

**CONTACT:**

Isabela Veloro

760.674.7791

[iveloro@collegeofthedesert.edu](mailto:iveloro@collegeofthedesert.edu)

## **College of the Desert Names Vice President of Human Resources and Employee Relations**

**PALM DESERT, CA (May 21, 2026)** -- Terri Wilson has been promoted to Vice President of Human Resources and Employee Relations. By blending her fresh perspective with institutional knowledge, Wilson oversees the college's human resources operations, employee relations initiatives, talent management, and organizational effectiveness strategies.

Wilson has demonstrated her ability to face challenges with growing responsibility. Since joining COD in 2018 as a Human Resources Specialist, Wilson rose through the ranks in the college's human resources department, advancing to Human Resources Manager and later becoming Director of Human Resources and Employee Relations. She is known for her sincere employee engagement and for encouraging a friendly and positive culture.

"Thanks to Terri, working at COD is a place where our faculty, staff and students enjoy coming together," said Superintendent/President Val Martinez Garcia. "She takes a very thoughtful approach to serving employees, which truly elevates the atmosphere at our campuses."

Wilson earned a Master of Arts in Human Resource Management from Hawai'i Pacific University, a Bachelor of Arts in General Studies from the University of Dayton, and an Associate of Arts in General Studies from Scottsdale Community College. She developed a deep appreciation for access, student support, and the important role community colleges play in creating meaningful career pathways. Receiving an athletic scholarship helped open doors for her future and reinforced the impact educational opportunities can have on a student's life. As a former collegiate basketball player, Wilson brings a team-oriented leadership approach shaped by discipline, collaboration, and resilience, while valuing service, mentorship, accountability, and helping others succeed.

"I am honored to be appointed Vice President of Human Resources and grateful for the opportunity to continue serving this incredible community. Human Resources plays an important role in supporting the employees who make student success possible, and I look forward to continuing our work that fosters a culture of collaboration, fairness, and service," said Vice President Wilson.

To learn more, visit [collegeofthedesert.edu](http://collegeofthedesert.edu).

**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.