolic of the progress of the College and its dedication to serving the needs of our region with first-class programs, services and facilities.*

## STATE OF THE COLLEGE *Building the Future*

There was much to celebrate at College of the Desert's 2020 State of the College, where hundreds of business partners, donors, alumni and friends gathered on January 22, 2020, to witness the unveiling of the new Hilb Library and Central Campus Quad.

The State of the College address by Superintendent/President Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D., celebrated the College's extraordinary growth by highlighting progress and developments on the five campuses and detailed initiatives to further academic excellence.



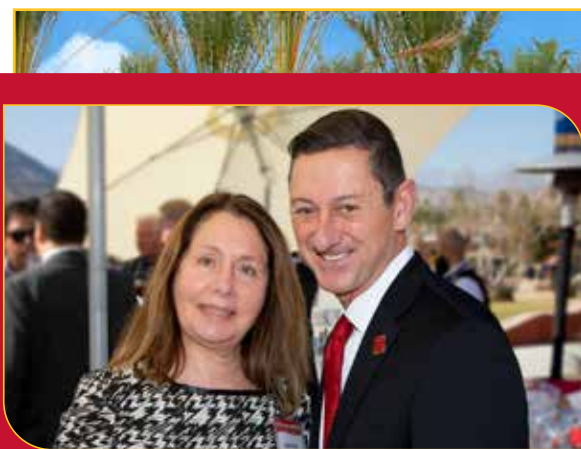
The event, generously supported by Peggy Cravens, MAAS Companies, the College of the Desert Foundation and other sponsors, showcased how College of the Desert is growing its student population, increasing graduation rates, removing barriers to education and expanding its community impact and reach.

A student panel followed Superintendent/President Kinnamon's address, with soon-to-be graduates sharing moving stories of their experiences at College of the Desert and how the College has benefited their lives today and shaped their future plans.

***The rebuilt Hilb, named in honor of its benefactors, Jeane and Justin Hilb, brings the library back to its original home on the Palm Desert campus, maintaining its iconic, mid-century modern style while meeting environmentally sustainable standards.***

The renovation more than doubled the size of the previous library and increases functionality with a modern study space and more natural light.

After the presentations, attendees toured the remodeled Hilb building and Central Campus Quad, bringing to life the achievements and progress of College of the Desert and celebrating the past, present and future.



***Rosemary Hilb attended the unveiling of the renovated Hilb Library, named in honor of her parents and College of the Desert Foundation donors Justin and Jeane Hilb.***





## RENOVATIONS BRING NEW LIFE *to the Heart of the Palm Desert Campus*



A multi-year renovation project culminated in the reestablishment of the Hilb Library in January 2020. Combined with improvements to the Fountain of Knowledge and surrounding courtyard, this project brought new prominence to the heart of the Palm Desert campus.

The Hilb Building dates back to the earliest days of College of the Desert, housing the campus library until a joint facility with the City of Palm Desert opened in 1998. After more than two decades as the Student Center, the building was stripped to its bare bones for a complete rehabilitation.

Beyond simply expanding the building and improving it with technological and energy-efficient improvements, the new Hilb Library centralizes a number of important functions to better serve the needs of today's students. By consolidating the library with the Tutoring and Academic Skills Center, this centralized learning complex provides more space for studying, computer use, library services, tutoring and other academic support.

***Combined with the courtyard and Fountain of Knowledge refurbishment, the central campus area provides a place of peaceful relaxation and energizing conversation for students, faculty and visitors alike.***



***The International Fountain of Knowledge, dedicated to Dr. Reynaldo Carreon, has undergone a full restoration. It stands as a monument to his mission to encourage all people to better their lives through education.***

## THE EASTERN COACHELLA VALLEY

### *Will Benefit from Indio Expansion*



Exciting changes are planned for the expansion of the Indio Campus, which will more than double the physical size of the site to accommodate growing enrollment.

Designs by HMC Architects include renovations to the existing building and the addition of a child development center and another three-story multi-disciplinary building that will house a café and dining area, labs, classrooms and student collaboration spaces.

The goals for the new space are to enlarge the campus, maximize opportunities for student engagement and connect with the community. The additions will enhance student life and experiences while providing new and innovative learning opportunities.

The spaces will help foster a vibrant campus community where students can be engaged, comfortably remain on campus, and be assisted with their educational journey.

The new, 67,000-square-foot building will feature classroom and lecture spaces, computer labs, study space, labs, the Tutoring and Academics Skills Center, the Library/Resource Center, and a Maker Space.

