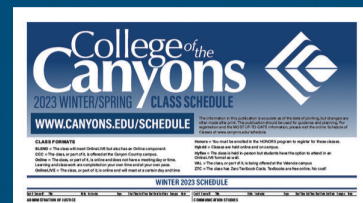




# Breaking news



WINTER/SPRING 2023  
Schedule Inside

WINTER 2022

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS • THE PROMISE OF OPPORTUNITY SINCE 1969

## Ready, Reset, Go for Winter/Spring Classes!

**D**o you want to get back on track toward earning a degree or preparing for a new career? Now is the time to take advantage of the hundreds of classes available during the upcoming winter and spring terms.

The winter 2023 term packs more than 400 class sections into a concentrated five-week format, perfect for getting ahead or completing classes students need to transfer to four-year universities.

The spring 2023 semester adds more than 1,000 in-demand classes to complete

students' academic portfolios.

Registration for both terms is ongoing. The winter term starts Tuesday, Jan. 3, followed by the spring semester on Monday, Feb. 6.

Classes are available in traditional classroom settings at both the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses, as well as a variety of online formats.

The enclosed schedule of classes for winter and spring has all of the details. To register or learn more, please visit:

• [www.canyons.edu/schedule](http://www.canyons.edu/schedule)

### Payment Plan Option Introduced

**C**ollege of the Canyons has introduced a payment plan option for students unable to pay their full balance when registering for classes.

With rising inflation and living costs, college officials hope the new installment option will increase accessibility to higher education.

“Many students often feel deterred from enrolling in classes because they are unable to pay full tuition during the registration period,” said Jasmine Ruys, vice president of student services. “A payment plan option allows students the flexibility and peace of mind to pay

INSTALLMENTS | 4

### CAMPUS PROGRESS



Final touches are being applied to the new Students Services/Learning Resources Center at the Canyon Country campus. With a design that mirrors the nearby Takeda Science Center, the 55,000-square-foot building is expected to be fully occupied by year's end.

MORE PHOTOS | 6

### Shows Return to Performing Arts Center

First Full Season of Live Acts Since Early 2020

**T**he Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center at College of the Canyons is back, featuring a variety of live shows following a nearly two-year pause due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Upcoming shows include an assortment of professional acts, as well as student theatrical productions and music performances. It's the first full season since the center was shuttered at the pandemic's onset in March 2020.

Upcoming shows include:

- **Richard Marx**  
Friday, Jan. 13, 2023
- **Naturally 7**  
Friday, Feb. 10, 2023
- **Jon Secada**  
Saturday, April 1, 2023
- **Stunt Dog Experience**  
Sunday, May 21, 2023
- **Lisa Loeb**  
Saturday, June 3, 2023

“We are thrilled to welcome

PERFORMANCES | 5

## Federal Funds Support New Technology Center

**C**ollege of the Canyons received nearly \$1 million in federal funding that will help launch its Advanced Technology Center, a state-of-the-art advanced manufacturing and Computer Numerical Control (CNC) production lab that will help meet the high demand for skilled employees in fast-growing industry sectors.

Congressman Mike Garcia (R-Santa Clarita) successfully secured community project funding for the Santa Clarita Community College District through the \$1.5 trillion omnibus spending package passed by Congress in March.

“We are very excited to have received funding to support the development and launch of an Advanced Technology Center and we are grateful to Congressman Mike Garcia for his

TECHNOLOGY | 5



College of the Canyons  
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road  
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

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# College Honored for Commitment

College of the Canyons was named a 2022 Champion for Excelling in Equitable Course Placement in Campuswide English Enrollment, Latinx English Enrollment, and Black English Enrollment by The Campaign for College Opportunity.

“College of the Canyons successfully supported 100% of students, 100% of Latinx students, and 100% of Black students to enroll directly into transfer level English coursework,” Michele Siqueiros, president of The Campaign for College Opportunity, wrote in her commendation of the college. “We applaud your dedication and commitment to California students.”

College of the Canyons was one of 40 community colleges recognized in May.

“We are honored by this distinction from The Campaign for College Opportunity for our continuous efforts to remove barriers for our students,” College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “By taking college-level classes instead of remedial courses, stu-

dents who seek to transfer to four-year universities are much more likely to achieve their goals.”

Over the past decade, the college has restructured its procedures to reduce transfer-level completion in English and math by two semesters, which has significantly reduced racial-equity gaps in student achievement.

For its efforts, the college was awarded the prestigious Bellwether Award in 2021 for its innovative approach to assessment and course sequence redesign in English and mathematics. Students placed into transfer-level courses rose from 16 percent to 75 percent in English (2012 to 2018) and 10.3 percent to 74 percent in mathematics (2011 to 2018), allowing students to graduate and transfer faster.

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a non-profit bipartisan organization devoted to increasing the number of California students attending two- and four-year colleges and ensuring they complete their college education.

