



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

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## **SCAQMD Recognizes College of the Desert with Clean Air Education and Outreach Award**

PALM DESERT, CA—College of the Desert (COD) wins *Clean Air Education and Outreach Award* at the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Clean Air Awards for 2016. "This prestigious award honors visionaries in our region who have helped to fight for clean air through innovation, leadership and exemplary service," as stated in the award notification letter.

Superintendent/President Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D., received the award for College of the Desert at the event held in the Riverside Convention Center on October 7, 2016.

Deputy Sector Navigator (DSN) Larry McLaughlin and Automotive Department Head Douglas Redman have teamed up to conduct numerous clean fuel vehicle outreach and training activities throughout the region, such as:

- Trained public transit technicians on CNG heavy-duty vehicle system diagnostics and maintenance (member of the Southern California Region Transit Training Consortium)
- Provided regular specialized training in alternative fuels for technicians in public and private fleets, both light and heavy-duty vehicles, across the region
- Conducted courses for licensing of Bureau of Automotive Repair SMOG emissions inspection and repair technicians, and certification of CNG cylinder inspectors
- Developed curricula in natural gas and hydrogen vehicle systems

The Clean Air Education and Outreach Award received by College of the Desert followed an industry open-house and advisory meeting, attended by SCAQMD representatives, where companies came together to provide COD input on the type of training they need. These companies represented clean fuel users from around the region. "We're proud at College of the Desert to have the opportunity of playing a role in the region's adoption and utilization of clean alternative fuels. We do this by conducting workforce training, curriculum development, and providing technical assistance to support our region's fleet operators. To do this effectively, it's important to reach out and dialog with the industry – something we always try to do," said Larry McLaughlin, DSN, Advanced Transportation & Renewable Energy, during a pre-award interview.

The South Coast AQMD is the air pollution agency for Orange County and urban areas of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The region covers 10,743 square miles and is among the smoggiest areas in the U.S. The South Coast AQMD encourages individuals, organizations and local businesses to participate in helping to clean the air. For more information about the SCAQMD, visit [www.aqmd.gov](http://www.aqmd.gov).

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. COD's Automotive Department offers the region's only Advanced Transportation Technology AS Degree program which has produced over 1150 course enrollments and successfully trained technicians in alternative fuel vehicle diagnostics, service, and maintenance. For more information, visit [www.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu).

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