The new child development center, designed to serve 80 toddlers and preschoolers, will be located across the street from the existing Indio Campus building. The center will also include classrooms and observation space for college students.







## PARTNERSHIP *Expands Educational Access in Coachella*

Students in Coachella now have an easier way to advance their education, thanks to a partnership between College of the Desert, City of Coachella and Coachella Valley Adult School.

The Evening College at the Coachella Library offers general education classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. The evening schedule allows students to work or pursue other College of the Desert classes during the day. The Evening College also offers access to financial aid, online counseling, online tutoring and other academic and student support services.

The classes expand upon non-credit English as a Second Language classes first offered at the Coachella Library in Spring 2019. The community showed support for the program during a celebration at the Coachella Library in October 2019, which featured presentations from Superintendent/President Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D. and Coachella Mayor Steven Hernandez. The College's Ballet Folklórico student club, Sabor a mi Tierra, also performed.



# Access

---

New technology made student lives easier, particularly as they worked remotely during the pandemic. The College introduced various improvements, including open learning resources for online books, and apps for instant communication and access to help.









## OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INITIATIVE *Saves Money for Students*



Textbooks are an inescapable part of college, but rising prices coupled with the cost of higher education hurts students who are economically disadvantaged. In fact, 25% of students in California community colleges say they have dropped one or more classes due to the cost of textbooks.

College of the Desert is helping students with this burden through the Open Educational Resources (OER) initiative, which helps them stay in school with reduced costs or no cost for some textbooks. The OER initiative is part of the College's Guided Pathways framework, which gives students the help they need to succeed during every step of their community college experience.

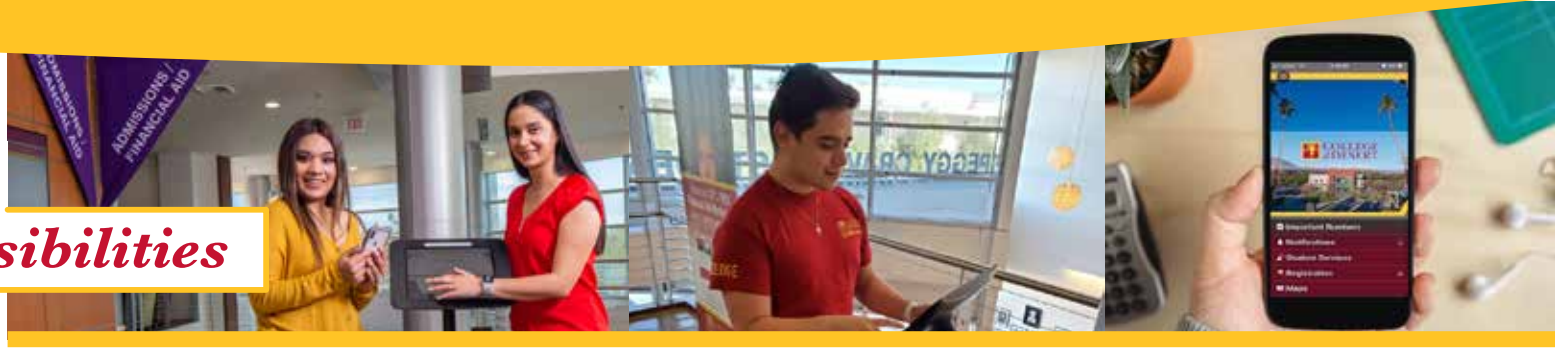
The OER enables faculty to utilize free and openly licensed teaching and learning materials in place of commercial textbooks, eliminating a barrier for students who would otherwise have to decide on taking a course or not, dependent on the cost of books.

Many studies on the impact of OER nationally indicate that students generally achieve the same learning outcomes, while saving significant amounts of money. Having the option for OER bridges the equity divide that hurts students who cannot afford the high cost of traditional textbooks and other instructional materials.





## NEW TECHNOLOGY MEANS *New Possibilities*



The College added a suite of new technology to help students save time and access information whenever they need it.

- QLess allows students to join a virtual line for services such as records, financial aid and admissions. Instead of physically standing in line to wait for assistance, students will receive a status alert on their smartphones.
- College of the Desert also partnered with Oceleot to provide an online chatbot. The Chatbot can answer questions in English and Spanish, 24 hours a day. Some of the answers are in video format to ensure a student-friendly approach.
- Also, the College launched a mobile app that organizes all College programs and services into one online repository. The app allows access to campus communications and email, registration and online campus programs. The College had more than 3,100 downloads of the app in the first month and plans to add interactive maps, responsive web pages and more.