***‘By taking college-level classes instead of remedial courses, students who seek to transfer to four-year universities are much more likely to achieve their goals.’***

– DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK



## News Briefs

### BOYKIN HALL UNDERGOES MODERNIZATION

Boykin Hall, the college’s first science building, is undergoing a complete modernization. Work began immediately after the California Department of Finance’s July 8 approval to move forward with the construction contract. The approval of the first of two bid awards released \$13,383,361 in construction funds – \$4,332,000 in state funds and \$9,051,361 in local funds. The building is undergoing a full seismic retrofit, modernization of all three floors, and ADA-compliance upgrades to the restrooms and elevator. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2023.

### ‘READY TO WORK’ STUDENTS GRADUATE

The students who graduated from the Ready to Work Academy had to wait two long years for the occasion. Ten students in the training program for young adults with special needs were honored during a graduation ceremony at the University Center on Aug. 3 – more than two years after the program launched and was put on hold due to the pandemic. The result of a partnership between College of the Canyons and Carousel Ranch, the program provides vocational training in a classroom setting, as well as work experience at partner companies such as Starbucks, Holiday Inn Express, Bluemark, and AMS Fulfillment. The ultimate goal is job placement. “Together, we will make a difference in the community and touch the lives of these bright and wonderful young people,” said John Milburn, interim vice president, workforce and economic advancement at the college.

### UNIQUELY ABLED ACADEMY SUCCESS

The Uniquely Abled Academy honored 10 new graduates of its CNC machinist training program on April 8. The program, which is in its third year, provides intensive training for individuals with high-functioning autism and prepares them for careers in industries such as aerospace, automotive, and medical devices. Graduates have achieved 100 percent industry placement. For information about the next cohort, please call (661) 362-3112 or visit [canyonsecondev.org/uaa](http://canyonsecondev.org/uaa).

### SECOND ‘STEALTH’ COHORT GRADUATES

The second cohort of the Low Observable Technician program was recognized during a graduation ceremony at the University Center on June 23. Fifteen men and women completed the intensive 14-week program, which is the result of a partnership among the College of the Canyons Workforce & Economic Advancement Division, Northrop Grumman, and America’s Job Centers of California. The training leads directly to employment. For information about the next cohort, please call (661) 362-3112 or visit [canyonsecondev.org/lo-program](http://canyonsecondev.org/lo-program).

### LIEF LABS PARTNERS WITH COLLEGE

Lief Labs has launched its Lief University Mechanical Foundations training program in partnership with College of the Canyons, which welcomed Lief’s employees to the first day of classes during a special event at the company’s Valencia headquarters on June 6. The continuing education program was created in partnership with the college, which helped identify instructors and develop curricula covering a range of skilled maintenance functions. “By creating on-site training classes customized to companies’ specific needs, COC offers firms a competitive advantage in staying at the leading edge of their industries,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said.

### COLLEGE COMMENDED FOR LEADERSHIP

Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger recognized College of the Canyons at the annual State of the County luncheon May 4 for the support the college provided to the community throughout the pandemic. Barger presented Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook with a commendation recognizing the college’s leadership in providing a COVID-19 testing site for the community. The drive-through location was staffed initially with the help of COC nursing students, and has administered thousands of tests in the two years it has been open in the parking structure at the Valencia campus.



## Breaking news

Breaking News is published by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office to inform the community about programs, events, issues and accomplishments of the Santa Clarita Valley’s community college. It is distributed to residences, P.O. boxes and businesses within the Santa Clarita Community College District. **Advertising is not accepted.**

**MAIL:** College of the Canyons Public Information Office  
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355

**EMAIL:** [pio@canyons.edu](mailto:pio@canyons.edu)



### MANUFACTURING DAY

Hundreds of students and community members interested in manufacturing careers attended Manufacturing Day at the Performing Arts Center on Oct. 6. The event featured a panel discussion with representatives of Northrop Grumman, Woodward, Lief Labs, Bay Center, Universal Studios, Technifex, FANUC, and Lincoln Electric, as well as demonstrations of manufacturing equipment the college will utilize at its upcoming Advanced Technology Center.

# College Recognized for Student Voting

College of the Canyons was the only California community college named one of “America’s Best Colleges for Student Voting” by *Washington Monthly* magazine for its commitment to inspiring students to vote and participate in community decisions.

To document the efforts of colleges and universities promoting civic engagement, the magazine highlighted more than 230 institutions across the country.

“The Center for Civic Engagement at COC is extremely proud to have been recognized for a third consecutive year by *Washington Monthly* magazine,” said Patty Robinson, faculty director of civic and community engagement initiatives at the college.

“Encouraging our students to take an interest in civic engagement for the betterment of their communities is our driving force.”

The college participates in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, a national, nonpartisan awards program recognizing colleges and universities for improving civic learning, political engagement, and student voting rates. As part of the initiative, students, faculty, and staff have worked together to develop and implement an action plan to increase voting and civic engagement.

