



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

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**Dr. Kinnamon shares College of the Desert's  
recent successes, announces 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration  
and partnership with DIGICOM**

**PALM DESERT, CA** — College of the Desert (COD) celebrated its history and shared recent progress, including new classrooms and programs to expand academic and career pipelines to feed the Coachella Valley's economy, during a State of the College report to the community on Wednesday by College Superintendent/President Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.

At his third annual State of the College event on Jan. 24, 2018, Dr. Kinnamon shared accomplishments from the 2016-17 academic year and shared highlights from the 60-year history of the College. He shared progress on important initiatives underway to reduce financial and other barriers to access and improve readiness for college. The goal of these initiatives is to expand efforts to help students successfully reach their academic and career goals.

During his address, Dr. Kinnamon stressed the impact the College generates throughout the community.

With training for jobs of the future at the forefront, the College is transforming the learning and teaching of academic centers and core subjects. Partly in response to an improving budget picture and to respond to growing community needs, the College is increasing new and expanded offerings for the Coachella Valley that connect transfer and workforce-development courses directly to employers.

The College generates a significant share of the valley's workforce. As much as 80% of graduates stay or return to live and work in the area.

"College of the Desert plays an important role in creating a better quality of life for our region in terms of higher-paying jobs for local residents and a stronger economic climate for business and industry," President Kinnamon continued. "The results of our collective efforts are everywhere you look in our valley."

Kinnamon also provided an update on the West Valley Campus project in Palm Springs, including a vision for new partnerships with industry to build integrated programs in conjunction with community partners.

At the conclusion of the event, the College announced it has reached agreement with David Vogel and the digital media faculty at DIGICOM to create The Regional Center for Digital Media Education as the cornerstone of the COD West Valley Campus.

"We are very excited to partner with our friend, former Disney Studios executive and local philanthropist, David Vogel to help lead development of The Regional Center for Digital Media Education at COD to serve as a focal point for the study and application of digital media in today's society and as the next chapter in College of the Desert's service to our region."

"None of this great work could be possible without the continuing support of our community," Kinnamon emphasized. "We are all COD."

**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 15,000 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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