

**CONTACT:**

Neil Lingle  
760.568.3083; [nlingle@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:nlingle@collegeofthedesert.edu)

## **Local College President Focuses on Four Strategic Pillars to Guide the College to Success**

PALM DESERT, CA (August 27, 2025) – As the fall semester nears, College of the Desert Superintendent/President Val Martinez Garcia will outline four strategic pillars: Access, Basic Needs, Enrollment and Engagement to faculty and staff during his President's Address on Thursday, August 28 as the framework to the College's ongoing commitment to student success.

President Martinez Garcia's address will highlight how each pillar will guide operational priorities, collaborative initiatives and measurable outcomes in 2025–26:

- **Access:** Removing systemic barriers and creating equitable opportunities for students by expanding pathways, partnerships dual enrollment and transfer agreements.
- **Basic Needs:** Strengthen "Roadrunner Essentials" which focuses on providing students resources such as food pantry, housing and mental health.
- **Enrollment:** Stabilize and grow enrollment with data-informed strategies, program relevance and student-centered retention practices.
- **Engagement:** Increasing engagement through actions and showing the College is a campus that cares.

"Everything we do begins with our students," said Val Martinez Garcia, Superintendent/President. "These four pillars provide a clear framework that removes barriers, strengthens support and keeps us focused on student success."

Together, these four pillars reinforce College of the Desert's commitment to creating a supportive learning environment where students have access to the resources, opportunities and connections they need to succeed.

The fall semester begins at College of the Desert on September 2, 2025.