During election seasons, the college hosts numerous discussion panels and distributes nonpartisan materials that provide additional information on propositions and candidates.

The college also participates in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), which provides colleges and universities with data on student registration and voting rates. These numbers provide benchmarks to measure the success of future voting engagement efforts.

To be included in the magazine’s student voting honor roll, College of the Canyons submitted its 2020 and 2022 action plans to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. In addition, it was required to receive data from NSLVE and make its 2018 and 2020 NSLVE data publicly available.

Of the 26 California community colleges participating in the ALL IN challenge, College of the Canyons was the only one listed on *Washington Monthly*’s honor roll.

“Schools need to have shown a repeated commitment to increasing student voting – and have been transparent about the results,” the magazine stated about its eligibility criteria.

# Accreditation Reaffirmed with Commendation

A two-year institutional review process culminated with the announcement that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) reaffirmed accreditation for College of the Canyons with commendation and no compliance requirements.

The commission notified the college in June that its accreditation has been approved for another seven-year term, with only one regular midterm report due in 2026.

In the notification letter, Interim President Cindy Miles and Chair Sonya Christian commended the college for “fostering a culture of innovation, collaboration, professional development, and entrepreneurship that is infused throughout the institution, resulting in unique opportunities that enhance student engagement and success.” Accreditation is a voluntary process colleges and

universities undergo to evaluate and assure the quality of education used by the American higher education community – and to subsequently make those results known to the public. The ACCJC evaluates and accredits public and private postsecondary institutions that offer two-year education programs and award the associate degree.

“I am very proud of the outcome of our accreditation process,” College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “The reaffirmation of our accreditation serves as a testament to the dedication of each member of the college’s faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees to help our students succeed.”

The accreditation process is conducted not only to assure the quality of the institution, but also to encourage institutional improvement. All accredited institutions are

expected to use the report to improve their educational programs and services. The process includes an intensive Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER), followed by an outside peer evaluation of an institution’s adherence to set standards of good practice, and an ongoing analysis of the overall quality of programs and services offered by the college.

“By having our accreditation status reaffirmed so positively, College of the Canyons has once again demonstrated our commitment to the highest standards of excellence, and our entire campus community is to be commended for this accomplishment,” said Dr. Omar Torres, chief instructional officer and accreditation liaison officer at the college.

ACCREDITATION | 5

## EMT 50TH ANNIVERSARY



### MILESTONE CELEBRATED

The Emergency Medical Technician Program marked its 50th anniversary with a celebration at the Culinary Arts Cafe on Sept. 29. With breakfast provided by the Culinary Arts program, the event featured teaching demonstrations, alumni perspectives of the program’s impact, and information about related career paths. Clockwise from top left: Patti Haley, EMT professor emerita, speaks about the history of the program; EMT students pause for a photo during demonstrations of equipment and procedures; and attendees listen as Dr. Omar Torres, assistant superintendent and vice president of instruction, discusses the impact of the program on the community.

# College Ranked Among Best for Hispanic Students

College of the Canyons has been ranked nationally No. 17 and 35 in *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine* for enrolling the largest number of Hispanic students and granting the most degrees, respectively.

In addition, the college was ranked No. 9 among the Top 10 schools by major for its parks, recreation, leisure, fitness and kinesiology degree programs.

The magazine rankings for the Top 100 Community Colleges for Hispanics are based on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data for community colleges with the highest number of Hispanic students enrolled during fall 2020 and spring 2021.

“We are proud to be a Hispanic-serving institution and we are honored to have been recognized once again for our unwavering commitment to serve the needs of our diverse students,” said Dr. Diane Fiero, deputy chancellor and chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer.

According to the data, the college had a Hispanic population of 15,410 students, totaling 49 percent of the total student enrollment, which was 31,696 in 2020/21. That same year, of the 3,200 associate degrees awarded by the college, 1,459 degree recipients were Hispanic.

Of the 372 parks, recreation, leisure, fitness and kinesiology degrees awarded, 191 recipients were Hispanic.

According to college data, there was

a 13 percent increase in the number of Hispanic students awarded degrees from 2018/19 to 2021/22.

Many Hispanic students attending the college have benefited from innovative programs such as Canyons Promise, which gives incoming students tools and resources to transition smoothly into college life.

Of the 5,560 students the program has admitted since its launch in 2017, 53 percent self-identified as Hispanic.

The program provides increased opportunities for new, full-time college students to achieve their educational goals by waiving tuition and fees during their first year of study. Students who maintain the program’s requirements may have their benefits extended to their second year.

Accepted students enroll in a one-year sequence of courses with priority registration, preceded by a week-long summer boot camp to learn college-success skills.

Canyons Promise courses are offered with the benefits of free Open Educational Resources to use as textbooks, peer mentors, and other learning community elements. To ensure students remain on track, they receive ongoing counseling and support, and parking or bus passes.

