

CONTACT:

Isabela Veloro
760.674.7791; iveloro@collegeofthedesert.edu

**Accomplished Scholar & Long-Time Desert Resident to Lead COD
Communication and Humanities Division**

PALM DESERT, CA (February 5, 2026) -- College of the Desert (COD) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Kimberly Dozier as Acting Dean of Communication and Humanities, effective January 2026. This appointment recognizes exceptional academic leadership and dedication to fostering excellence in the humanities.

Dozier began her journey at COD in 2005 as a tenure-track English Professor, launching a career of more than 20 years and counting. Throughout her time teaching English, she has been deeply involved in college governance and leadership, serving on numerous committees, as Department Chair, Distance Education Coordinator, and ultimately as Academic Senate President.

Originally from northern California, Dozier has called the desert home for over 20 years. With a deep appreciation for the region's unique character and educational needs, she brings a wealth of scholarly experience and personal commitment to the college community.

"We are thrilled to have such committed leadership in the Communication and Humanities division," said COD Superintendent/President Val Martinez Garcia. "Her extensive credentials and passion for student success make her ideally suited to guide our faculty and students in these vital disciplines."

As Acting Dean of Communication and Humanities, Dozier oversees the diverse disciplines of English, English as a Second Language (both credit and non-credit), Communication Studies, World Languages, and Adult Basic Education. Deans support faculty in the development of curriculum, including degrees, certificates, and individual courses. They oversee course scheduling and work to create a positive learning environment for students.

"I'm honored to serve in this capacity," said Dozier. "Every day, I have the opportunity to work with passionate faculty who are committed to helping students develop critical thinking, communication, and cultural awareness skills. My goal is to ensure we continue to provide exceptional experiences that prepare our students for success."

Dozier holds an impressive educational background with a Bachelor's Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies with an emphasis in Creative Writing from the University of California, Riverside, a Master's Degree in English from California State University, Sacramento, and a Ph.D. in English Studies from Illinois State University.

Beyond her professional accomplishments, she is a devoted aunt to two teenagers and is also "mom" to Bear, a rescued 95-pound German Shepherd mix who brings joy and companionship to her life.

Dozier's appointment was made formal by a Board of Trustee's action in January. It reflects COD's commitment to scholarly distinction and the college's devotion to serving students and the broader Coachella Valley community.

###

About College of the Desert

College of the Desert serves more than 20,000 students across five campuses in Palm Desert, Indio, Mecca/Thermal, Desert Hot Springs, and Palm Springs. Founded in 1958 and opened in 1962, College of the Desert is governed by the Desert Community College District Board of Trustees. Through the pLEDGE program, the college offers eligible students two years of tuition-free education, removing financial barriers and expanding access to higher education in the community. College of the Desert provides the Coachella Valley with affordable degrees, certificates, and transfer pathways, offering in-demand programs that prepare workforce leaders and strengthen the local economy.