



# Canyon Country Campus: Three Years Later

In the early morning hours of Aug. 27, 2007 a sizeable group of dedicated College of the Canyons board members, administrators, instructors and staff members gathered outside a collection of newly installed modular buildings, strategically arranged on a 70-acre plot of land that was to become the Canyon Country campus.

As the first students of the semester began to make their way onto campus for the first time, the college team was already there; ready to greet them and make sure everyone found their classroom.

At that moment COC officially became a college on two campuses, but with one mission — to increase access to education for students of all ages.

With an overwhelming feeling of excitement in the air that day, the College of the Canyons Canyon Country campus opened with 24,000 square feet of instruction space, spread across 28 modular buildings.

Despite early projections that the campus would attract between 1,500 and 2,000 students in its first semester, more than 3,000 students were served at the new location in fall 2007 alone.

The early numbers were only a preview of things to come, as the Canyon Country campus has continued to grow, develop and evolve, while creating opportunities for students and community members alike.

“In the three years since we opened I have been amazed at the remarkable transformation of the Canyon Country campus,” said Dr. Dena Maloney, Vice President of the Canyon Country Campus and Economic Development. “With more than 4,600 students expected to attend classes in the fall, clearly we are not a secret anymore.”

However, back in fall 2007 the Canyon Country campus was still relatively unknown to students, a place where many only came to take classes they weren’t able to enroll in at the Valencia campus. The first semester, the campus’ average class size hovered at around just 19 students.

Today, the Canyon Country campus offers 26 academic degree and certificate programs that can be completed entirely through a combination of classes taken at the Canyon Country campus and online. In fall 2010, the college will offer 258 class sections at the Canyon Country campus. The average class size is expected to be around 33 students.



*Students emerge from a modular classroom, at the still under construction COC Canyon Country campus, during the first day of classes back on August 27, 2007. At the time, the campus was still relatively unknown, as class sizes hovered at around 19 students.*



*While classes are still held in modular buildings, the Canyon Country campus has made several significant facility improvements since 2007, continually adding new instruction space and working to improve the grounds. The average class size for fall 2010 is expected to be around 33 students.*

The opening of the campus’ Applied Technology Education Center (ATEC), currently scheduled for completion in spring 2011, will allow the college to begin offering a variety of new academic programs at the Canyon Country campus.

The campus has also made several significant improvements from a facility standpoint, adding new instruction space and continually improving the grounds over the last three years.

In late 2007 construction closed on the Carl A. Rasmussen Amphitheater. Already the site of the college's annual Star Party event held at the Canyon Country campus, current plans call for the amphitheater to eventually be surrounded by the campus' yet-to-be built permanent buildings — making the amphitheater one of the first truly permanent aspects on campus.

As the campus continues to grow, so too do the native plantings, including trees, bushes and flowers that were placed throughout campus and/or hydro-seeded into the surrounding hillsides, as part of a drought-tolerant and environmentally friendly landscape design.

“Our community advisory committee always advocated for the use of native plantings and environmentally sensitive landscaping,” Maloney said. “That collective commitment to these concepts has tied in with our own vision of the campus and how it will continue to be developed in the coming years.”

In the fall 2009 semester the campus took another step toward permanency by opening the 2,150 square-foot Canyon Country Center for Early Childhood Education (ECE).

“With the opening of the Early Childhood Education Center, the campus took a momentous step toward realizing its full potential,” said Maloney.

New additions to the Canyon Country campus in 2010 have included the completion of the new 660 square foot anthropology laboratory, the introduction of an on-campus weather station and the debut of specialty coffee/food service vendor Maui Wowi adjacent to the amphitheater.

Though still situated in temporary modular buildings, as build out the campus is expected to feature seven permanent buildings and an assortment of accompanying support facilities — which will allow for the accommodation of up to 10,000 students.

The next major step for the campus will be construction of the first permanent building, which will house a mixture of science labs and classrooms.

“The future of the Canyon Country Campus is bright,” Maloney said. “With more than 60 percent of the COC graduates in 2010 having taken some of their course work at the Canyon Country campus, we know we are contributing to the educational goals of our students.

“We appreciate the support of our community,” Maloney said, “and look forward to the continued growth of this campus.”



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