The magazine’s annual ranking is based on total student enrollment, the percentage of Hispanic students in attendance, two-year schools awarding the most associate degrees to Hispanics, and the percentage of associate degrees awarded to Hispanic students by two-year institutions.

# New Partnership with ASU Offers Transfer Pathways

College of the Canyons has partnered with Arizona State University (ASU) to provide students a seamless transfer experience with the MyPath2ASU program. The program allows students to successfully plan their transfer to ASU at the start of their college experience, ensuring a smooth transition and success.

MyPath2ASU is a set of customized tools available to transfer students from accredited, U.S. regional institutions. These tools ensure a seamless transfer experience to ASU after earning credits or an associate degree from a U.S. community college or university and shortening the time to degree completion.

“We are very excited to enter into this partnership with Arizona State University because of the opportunities it will give students to achieve their education goals,” said Dr. Jasmine Ruys, vice president of student services. “COC students will be able to complete their associate degree and then seamlessly transfer to a wide variety of bachelor’s degree programs offered by Arizona State Uni-

versity with classes held online and at their Los Angeles campus. We’re also working with ASU to make their classes available in the near future at the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center.”

Through this partnership, students using MyPath2ASU will find their transfer experience simplified. They will have access to personalized benefits to help them navigate the transfer experience:

- End-to-end learner navigation through course-by-course guided pathways
- Ensure course applicability by assisting students with taking courses that apply to their associate and ASU bachelor’s degree
- Guaranteed general admission to ASU and admission into MyPath2ASU major of choice if all requirements are satisfied; some majors have additional or higher admission requirements
- More than 400 course-by-course guided pathways into immersion and online ASU degree programs

- Self-service, degree progress tracking through My Transfer Guide to minimize loss of credit
- Connected experience through personalized ASU communications to prepare academically and build a connection to ASU

ASU and College of the Canyons will work collaboratively to promote educational degree pathways containing ground and online course offerings. These pathways will ensure students’ courses are applicable toward the degree in their chosen major and minimize credit loss.

Arizona State University has developed a new model for the American research university, creating an institution that is committed to access, excellence and impact. ASU measures itself by those it includes, not by those it excludes. As the prototype for a New American University, ASU pursues research that contributes to the public good, and ASU assumes major responsibility for the economic, social and cultural vitality of the communities that surround it.

## FORTINE HONORED



### ‘MR. COC’ GETS HIS SILVER SPUR

It was a long wait, but Bruce Fortine – aka Mr. COC – finally received his Silver Spur Award for Community Service during a gala affair at Santa Clarita Studios on May 14. Originally scheduled in 2020, the honor was postponed to 2021 – then 2022 – due to the pandemic. A longtime supporter of College of the Canyons, Fortine was elected to the college’s founding Board of Trustees in 1967. He served in that capacity off and on through 2016. “Bruce Fortine has been a part of College of the Canyons since before its inception,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “And his support over the ensuing 50-plus years has been marked by singular dedication and relentless enthusiasm.”

## INSTALLMENTS

FROM PAGE 1

tuition fees in smaller installments while not missing out on enrolling in high-demand classes.”

To calculate payments, students should divide their tuition and fees by the remaining months until the final tuition due date. There is no additional charge to take advantage of this option.

To avoid receiving an outstanding fee hold, all balances must be paid in full by the tuition due date.

### Tuition Due Dates

- Winter 2023: March 22, 2023
- Spring 2023: March 22, 2023
- Summer 2023: June 29, 2023

Installments can be paid online or in-person:

- Credit card payments can be made online. VISA,

MasterCard and Discover are accepted. When paying through My Canyons, students may change the full balance due displayed to reflect their installment amount.

- Cash or check payments can be made in person or dropped off after hours at the secure payment drop in Canyons Hall, Room 101.

Enrollment fees at all California Community Colleges are \$46 per unit.

# Aerospace & Sciences Team Completes Three Launches

The College of the Canyons Aerospace and Sciences Team had a very busy summer with three successful launches of experiments through its participation in NASA's High Altitude Student Platform (HASP), RockSatX and RockOn programs.

"I am so immensely proud of our students for meeting tight deadlines, working inclusively and collaboratively, to make the successful launch of these projects possible," said Teresa Ciardi, lead faculty for astronomy and physical science. The team is also mentored by Greg Poteat, an adjunct manufacturing instructor.

On Sept. 8, the team launched its HASP payload, which carried a particle detector designed to keep track of the number of gamma rays in the atmosphere. The experiment's goal was to determine if the atmosphere is successfully blocking gamma rays.

The payload also featured student artwork that was affixed to the exterior of the experiment structure. It was analyzed post-flight for changes after having been ex-

posed to the upper stratosphere.

RockSatX launched Aug. 11 from the NASA Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia. Students launched an auto-rotation vehicle, a capsule released from a rocket with self-deploying wings to stabilize and slow its descent. Its purpose was to prove there is no need a parachute when descending into planetary atmospheres.