## Connecting Students to the Future

Staying connected to the internet is essential in all aspects of life, a fact that was magnified by the transition to online classes prompted by COVID-19.

Today, the internet is so ingrained in society and our economy that it is only noticed when it is down. Everything from auto repair to farming relies in some part on connected devices and with that comes the need for speed and reliability. Unfortunately for many College of the Desert students, home internet in many communities is either unreliable or unavailable. To address this issue, the College added Wi-Fi to the parking lots at the Palm Desert, Palm Springs and Indio campuses to boost access for students.

College of the Desert currently has access to a 10 gigabyte-per-second broadband connection through the Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California (CENIC) at the Palm Desert Campus and plans on matching that capacity at the Indio Campus.

**The Palm Springs campus will be built with infrastructure capable of a broadband connection 10 TIMES that speed at 100 gigabytes per second.**

Since these extremely high connections would also benefit businesses and the community as a whole, College of the Desert has joined the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) and other local partners to develop the available infrastructure to share this internet backbone bridging the digital divide and expanding broadband availability Valley-wide.



# Career Pipeline

---

The College continued to offer the exceptional career programs and community partnerships necessary to develop a skilled workforce to support the local economy.









## EXPANDED NASA PARTNERSHIP *Offers Bold Opportunities*

The sky is the limit for students looking to expand their knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

College of the Desert is one of just 11 community colleges nationwide selected to partner with NASA through the Minority University Research and Education Project (MUREP).

The goal of MUREP is to increase diversity in STEM fields by engaging students in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) program. Utilizing a blended learning experience that incorporates online research and activities, NCAS connects students with NASA missions and research through affiliated labs and museums.

The program includes two phases. The first is a five-week online class that teaches students about various NASA missions, astrobiology, the International Space Station and other topics related to the space agency.

During the second phase, students draw on their experiences and newly acquired knowledge to build a rover; then collaborate to program the rover to complete a series of specific tasks.



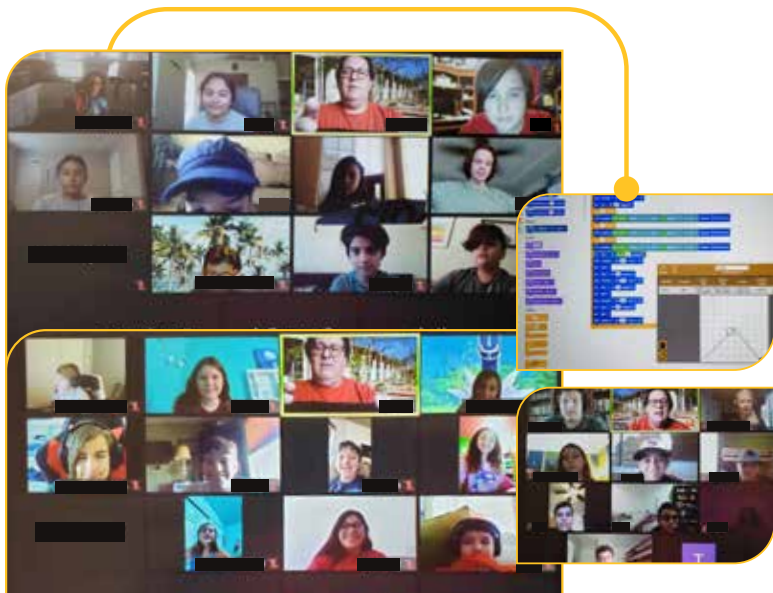
The program creates an atmosphere of learning wrapped in creativity and excitement. Participants are encouraged to further their education in STEM studies or even apply for NASA internships, which can lead to lucrative careers.

MUREP strives to put all students on equal footing, limited only by their own ambitions, and is open to all students. Recognizing the value of a wide array of perspectives, the program is not limited to traditional STEM majors; students of all backgrounds and disciplines are eligible to apply with no experience necessary.

Faculty members also benefit from MUREP, which offers a year of training to educators.

