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## **College of the Desert and SunLine Transit Agency Continue Partnership to Provide Free Rides for Students**

PALM DESERT, CA (October 9, 2024) – College of the Desert and SunLine Transit Agency are proud to announce the continued success of their partnership through the Haul Pass Program, which provides College of the Desert students with free bus rides across the Coachella Valley. Originally launched in 2018, College of the Desert was the first educational institution to sign on as a partner, enabling thousands of students to commute easily and affordably.

Since the program's inception, students have taken an average of 6,300 trips per month using SunLine's transit services. The Haul Pass Program removes transportation barriers for students, helping them access educational opportunities and essential services throughout the region.

"At College of the Desert, we are committed to providing our students with the resources they need to succeed, and the Haul Pass Program is a critical part of that mission," said Laura Hope, Interim Superintendent/President of College of the Desert. "This partnership with SunLine Transit Agency ensures that our students have reliable transportation, allowing them to focus on their education without the worry of additional expenses."

SunLine Transit Agency's CEO/General Manager, Mona Babauta, also emphasized the importance of this collaboration. "We are thrilled to continue supporting College of the Desert students by providing free rides through the Haul Pass Program. Reliable public transit plays a key role in student success, and we look forward to helping even more students achieve their educational goals," said Babauta.

College of the Desert students also benefit from the Roadrunner Express, a shuttle service that provides free transportation between the College's campuses. The Roadrunner Express serves as a complementary service to Haul Pass, offering students even more flexibility in their transportation options and ensuring they can easily commute to and from classes.

The Haul Pass Program is available to all registered College of the Desert students, who can now easily access their Haul Pass through the Token

Transit mobile app on their smartphones. By simply downloading the app and verifying their student status, students can instantly use their virtual pass to travel on any local SunLine bus route.

For more information about the Haul Pass Program, visit [www.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu) or [www.sunline.org](http://www.sunline.org).

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