RockSatX provides educational institutions and STEM students an opportunity to design, fabricate, and launch scientific payloads on real NASA rockets. The program encourages students to obtain real-world experience and create unique works of aerospace engineering.

On June 24, the NASA RockOn launch carried two experiments from College of the Canyons and several experiments from university teams.

RockOn gives students an opportunity to work on introductory-level projects to gain experience for third-level projects. Experiments launch on a NASA sounding rocket.



College of the Canyons team members traveled to NASA's Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia for the RockSatX launch on Aug. 11.



**Richard Marx**  
JANUARY 13



**Naturally 7**  
FEBRUARY 10



**Jon Secada**  
APRIL 1



**Lisa Loeb**  
JUNE 3



**Stunt Dog Experience**  
MAY 21

## PERFORMANCES

FROM PAGE 1

these incredible artists to the performing arts center, including Grammy-award winning musicians who will share their talent and professional insights with our students, faculty, patrons, and community," said Jennifer Smolos, artistic director of the Performing Arts Center and dean of the School of Visual and Performing Arts.

"As a cultural and educational institution, this slate of shows is particularly well-aligned with our mission and vision."

"Weird Al" Yankovic officially opened the new season in September.

College of the Canyons students, Patrons of the Arts members, and invited members of the community will have the unique opportunity to participate in master classes with Naturally 7 and Jon Secada.

In addition to the season of professional events, the center will present a number of music, theatre, and dance department productions, and a variety of community productions.

Tickets can be purchased by calling (661) 362-5304 or visiting:

• [www.canyonspac.com](http://www.canyonspac.com)

## ACCREDITATION

FROM PAGE 3

The college began compiling its self-evaluation report in spring 2020 and submitted it to the commission in December 2021 before a team of peer evaluators visited the college virtually in March.

The 11-member team was impressed by the college's data visualizations and institutional research support, the Board of Trustees' practice of holding joint meetings with Associated Student Government, the expansion of noncredit programming, and the work that is being done to address differential success rates among disproportionately impacted student populations.

College programs such as Leadership Education in Action (LEAP), NASA's High Altitude Student Platform (HASP), and biodiversity initiative, as well as its commitment to civic engagement, were noted as exemplary.

The ISER and team report can be reviewed at:  
• [www.canyons.edu/about/accreditation](http://www.canyons.edu/about/accreditation)

## ECE, MLT Earn Accreditation

Two educational programs recently earned individual accreditation from their respective oversight organizations.

The Medical Lab Technician Program was awarded continuing accreditation for 10 years by the National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences. The accreditation is valid through April 30, 2032, with a mid-term report due April 1, 2026.

And, the Early Childhood Education Program earned accreditation from the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

## TECHNOLOGY

FROM PAGE 1

continued support," College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. "This project will continue College of the Canyons' demonstrated history of enhancing economic development in the community, and creating pathways for students to employment in high-wage, high-demand fields."

The Advanced Technology Center (ATC) will include both simulation and full production type machining centers to prepare students for stackable industry-recognized credentials to demonstrate the necessary skills for workforce readiness as they work toward degree attainment.

"Rapid growth in industrial automation and advanced technology combined with an aging workforce has created the urgent need for skilled technicians in advanced manufacturing/computerized machining (CNC), welding/material joining, robotic welding, integrated personal fabrication, and construction technologies," said Harriet Happel, dean of career and technical education at the college.

"The ATC will provide state-of-the-art technical training in these fields to meet employer needs and to prepare students for high-skill, high-demand, high-wage jobs."

The Advanced Technology Center is expected to launch in spring 2023, with off-site instruction taking place in the Centre Pointe business park.

# College a Partner in \$7.5 Million Energy Grant

College of the Canyons is one of five community colleges across the nation partnering in a \$7.5 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant awarded to Madison Area Technical College.

Over the next five years, the consortium of participating colleges will form the CREATE National Energy Center, which will provide resources to build a skilled technical workforce, improve gender equity in the energy field, expand partnerships between education and industry, and contribute to the transformation of global energy industries.

Funded through NSF's Advanced Technological Education program, the CREATE National Energy Center will be the only one of its kind in the country.

Other colleges participating are Central Carolina Community College, Delaware Technical Community College, and Indian River State College.

COC's \$1.7 million allocation of the award will go toward development of new energy curriculum,

faculty professional development activities, student outreach, and dissemination of Energy Center resources to a nationwide audience.

The center will provide professional development opportunities and serve as a venue for more than 900 national STEM educators to network in order to share energy technology innovations and address gaps in energy education.

"Renewable energy is the fastest growing energy source in the world and is projected to provide more than 90 percent of new electric power capacity through the next decade," said CREATE Director and Madison College instructor Dr. Ken Walz. "This creates an enormous opportunity for students to secure well-paying, family supporting jobs that cannot be exported, are not easily done by robots and benefit society at large."

ATE supports partnerships between two-year institutions of higher education and other academic institutions to improve the education of technicians in science and engineering.

## Grants Support Students, Innovation, Career Skills

College of the Canyons has been awarded multiple grants that support education and training, enhance services to students, fuel innovations in technology, and prepare students for high-paying careers. Among them are:

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

College of the Canyons received a \$1.37 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education's Child Care Assistance Means Parents In School (CCAMPIS) program to benefit the college's Early Childhood Education Center.

The four-year CCAMPIS grant will aid the postsecondary education success of 170 eligible student-parents by providing

GRANTS | 8

## CAMPUS PROGRESS



The 55,000-square-foot Student Services/Learning Resources Center, whose design mirrors the adjacent Takeda Science Center, will house the Library, Admissions & Records, Financial Aid, Counseling, Student Health, EOPS, Career Center, Academic Accommodation Center, CalWORKS, Veterans Affairs, Student Business Office, TLC, Tech Center, Communications Center (switchboard and mailroom), and Reprographics (copy center). The building will also include multiple classrooms and staff offices.

# Bond Sale Yields \$70 Million for Improvements

The third bond issuance of Measure E, the Santa Clarita Community College District general obligation bonds, were sold Oct. 20, yielding \$70 million to assist College of the Canyons in building out the Canyon Country campus and upgrading the Valencia campus.

"Thanks to the support of the community through Measure E, College of the Canyons continues to be well positioned to expand its programs and services for our students and our local workforce," Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. "The planned enhancements at both of our campuses will benefit our students, staff, faculty, and the Santa Clarita Valley community for years to come, while enhancing the economic health of our region."

As a part of the financing process, the

district affirmed its credit ratings with Fitch Ratings and Standard & Poor's, which issued an "AAA" rating – the highest rating assigned to a community college – and an "AA" rating, respectively.

As a result, the district received more than \$182 million in orders for the \$70 million in bonds offered, demonstrating significant investor demand.

The current interest bonds were sold with a final all-in true interest cost of 4.56 percent, down from 4.61 percent during the pre-marketing period the prior day. The rate drop, due to the strong investor interest, saved \$870,000 in interest cost to the taxpayers.

"The success of each Measure E issuance to date has been made possible thanks to the diligence and expertise of our dis-

trict staff and legal and financial counsel," Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Business Services Sharlene Coleal said.

Voters approved Measure E in 2016 for a total of \$230 million to fund multiple projects at both campuses.

The bonds funded construction of the Takeda Science Center, which is located at the Canyon Country campus and serves as a focal point for students and first-time visitors. The approximately 55,000-square-foot building is primarily devoted to physical and biological sciences, housing eight labs, plus lecture classrooms.

Measure E also funded construction of the Student Services/Learning Resources Center at the Canyon Country campus. The four-story building sits adjacent to the Takeda Science Center and will provide of-

fice and library space.

Measure E also allowed the college to build a three-level parking structure at the Valencia campus.

Moving forward, Measure E funds will go toward renovation of several existing buildings at the Valencia campus. And, at Canyon Country, Measure E will fund construction of a 25,000-square-foot classroom and lab building that will replace two sections of modular buildings.

Projections show enrollment reaching 30,000 students per semester over the next decade in part from programs such as Canyons Promise, which provides first-time students two free years of college, and College Now!, which enables high school students to take courses without paying the enrollment fees.



Major construction has been completed on the Student Services/Learning Resources Center (right), whose design mirrors the Takeda Science Center (left) at the Canyon Country campus.

# Audits of Measure E Bond Spending Affirmed

The Santa Clarita Community College District's Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee voted to accept the results of an independent audit confirming the district properly accounted for all bond expenditures in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

Eide Bailly LLP conducted financial and performance audits, issuing the district an unmodified opinion – the best rating possible – noting no adjustments, audit findings, questioned costs or instances of bond noncompliance.

"The financial statement audit tells us the numbers being presented to us are correct, and the performance audit tells us the money being spent is in accordance with the provisions of the bond," Oversight Committee Chairman Kevin Holmes said during the Jan. 10 meeting.

Auditors reviewed documents associated with 54 percent of expenditures

made with bond funds. Purchase orders, approved invoices, bid documentation, contracts, and payments were reviewed and found to be compliant with state regulations and district board policies.

Sharlene Coleal, assistant superintendent/vice president of business services, attributed the results of the audit to the collaboration of her staff with Jim Schrage, assistant superintendent/vice president of facilities planning, operation and construction, and his team.

"With our departments working together to provide careful fiscal oversight and ensure strict compliance with regulations that govern general obligation bond-funded construction projects, we achieved outstanding audit results," Coleal said.

The audit showed \$21 million of Measure E funds spent during 2020/21, primarily on construction of the Takeda Science Center and the Student Services/Learning Resources Center at the Canyon Country

*'We appreciate the support of our community and take seriously our obligation to maximize the value of Measure E funds, and ensure they are spent as intended.'*

– DR. DIANNE G. VAN HOOK, CHANCELLOR



campus.

Since 2017, the college has spent a total of \$82.6 million of Measure E bond revenue, according to the audit. Funded projects include the parking structure at the Valencia campus, and the Central Energy Plant, Science Center, and Student Services/Learning Resources Center at the Canyon Country campus.

Local voters approved Measure E in June 2016, providing the college with \$230 million to invest in facilities upgrades.

"We appreciate the support of our community and take seriously our obligation

to maximize the value of Measure E funds, and ensure they are spent as intended," Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. "The audit results demonstrate our ongoing commitment to sound fiscal management, as well as our intent to continue delivering high-quality facilities and programs that lead to outstanding educational opportunities and expanded access to training for our community."

The committee also approved its Annual Report, which is available at:

- [www.canyons.edu/administration/committees/bondoversight](http://www.canyons.edu/administration/committees/bondoversight)

## Project Summary

Major projects funded by Measures E and M. Projects funded by Measure C are included when funding was derived in combination with Measure M.

### STUDENT SERVICES/ LEARNING RESOURCES

**LOCATION:** CANYON COUNTRY  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2022  
**SCOPE:** 55,000 SF BUILDING  
**MEASURE E:** \$36.9 MILLION

### BOYKIN HALL

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** IN PROGRESS  
**SCOPE:** MODERNIZATION  
**MEASURE E:** \$10.3 MILLION  
**STATE:** \$4.7 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$15 MILLION

### BUILDING NO. 3

**LOCATION:** CANYON COUNTRY  
**STATUS:** PLANNING  
**MEASURE E:** \$1,000,000

### SCIENCE CENTER

**LOCATION:** CANYON COUNTRY  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2021  
**SCOPE:** 55,000 SF  
**MEASURE M:** \$11.5 MILLION  
**MEASURE E:** \$28.3 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$39.8 MILLION

### PHYSICAL EDUCATION WEST

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2020  
**SCOPE:** MODERNIZATION  
**MEASURE E:** \$5,500,000

### CENTRAL PLANT

**LOCATION:** CANYON COUNTRY  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2021  
**MEASURE M:** \$2.8 MILLION  
**MEASURE E:** \$5 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$7.8 MILLION

### ADA TRANSITION PLAN

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** PHASE 1 COMPLETED; PHASE 2 IN PROGRESS  
**MEASURE M:** \$4.9 MILLION  
**MEASURE E:** \$4.2 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$11.6 MILLION

### DOOR/LOCK REPLACEMENT

**LOCATION:** DISTRICTWIDE  
**STATUS:** PHASE 1 AND 2 COMPLETED  
**MEASURE M:** \$1.8 MILLION (PHASE 1)  
**MEASURE E:** \$925,000 (PHASE 2)  
**TOTAL:** \$2.7 MILLION

### PARKING STRUCTURE

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2019  
**SCOPE:** 1,659 SPACES, THREE LEVELS  
**MEASURE M:** \$4.7 MILLION  
**MEASURE E:** \$19.2 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$23.9 MILLION

### SOCCER FIELD

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2016  
**MEASURE M:** \$2.4 MILLION



**CENTRAL PLAZA**  
CANYON COUNTRY CAMPUS

### SCIENCE LAB

**LOCATION:** CANYON COUNTRY  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2017  
**SCOPE:** MODERNIZATION  
**MEASURE M:** \$1.1 MILLION

### CANYONS HALL

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2015  
**SCOPE:** 46,370 SF  
**MEASURE M:** \$11.3 MILLION  
**STATE:** \$6.3 MILLION  
**LOCAL:** \$12,446  
**TOTAL:** \$17.6 MILLION

### CULINARY ARTS FACILITY

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2015  
**SCOPE:** 12,208 SF  
**MEASURE M:** \$8.6 MILLION  
**LOCAL:** \$1.3 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$9.9 MILLION

### LIBRARY/TLC EXPANSION

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2012  
**SCOPE:** 51,435 SF (86,606 TOTAL)  
**MEASURE M:** \$6.4 MILLION  
**STATE:** \$9.4 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$15.8 MILLION

### APPLIED TECH CENTER

**LOCATION:** CANYON COUNTRY  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2011  
**SCOPE:** 15,000 SF  
**MEASURE M:** \$7.1 MILLION

### MENTRY HALL EXPANSION

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2010  
**SCOPE:** 28,000 SF (78,237 TOTAL)  
**MEASURE M:** \$12.4 MILLION  
**LOCAL:** \$100,000  
**TOTAL:** \$12.5 MILLION

### UNIVERSITY CENTER

**LOCATION:** VALENCIA  
**STATUS:** COMPLETED 2009  
**SCOPE:** 110,000 SF  
**MEASURES M & C:** \$9.8 MILLION  
**STATE:** \$21 MILLION  
**LOCAL:** \$9 MILLION  
**TOTAL:** \$39.8 MILLION

### CANYON COUNTRY CAMPUS

**LOCATION:** CANYON COUNTRY  
**STATUS:** PHASE 1 COMPLETED 2007  
**SCOPE:** LAND, SITE DEVELOPMENT, MODULAR FACILITIES  
**MEASURES M & C:** \$58 MILLION

# Foundation Announces 2023 Silver Spur Recipients

The College of the Canyons Foundation has named Randy Moberg and Mitzi Like-Moberg the recipients of the Silver Spur Community Service Award for their longtime support of the college and community philanthropy.

The 2023 Silver Spur Celebration will take place Saturday, March 11 at Zachari Dunes on Mandalay Beach in Oxnard.

“Over the years, Randy and Mitzi have proven to be steadfast and enthusiastic supporters of College of the Canyons and our mission to make higher education accessible to all,” Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook said. “Their dedication and generous spirit distinguishes them as worthy recipients of the Silver Spur award. We are grateful for their generous support and we are proud to recognize their passion and efforts in service to our students.”

As CEO of LBW Insurance and Financial Services, Like-Moberg has more than 40 years of experience in the insurance industry. She has earned various accolades, including Business Woman of

the Year and Business Woman of the Decade by the San Fernando Valley Business Journal in 2009 and 2011, respectively. She serves as a board member for the Henry Mayo Newhall Hospital Foundation and Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp.

Randy Moberg brings more than 30 years of operations experience with Fortune 100 companies to his role as chief operating officer at LBW. Selected as “Ultimate Male Medium Business Executive” by Elite Magazine, Moberg holds a Certification in Long-Term Care and a FINRA Series 7 registration.

Over the course of their 30-year marriage, they have also worked together toward the betterment of their community by ingraining their philanthropic ethos into LBW’s culture.

The 2023 Silver Spur, scheduled for 6 p.m., will feature a live auction and personal video tribute created for Moberg and Like-Moberg.

For more information, please contact the foundation at (661) 362-3434 or visit:

• [www.cocfoundation.com](http://www.cocfoundation.com)



MITZI LIKE-MOBERG



RANDY MOBERG

## GRANTS

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no-cost preschool services and comprehensive support services.

Participating parents will be enrolled in College of the Canyons academic programs that are linked to high-skill/high-wage career track jobs with strong, long-term regional demand.

In addition, parents will have access to on-campus student and academic support services, as well as community services, such as housing, nutrition, and transportation assistance.

## NETWORK TECHNOLOGY

College of the Canyons was awarded a \$300,000 Perkins Reserve Innovation grant from the California Community College Chancellor’s Office to fund a network

technology innovation and improvement project.

Dispersed over the course of two years, the federal grant will support the development of three programs: network technologies, electronic systems, and cybersecurity, which launched this year.

The project promotes pathways to high-demand, high-wage jobs for students with a focus on awareness/outreach, workforce readiness, curricular relevancy, and program excellence.

## APPRENTICESHIP INITIATIVE

College of the Canyons received \$250,000 from the California Apprenticeship Initiative grant to fund construction pre-apprenticeships to train students with workforce-ready skills and serve the needs of the construction industry in the Santa Clarita Valley.

In partnership with the Southwest Re-

gional Council of Carpenters and the William S. Hart Union High School District, the college began offering a pre-apprenticeship to apprenticeship pathway in August. Fifty students are expected to complete the pathway over two years.

The grant funds a pre-apprenticeship pathway for construction technologies at the Canyon Country campus and in the construction technologies dual-enrollment pathway at schools in the William S. Hart Union High School District.

Upon completion, students will be prepared for one or more of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters Union Registered Apprenticeship programs under the umbrella of the Southwest Carpenters Training Fund.

## SMART TECHNOLOGY

College of the Canyons received a \$646,354 grant from the National Science

Foundation Advanced Technological Education to fund a Welding Education Smart Technology (WEST) program.

Launched this past fall, the WEST project integrates smart technology platforms – paired with industry-recognized stackable certificates – into the current curriculum and instructional delivery to improve welding technology education.

## RISING SCHOLARS

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office awarded College of the Canyons a \$372,000 Rising Scholars Network grant to increase services for justice-involved students.

The funds will allow the college to create an on-campus program for justice-impacted students to serve as a counterpart to the college’s existing programming at county jails, including Pitchess Detention Center in Castaic.

# College of the Canyons

## ROAD TO EMPLOYMENT DAY

Explore career education programs that lead to gainful employment right here in Santa Clarita!  
Both COC faculty and SCV employers will be on hand to connect you to real opportunities!



COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

EMPLOYMENT CENTER

Don't just find a job, discover a CAREER!

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 28**

**9AM – 1PM** Parking Structure  
(corner of Rockwell Canyon Rd & Valencia Blvd)

Visit [www.canyons.edu/CTEEvents](http://www.canyons.edu/CTEEvents) or email [Harriet.Happel@canyons.edu](mailto:Harriet.Happel@canyons.edu) for more details