***Upon completion of the original pilot program, College of the Desert partnered with NASA for an additional four years. This relationship includes a \$50,000 grant to cover expenses across the four-year span of the program.***



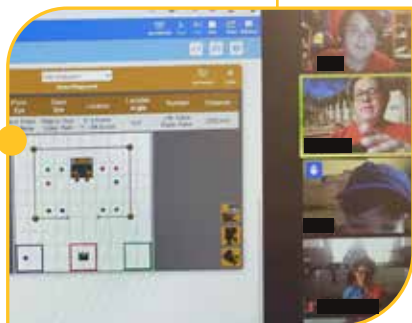


## Robotics Camp Goes Virtual

The College's popular summer robotics camp for middle schoolers went virtual this year to accommodate limitations posed by the pandemic.

The camp featured six free sessions designed to encourage technically minded students to develop an understanding of robotics and practice creative problem-solving.

Students learned about advanced robotic technology and used what they learned to create a robot of their own design.



## New Interns in the Newsroom

Three students worked as interns at the Desert Sun as part of a new workforce learning partnership.

Students Rodman Swanson, Amaray Alvarez and Laine Henry were recipients of the Bruce Fessier Internship Fund, named for the paper's retired arts and culture reporter. The fund, which gives College of the Desert students a chance to obtain work experience and learn new skills, is offered through the College of the Desert Foundation and supported by donors.

As part of their internship duties, Swanson, Alvarez and Henry were also involved in all aspects of journalism, including interviewing, writing, videography and photography in collaboration with Desert Sun reporters and administrators, including Executive Editor, Julie Makinen. They also recorded news segments for a local radio station that partners with the Desert Sun.

*The work will allow them to create a portfolio to use when they apply for jobs and the experience will travel with them as they enter the workforce.*



Laine Henry working remotely on a Desert Sun story.

## Japan Welcomes College of the Desert to Present at Hospitality Summit

**In October 2019, representatives of College of the Desert presented at the U.S./ Japan Hospitality Summit held in Tokyo and Osaka, Japan.**

One of five American institutions invited and the only community college, College of the Desert was recognized for its innovative, hands-on approach to hospitality learning. The College was asked to present information on its hospitality and culinary programs, international studies program, and intensive English and ESL programs.

Employers such as Universal Studios Japan and Disneyland Japan expressed the need for a destination approach to hospitality management to gain more Western business. The information is useful for College of the Desert, which is well-known to partner with industry leaders to ensure its programs and facilities meet workforce needs.





## COLLEGE of the DESERT FOUNDATION

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.

### 2019-2020 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**William "Bill" Chunowitz**  
President

**Marge Dodge**  
Vice President

**Donna Jean Darby**  
Past President

**Diane Rubin**  
Treasurer and Interim  
Secretary

**Norma Castaneda**  
**Peggy Cravens**  
**Carol Bell Dean**  
**Melinda Drickey**  
**Kim Dozier, Ph.D.**  
**Barbara Fromm**  
**James Greene**  
**Gale Hackshaw**  
**Brian Holcombe**  
**James B. Johnson**  
**C. Robert Kincaid**

**Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.**  
**Vern Kozlen\***  
**Donna MacMillan**  
**Thomas Minder**  
**Joanne Mintz**  
**Barbara Foster Monachino**  
**John P. Monahan**  
**John Ramont**  
**Jane Saltonstall, Ed.D.**  
**Arlene Schnitzer\***

\*Deceased

### Donors Continue to Step Up, Even With No Stepping Out for COD Fundraiser

In mid-March, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the College of the Desert Foundation made the difficult decision to cancel the annual Stepping Out for COD gala, the single-largest fundraiser for scholarships and services at the College.

The March 28 event was to feature acclaimed stage and screen entertainer Matthew Morrison, who returned all fees he was paid to the Foundation.



Though the performance was canceled, the Foundation's generous event sponsors' donations totaled more than \$300,000.

***Proceeds from Stepping Out for COD directly support student success*** by providing students with emergency funds, food, textbook and childcare assistance, veterans support services, and more.



## ESTABLISHED IN 1983

**\$80 million**

Fundraising & Investment  
Revenue in last 20 years

**\$34,650,617**

Assets

**.78 cents of every  
dollar returned  
to programmatic  
expenses**



## 19/20 BY THE NUMBERS

### Donations Received

**\$305,018**

Stepping Out for COD

**\$212,000**

President's Circle Memberships

**\$200,000**

EDGE/pLEDGE Programs

**\$236,000**

Planned Giving

### Funds Awarded

**\$550,046**

Student Support Programs

**\$150,000**

Student Emergency Fund

**\$1,300,000**

Scholarships



# COLLEGE *of the* DESERT



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 where they live and work. 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](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu)