Decade of Progress
College of the Canyons in the '90s
A Strong Foundation for the Future

The 1990s were pivotal years for College of the Canyons. It was a decade of progress, milestones and achievements, all of which helped create a first-class community college – and a strong foundation for the future.

Your community college has moved forward in some important, significant ways. Fueled in large part by the advancing development of the Santa Clarita Valley, our growth has brought with it a more dynamic and diverse campus community, an impressive variety of new or expanded educational and training programs, a continually changing landscape of new and expanded facilities, and an ever-growing sense of pride among those who study here, work here or are associated with College of the Canyons as alumni, business partners, foundation supporters and community partners.

As the only public institution of higher learning in the SCV, College of the Canyons is fulfilling its mission by adapting to the needs of the community it serves. Despite ever-climbing enrollment and state funding that rarely meets our needs as one of the fastest-growing of California’s 108 community colleges, we’ve charged ahead – through innovation, partnerships, passion and a can-do attitude that overcomes challenges and always finds a way.

The most noticeable change to our campus is in the way it looks. From our architecturally stunning library on the hill to our state-of-the-art media and fine arts building, from our early childhood and family studies complex to our remodeled and expanded student center, the campus landscape and educational options have been significantly altered for the better.

With more students have come more programs, more facilities, and more faculty and staff. We certainly don’t expect this trend to end anytime soon.

Our achievements have set the stage for the next 10 years, during which we expect our highest growth ever. Our enrollment stood at nearly 11,000 as the year 2000 concluded. By 2010, that figure is expected to reach 21,000 as we continue to meet the community’s expectations.

I am so proud of our college, our accomplishments and those who have made this incredible place what it is – from our dedicated staff to our Board of Trustees, from our community partners to those policymakers who believe in us. This publication is designed to give you a greater sense of where College of the Canyons has been, as well as where it is today. Most importantly, I hope it shares with you the dream of where College of the Canyons – the community’s college – can and will be in the future.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Dianne G. Van Hook
Superintendent-President
Our Philosophy
We believe in the following values:

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**
We honor and reward high performance in teaching and learning.

**RESPECT FOR ALL PEOPLE**
We foster a campus climate characterized by civility, collegiality and tolerance. We encourage honesty, integrity and social responsibility.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY**
We create lasting relationships: providing the foundation of success for chosen current and future partnerships with local schools, colleges and universities, businesses, government and social agencies. These partnerships advance the educational, intellectual, artistic, civic, cultural and economic aspirations of our surrounding community.

**EXCELLENCE**
We set the highest standards for ourselves and support the professional development of faculty, staff and administrators.

**CREATIVITY AND INNOVATION**
We provide an environment conducive to innovation and creativity. We encourage members of the college community to embrace changes that will enhance the college’s mission.

Mission Statement
College of the Canyons is a learning-centered community college that provides academic education and workforce training at the lower-division level, to all capable of profiting from instruction. Faculty and staff promote substantive personal growth and intellectual progress of learners by combining time-proven concepts with the latest technological advances in order to meet the community’s expectations.

Vision Statement
College of the Canyons is dedicated to becoming a leading two-year college, recognized locally, regionally and statewide for technical advancement, institutional effectiveness, student support, model academic and professional programs, and excellence in teaching and learning.
College of the Canyons took its place as one of California’s fastest-growing and most progressive community colleges in the last decade of the last century and the last millennium.

As the 1990s began, a different George Bush sat in the White House. The Persian Gulf War had yet to be waged. California was feeling the effects of a sputtering national economy. Tom Bradley was the mayor of Los Angeles. The City of Santa Clarita was barely two years old. And College of the Canyons, the Santa Clarita Valley’s only public institution of higher learning, had just celebrated its 20th year of service to the community.

It was a time of both precariousness and optimism — precarious because of the uncertain nature of state funding so crucial to the rapidly growing college, optimistic because of the perceived expectations of Superintendent-President Dianne G. Van Hook, who had assumed the top spot just two years earlier. Scanning the decade past with the benefit of hindsight, it is clear that College of the Canyons underwent a period of its most significant growth and advancement.

The Board of Trustees gave Dr. Van Hook the mandate to move the college forward. Working with the college’s staff and community, dozens of new instructional and training programs were introduced. New instructors and staff members were brought on board. A helping, cooperative hand was extended to local
Existing Facilities

New or Significantly Remodeled Facilities

FYI

- Student Center major remodel & expansion completed 2000
- Cougar Den built with donated funds, completed 2000
- Modular Classroom Village added 2000
- South Parking Lot expansion proposed 2000
- Academy of the Canyons (Hart High School District) completed 2000
- Library, Media & Fine Arts Bldg. completed 1997
- Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center completed 1996
- Energy-efficient Central Plant completed 1996
- Facilities Master Plan that guided these projects submitted to state in 1991
- Although not reflected on map, A, C, I, Land T buildings underwent interior remodeling in 1994 and 1999

Modular Structures

X1 – FS&ECE Annex
X2 – MESA
X3 – FS&ECE Annex
X4 – Tech Prep, School-to-Career, CWEED
X5 – Community Extension, Traffic School
X7 – FS&ECE Facility
X6 – Personnel, COC Foundation
X8 – ETI/C.ACT
X9 – EOPS/CARE
X10 – Facilities, Security
X11 – Faculty Building
government, business and industry. The college’s Educational Master Plan was updated to meet the current and projected demands of a community ranked as one of the nation’s fastest growing. Since 1990, this plan has been updated twice.

Student enrollment climbed – then climbed some more – to the point at which College of the Canyons became the fastest-growing community college in all of California (see chart below). With some 6,500 students in 1990, the college was beginning to experience the effects of overcrowding. The campus was originally designed to accommodate a maximum of 5,000 students.

Under a new brand of leadership characterized by optimism, persistence and flexibility, the atmosphere on campus was transformed into one of innovation, positive change and passionate willingness to blaze new trails – to pursue the dream of a community college that knows no boundaries or limitations or obstacles that couldn’t be overcome.

But there were obstacles, the most significant being California itself. The source of the college’s lifeblood – the state funding that allows it to exist – was coming in at a comparative trickle considering the college’s high rate of enrollment growth. In fact, a flaw in the state’s funding system penalized all of California’s fast-growing community colleges. To sit back and accept the situation would be tantamount to surrender – to eventually be forced to abandon the college’s mission and turn away students. It was a state issue, and any changes to correct the funding system would have to be argued to the legislators in Sacramento. It was with these realizations in mind that Van Hook and fellow college lead-
ers crafted their strategy to reject the status quo and decisively craft the college's destiny themselves.

What followed was a frantic lobbying schedule that put Van Hook, trustees and other college officials in Santa Clarita, Sacramento and points in between — often all in the same day to lobby for the cause. But the mission was having the desired effect. The college’s message was getting out. Mere signatures on letterhead and voices separated by hundreds of miles of copper wire became familiar, even friendly, faces. Valuable relationships were forged. Trust was developed. Skeptics and foes became allies. Eventually, with the help of state Senator Ed Davis, legislation to correct the funding formula and boost revenue was crafted and approved. And, state officials were persuaded to award millions of construction dollars the college needed to embark on a long-delayed expansion of facilities. New facilities helped clear the way to boost the number of instructional and training courses by more than 50 percent — from 46 to 75 in a decade’s time (see chart above).

The events that followed are best summed up as the biggest facilities expan-
sion at College of the Canyons since the original college buildings were con-
structed. The college embarked on a lobbying effort to secure state funds for a
much-needed and long-overdue $56-million construction plan that produced a
stunning new Library that would become a prominent landmark structure for both
the campus and community, a state-of-the-art Media & Fine-Arts Building, a new
Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center, and extensive remodeling
and updating of existing facilities.

Also introduced was the district-funded Modular Classroom Village, providing
14 additional classrooms to the burgeoning student population. And, plans were
put in motion for Academy of the Canyons, representing an innovative partnership
with the William S. Hart Union High School District. High-potential high school stu-
dents would attend this new high school and college classes simultaneously, giv-
ing them a significant jump on their future academic or work careers.

Toward decade’s end, the Student Center underwent a student-funded multi-
million-dollar redesign and expansion that resulted in a larger dining room and
bookstore, as well as additional classroom space and offices. Other projects
included a new, energy-efficient Central Plant, expanded science labs in the Laboratory Building and a tutoring lab.

Also introduced were many new or expanded course offerings that reflected the needs and demands of a growing community with changing demographics. Among the subject areas were biotechnology, fire technology, laser and orbital welding, advanced manufacturing, hotel & restaurant management, graphic arts, multimedia technology, broadcast technology, cinema, radio-television-film, electronic music and computer networking.

College of the Canyons has undergone significant and profound change in a decade’s time, adapting to meet the challenges of a fast-growing community and the increasing educational and training needs of those who live and work in the Santa Clarita Valley. The college has taken bold steps to introduce classes and training programs that are relevant to the needs of both residents and employers.

New structures that have forever altered the campus skyline are some of the most revealing signs of the college’s growth during the last decade of the last century (see Page 4).

A more telling statistic is the college's enrollment. In the fall of 1990, the number of students enrolled in classes stood at 6,502. By 1999 that number had risen dramatically – to 10,260, representing an increase of 58 percent (see chart on Page 5).

In the 1990s, more than 5,000 people left the college with a degree in hand. The number of associate degrees awarded grew more than 50 percent from 1990 to 1999 (see chart above).

As the community grew, so too did the college’s rich diversity of people. All categories of reported ethnic groups except whites experienced growth at College of the Canyons, contributing to a
**Miscellaneous expenditures 90-91:** Associated Students $88,318; Student Financial Aid $239,621. Services expenditure covers Contract Services, Utilities, Travel and Maintenance.

**Miscellaneous expenditures 99-00:** Associated Students $137,794; Student Financial Aid $1,209,199; Contingencies of $3,802. Services expenditure covers Contract Services, Utilities, Travel and Maintenance.
In terms of the budget, that too underwent dramatic change, rising more than three-fold. The 1990-91 actual budget came in at nearly $17 million. By 1999-00, that figure rose to more than $57 million (see chart on Page 9).

Perhaps one of the most significant accomplishments was the positive shift in state funding for FTES (Full-Time Equivalent Students). A crucial factor in the financial woes of the 1980s and most of the '90s was the state’s withholding of FTES funding when it rose above a preset cap. By the 1997-98 year, the issue was largely moot, as unfunded FTES fell to zero.

Enrollment projections indicate the number of students will continue to rise at College of the Canyons, reaching 21,000 or more by 2010. With this ever-increasing student population will come the need to further expand educational offerings to meet the community’s expectations. Accomplishing that will require new instructional and job-training programs, additional faculty and staff, and new and upgraded facilities to house them all.
Seeds of Expansion Sown

Just two years after being named superintendent-president of COC, a determined Dianne G. Van Hook announced that the fastest-growing community college in California would undergo a five-year, $56-million building program to renovate and expand the campus. Among the major facilities on the horizon in 1990 were a stand-alone, state-of-the-art library, a Media & Fine Arts Building and a new Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center.

Although the announcement was good news for the Santa Clarita Valley, Van Hook’s fight to secure more funding for COC and other fast-growing community colleges experiencing similar cash crunches was far from over. Lobbying efforts continued in an effort to convince state lawmakers that funding should keep pace with the college’s growth, which was the highest in the state for the third consecutive year. As enrollment continued to climb – the number was nearly 3,000 just five years earlier – student-enrollment projections were revised and the Master Plan was adjusted to accommodate an eventual population of 20,000.

Before the year was out, the effects of inadequate state funding would hit stu-
dents where it hurt. It was announced late in the year that several-dozen classes planned for the spring 1991 semester would not be added. But, unlike many other community colleges across the state, College of the Canyons did not cut classes. The worsening financial picture served to unite college officials, students and community members. In fact, a group of students announced they would trek to Sacramento early the following year to make their cases known to legislators.

The year also marked the end of the college’s operation of the student bookstore. The Board of Trustees approved a three-year contract with a private firm to operate and manage the bookstore – a trend that would continue throughout the decade.

Plans also were afoot to ease students’ transitions to four-year colleges and universities by creating what would come to be known as the Transfer Center.

The college’s popular Nursing Program was strengthened with the addition of two new tracks: a generic RN program and a part-time LVN program geared toward working adults.

The college’s recently initiated Employee Training Institute continued to make impressive inroads among local business and industry by implementing a contract education program. One educational and training partnership, for example, was formed to benefit the employees of Valencia-based Pharmaseal. The Business Advisory Council was developed in an effort to solicit and coordinate input from the business community, and work continued with the Valencia Industrial Association to identify training needs and develop relevant programs.

This also was the year that the Student Health Center was established, and the SCV Youth Orchestra made COC its home. Work continued with the City of Santa Clarita to develop a plan that would designate the college as the Emergency Operating Center for the community – a move that would reveal its prudence four years down the road.
Plans for new classes were dropped as the college continued to grapple with high enrollment growth and inadequate state funding in 1991. College of the Canyons was not alone in this dilemma, as nearby community colleges in the San Fernando and Antelope valleys also felt the pinch and eliminated hundreds of classes. Despite continuing lobbying efforts at the state level, the college was forced to axe half of its planned summer courses just to ensure that enough funding was available for the fall semester.

In a remarkable trend considering the situation, fall enrollment increased as students packed into classes, while state budget cuts made adding classes very difficult.

College officials rolled up their sleeves to do their part. Superintendent-President Dianne Van Hook was named co-chairwoman of a statewide task force that would study how to use community college facilities more efficiently to accommodate growing enrollment. And, fully half of the college’s 10 administrators did double duty as instructors in the classroom. The five administrators announced that they would teach courses in the spring 1992 semester in an effort to offer classes that otherwise would not be offered because of state funding cuts.
The college’s efficiency allowed new instructional and training programs to be launched at a time when other colleges were cutting classes and turning away students. The state approved a training program for management positions in the hotel and restaurant industry, which was a growing, emerging field in the SCV.

With U.S. military personnel fighting the Persian Gulf War, the college made provisions for students called to military action. They were allowed to withdraw from courses any time during the semester without penalty.

The campus took on a worldly look during several special events, among them the 12th-annual World Culture Festival – which grew to 26 events – and the second-annual Cinco de Mayo Celebration.

Free parking for students came to an end in the fall semester, with students’ opinions understandably mixed on the notion of paying for something that had always been free. But the fees were necessary to help pave and maintain the lots.

The college was officially named the site of the Santa Clarita Valley’s Emergency Operations Center – a designation that would be put to the test in the turmoil following the destructive 1994 Northridge Earthquake.

This was a time of tough economic realities – statewide and nationally. California’s aerospace and defense industries were literally drying up as companies merged or relocated their operations – and, in many cases, cut back on employees. A new computerized job-search program had such a high success rate that it drew laid-off workers and job-seeking students from other colleges to College of the Canyons.

The fall semester saw the introduction of a campus-wide recycling program, the college became the L.A. area’s authorized AutoCAD training center, and the Small Business Center was born in a partnership with the City of Santa Clarita and The Newhall Land & Farming Co.
Expansion Hurdles Cleared

Fiscal restraints once again faced the college in 1992 as state funding failed to account for rapid enrollment growth, but innovative ideas and solutions kept the college moving forward.

New programs were introduced and existing ones were upgraded. Curriculum and services to the community were expanded. Still, the state’s cap on growth funding meant the college couldn’t live up to its potential.

But things were beginning to change. The most significant development came in the form of Governor Pete Wilson’s budget for the 1992-93 fiscal year. In it was funding for three building projects that would do more than help alleviate campus crowding and accommodate more programs. It would give the local economy a healthy shot in the arm. With the economy still in recession, the construction of new college facilities would create nearly 4,000 jobs and pump an estimated $62 million into the surrounding community.

The passage of Proposition 153 meant that much-needed campus expansion could finally begin – albeit several years down the road. To be funded were the

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**Enrollment & FTES Funding**

- **Introduced in 1992**
  - Transfer Center
  - College Work Experience Education (CWEE)

- **Other developments**
  - More than 400 people attended the college’s sixth-annual Women’s Conference.
  - In an indication of how tough the economy and job market was, several thousand people attended two campus job fairs – one for employers valleywide, another exclusively for Valencia Town Center.
  - A hotline was established to offer advice to students and community members on a wide range of health issues.
  - The Employee Training Institute launched Leadership ’92, a leadership-training program for the community.

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**Plans for the new Library, a project completed in 1997.**
Remodel for Efficiency project and construction of a new Library and a Media & Fine Arts Building.

With the good news came some bad. Still facing a cash crunch, the state imposed new fees at its community colleges. Of most concern to many educators was the new $50-per-unit fee imposed on students who already had bachelor’s degrees, raising those students’ costs in a big way and shutting many out.

Not to be stymied by limitations imposed in Sacramento, college officials decided to expand course offerings in the fall semester. While most other colleges and universities were cutting back on classes, Canyons added 12 popular late-start classes while the semester was in progress.

And, late in the year another important decision was made: to resume offering classes in Canyon Country, where the largest number of students lived. The classes would start in the spring 1993 semester.

It was a year of milestones for the college’s educational and training programs. The popular, cutting-edge AutoCAD (Computer Aided Drafting) training program received international acclaim for excellence. The first students in the new Vocational Nursing Program graduated this year. The Music Department announced that plans were in the works to establish a symphony orchestra at the college.

It was the year the Transfer Center opened, easing students’ transitions to four-year colleges and universities. And, the Foundation launched the President’s Circle.

Internally, the administration focused on providing the highest degree of campus safety. The college boosted the ranks of its security personnel to four officers, provided an additional vehicle to improve response times to calls for service and created the Campus Patrol Program, in which specially trained students escort students to their cars at night and provide an added measure of safety.

Graduation '92

During the graduation ceremony of May 1992, 452 associate degrees were awarded. By the end of the decade, that number would rise to 645, then the highest number of degrees awarded in the college’s history. Enrollment also experienced significant gains during the decade, rising from 6,502 in the fall of 1990 to 10,260 in the fall of 1999.
New Construction Begins

California was experiencing severe budget problems, fees at Cal State University and UC schools were on the rise, and the economy in general was depressed statewide in 1993, but College of the Canyons began the year on a decidedly optimistic note.

The college’s five-year, $56 million construction program to expand campus facilities began. Financed with statewide voter-approved bonds, the new or remodeled buildings would help accommodate the college’s burgeoning student enrollment, which increased 71 percent from 1982 to 1991.

Kicking it all off was the Remodel for Efficiency project that would remodel some 24,000 square feet of space in four existing buildings – the Instructional Resource Center, Classroom Building, Technical Building and Administration Building. To be gained were expanded space for Student Services and Admissions & Records, as well as the Tutoring & Learning Center (the TLC Lab), more classrooms, electronic labs, faculty offices and a double-shaft elevator at the junction of the I and C buildings to improve access for the disabled.

Enrollment & FTES Funding

Introduced in 1993

- TLC Lab remodel
- Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education

Other developments


- Maureen Reagan, daughter of former President Ronald Reagan, was keynote speaker for the college’s seventh-annual Women’s Conference.

- The college’s Golf Team won the state championship.

- A reception at the Piru Mansion, home of former Newhall Signal Editor Ruth Newhall, kicked off the start of a support group for the yet-to-be-built new library.

Plans for the new Media & Fine Arts Building, which was completed in 1997.
Later in the year, the stage was set for yet another piece of the expansion puzzle. The state approved construction funding for the new Child Development Center, which would later be renamed the Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in conjunction with Day of the Child festivities in November.

The nearly 6,000-square-foot single-story structure would serve a dual purpose: care for young children and offer practical training for child-development workers. Plans called for two teaching labs that could be combined into a large multipurpose room, staff offices, food-preparation and support rooms, and outdoor play areas that would be sheltered from the wind. The facility would rise on the southwestern edge of the campus.

The expansion program was by no means limited to these projects. Still ahead was the most ambitious phase of the plan – construction of the new Library and the Media & Fine Arts Building. The Library, nearly four times the size of the existing one, was in the stage of final working drawings. A special support group convened in April to kick off a fund-raising drive for books, equipment and furnishings for the new facility.

The college moved forward on several other fronts, as well.

The Transfer Center wrapped up its first year, putting in place all of the components of a fully-operational center and helping nearly 2,000 students ease their transitions to four-year colleges and universities.

For the first time since the funding restrictions created by Proposition 13, the college offered a comprehensive music program that led to an associate of arts degree in music.

And, following the success of its first training program for community leaders the previous year, the Employee Training Institute initiated another community-wide leadership program in the fall of ’93.
Big Quake Jolts Campus

No one who lived through the events of Jan. 17, 1994, will forget the day Mother Nature shook things up in a big way. At 4:32 that morning a major earthquake centered in the San Fernando Valley rattled the Southland. The Santa Clarita Valley’s close proximity to what came to be known as the Northridge Earthquake – its epicenter was actually several miles outside that community – resulted in extensive damage, injuries and disrupted lives throughout the area.

At College of the Canyons, the buildings proved to be as solid as they looked. College maintenance worker Don Gulcynski and the college’s security supervisor were the first to arrive on campus – just minutes after the magnitude-6.8 quake struck. Both employees traversed a rattled landscape of darkened streets, fractured bridges, burning homes and cracked buildings. Gulcynski’s primary concern – making sure the college’s natural gas and other utilities were turned off – was well justified. Water and gas lines had indeed ruptured. Transformers and chillers had tipped over on most of the buildings. He had most of the utilities turned off when Thompson arrived 15 minutes later. What the pair discovered astonished them. “I really expected explo-
sions, fires and serious water damage,” Gulcynski said. “I was amazed that while I found a huge mess, the campus was essentially safe.”

Indeed, the massive poured-concrete buildings that constituted the core of the campus were relatively unscathed, but their walls hid something else entirely. As they pried open jammed doors, they found that ceilings and lights had fallen. Desks, computers and equipment had been tossed about. Bookcases and file cabinets had dumped their contents.

While the buildings were a jumbled mess inside, they were essentially intact. A structural engineer who examined them several days later said seismic joints designed into the buildings performed correctly, preventing severe structural damage. Meanwhile, powerful aftershocks continued to rattle the area. Emergency crews began gathering in the college’s parking lots, which had been designated just two years earlier as the site of the community’s Emergency Operations Center.

Despite the chaos and disruption, the college found a way to make sure the spring semester would begin – albeit a week late. With many buildings still inaccessible or posing hazards, the upper practice field was transformed into a tent city, its 21 colorfully striped tents flown in from Washington, D.C., and used as temporary classrooms in place of more than half of the college’s regular classrooms.

The business of running the college eventually returned to something close to normal, but the quake dominated the news for most of the year. In all, the college suffered approximately $3.2 million in damage, and enrollment dipped to 6,157, its lowest level of the decade.
Childhood Center Debuts

Nineteen-ninety-five was a year of remarkably quick recovery and institutional advancement. While earthquake repairs continued throughout the year, the college’s focus was clearly on the future and moving the college forward.

Evidence of this optimistic spirit could be seen during the groundbreaking ceremony for two new facilities: the Library and the Media & Fine Arts Building. It was no accident that the ceremony was held on Jan. 17, the one-year anniversary of the devastating Northridge Earthquake.

Even if only psychological in nature, the event on this date sent a reassuring message that nothing – Mother Nature included – would stand in the college’s way.

Even more tangible was the brand-new Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center, built on a quiet corner of the campus. The April opening ceremony was held in conjunction with the community-wide “Day of the Child” celebration on campus.

By the end of the year, 90 percent of the earthquake-recovery projects – representing about $3 million in FEMA funds – were completed.

It was also the year the college celebrated its 25th year. David Mertes, chancellor of California’s community colleges, joined Superintendent-President Dianne Van Hook and former Newhall Signal Editor Ruth Newhall at a college-wide con-
vocation to celebrate the college’s service to the community.

The college strengthened its ties with the William S. Hart Union High School District by establishing new guidelines for articulating courses and implementing the third phase of goals for the Tech Prep Program, which integrates academic and vocational education from high school to the first two years of college. An articulation agreement also was sealed with California State University, Northridge.

With enrollment beginning to climb again, attention turned to expanding student services. Among the new offerings were walk-in advisement in the Counseling Department, a crisis team and psychologist in the Student Health Center and beefed-up occupational search services in the Career Center. Plans also were put in motion to develop a telephone-registration system that would be operational the following year.

Dr. Van Hook was honored with the Association of California Community College Administrators’ Harry Buttmer Distinguished Administrator Award, which recognizes a college administrator’s integrity, principles, compassion, strength in leadership, and contributions to colleagues, the profession, the college and the community.

The Foundation, meanwhile, achieved milestones of its own. It held its first Business & Industry Breakfast at HR Textron. Its Celebrity Golf Tournament scholarship fund-raiser partnered with the Special Olympics of Southern California. And, the foundation exceeded its fund-raising goal and brought in nearly $354,000 for the year.

The Employee Training Institute continued to excel and prove its worth to local business and industry. More than 200 employees from more than 30 companies and government agencies utilized ETI’s training services. ETI also formed an alliance with the California Manufacturing Technology Center in an effort to expand its services to more businesses.

The fiber-optic backbone of the college was put in place throughout the year to ensure campus-wide access to the college computer network and the Internet. And, on another positive note, the Symphony of the Canyons was added to the college’s music program.
Moving Forward Again

It was a year of significant change and forward momentum at the college. State funding – while still not commensurate with growth – began to stabilize in 1996, allowing the college to expand its programs and open its doors to more students.

The most visible sign of progress and new opportunity was construction activity on the new Library and the Media & Fine Arts Building, both of which were nearing completion. In the L Building, the Lecture Hall was renovated and transformed into a state-of-the-art teaching station, thanks to approximately $50,000 in donations to the College of the Canyons Foundation. Behind the rising Media & Fine Arts Building, an energy-efficient Central Plant went online.

With campus recovery nearly complete just two years after the devastating Northridge Earthquake, attention turned toward mitigating quake hazards in the future. More than $1.5 million in projects were identified to minimize future dangers, and the first $73,576 project began in December after being approved by FEMA and the Office of Emergency Services.

Efforts continued to integrate applied academics into vocational education,
and a new Weekend College was launched to accommodate the educational needs of working adults. Also debuting was a new engineering program, which was designed to articulate with the engineering programs at four-year colleges and universities.

A number of programs geared toward helping students achieve their goals were augmented or expanded.

Among them was the distance-learning program, which offered more television-based courses and the college’s first classes on the Internet. The Summer International Music Institute broadened its cultural exchange program, taking more than 30 youth orchestra students and faculty to England as part of a partnership with the Harlow (England) Youth Orchestra. The Career Center and Job Placement Program expanded its services and helped more than 1,000 students choose majors and develop educational strategies toward their career paths.

Disabled Students Programs and Services broadened its learning disabilities assessment services and served 28 percent more students than the previous year. Participation in the New Horizons program increased from 62 students in 1994 to 154 by early ’96. The Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) internship program expanded and experienced student and employer growth of 100 percent. And, the introduction of the STAR telephone-registration system made it easier than ever for students to register for classes. During the first semester of this new service, 27 percent of all students utilized it.

The college’s gains were due in large part to its long-range planning processes and the actual plans themselves. A number of planning efforts culminated with new visions for the future. Among them were an updated Strategic Master Plan, a new Educational Master Plan, a new Foundation Master Plan, a new Technology Plan and a new Three-Year Staffing Plan.

A more aggressive grant-writing effort produced more than $400,000 in additional funding for myriad programs and services, such as $65,000 to provide an education program for drug, alcohol and violence prevention.
2 New Buildings Unveiled

It was a year of dreams realized. After eight years of tireless planning and persuasive lobbying, two new buildings that symbolized a revitalized campus were unveiled for all to see in 1997.

Covering nearly 30,000 square feet on two levels, the architecturally stunning Library – its curved walls of glass revealing a commanding view of the Santa Clarita Valley – opened its doors. Nearby, the Media & Fine Arts Building, designed to blend in with the architectural style of the college’s original structures, also revealed itself.

In a symbolic gesture, the ribbons were cut simultaneously on Jan. 17 – the date of the destructive Northridge Earthquake of three years earlier. The buildings were officially open for business three months later.

Student enrollment was climbing once again, and the new buildings would do more than alleviate some campus crowding; combined with a corresponding expansion of programs and classes, the new buildings beckoned even more people to attend the college.

A greater infusion of long-sought growth funds translated into 139 new classes and a doubling of courses offered during the summer session. More than 2,700
students took summer classes, making it the highest-attended summer session up to that time.

The college received a “full unqualified reaffirmation” of accreditation by the Accrediting Commission, and the already popular Nursing Program received a boost of stature and credibility with accreditation from the National League of Nursing.

Campus expansion continued. Plans moved forward to remodel portions of the I, T and L buildings, and the Technology Center underwent a redesign to accommodate additional faculty and staff.

In fact, enrollment growth and curriculum expansion throughout the college led to the hiring of more than 30 new employees. At the time, it was the largest number of people hired at the college in a single year since the inception of the college.

Expansion of other services occurred in unique ways. The college and neighboring California Institute of the Arts agreed to split the cost of an online library automation system, and the Employee Training Institute opened its Valencia Learning Center to augment its educational contracts with local businesses.

It was a year of high performance, too. A comparison with California’s then-107 community colleges revealed that Canyons ranked fourth highest in associate degrees awarded, fourth highest in occupational certificates awarded and 12th highest in terms of the number of students who transferred to Cal State University or University of California campuses.

Students were sticking around longer, as well. The college’s student-retention rate improved from 74.8 percent in the fall of 1989 to 81.4 percent in the fall of 1996.

And, it was a year of accolades for Superintendent-President Dianne Van Hook, who was honored by her alma mater and inducted into the Long Beach City College Hall of Fame.
Athletic Expansion Arrives

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ith two of the most extensive facilities expansion projects – the Library and Media & Fine Arts Building – completed the previous year, one might think construction would have abated by 1998. Not so. In fact, construction activity would continue throughout the decade in an effort to meet the demands of ever more students and the new faculty and staff members who were needed to serve them.

Construction was under way on six laboratories, 13 new classrooms, 18 offices, a conference room and an audio-video-computer technology area. A state-of-the-art fitness center overlooking the basketball court was added inside the Physical Education Building. And, a new soccer field and practice fields were completed – and for good reason.

This was the year that athletic expansion arrived. The football program was revived after an absence of 17 years, and women’s soccer was introduced. Both teams – football under the guidance of coach Chuck Lyon and soccer under Phil Marcellin – enjoyed phenomenal success.

Significant strides were made in expanding educational offerings, too.
Multimedia and fire-technology programs were introduced to the curriculum – in accordance with the college’s Educational Master Plan – and the college won approval to expand the curriculum in the areas of theater, physical education, library, media, photography and radio-TV.

As expected, the number of full-time faculty and staff also grew – up 24 since May 1997.

High school students, meanwhile, recognized a good deal when they saw one. The college’s waiving of enrollment fees for concurrently enrolled William S. Hart Union High School District students generated a dramatic 217 percent increase in numbers over fall 1997. The number of students rose from 173 to 549 in one year’s time. The Summer Institute for Technical Advancement was implemented, and the new PACE (Program for Accelerated College Education) program proved so popular among busy working adults that two new tracks were created.

The Sheriff’s Academy and the Administration of Justice, Fire Technology and EMT programs were repositioned to fall under the auspices of the broader Public Safety Program.

A new central computer system called Datatel was purchased. When fully operational sometime in the next 18 months, the system would allow staff and students to access information, avoid redundant steps and conduct business from their homes or offices.

The college’s base revenue grew by more than $1.6 million – the highest growth allocation in the state. And, the college’s aggressive grant-writing campaign paid off with the receipt of 23 grants totaling approximately $1.7 million.

For in-house training and staff development, a new model for professional development was created. For outside training purposes, the college and 10 local businesses launched a manufacturing technology education consortium to provide cutting-edge training to the workforce, and a manufacturing education site was established.

And, the college’s staff and organizational development efforts were recognized statewide when Dr. Van Hook was honored with the Outstanding President Award by the Executive Board of the California Community College Council for Staff Development. She celebrated her 10th year at the college’s helm.
Progress on Many Fronts

It came sooner than the state predicted, but it came as no surprise to anyone at College of the Canyons. Nineteen-ninety-nine was the year that student enrollment crested the 10,000 mark – 10,260, to be precise. It was the second consecutive year of four-figure growth, with both years representing the greatest single-year increases in the number of enrolled students.

Although it was unlikely that all 10,260 students would be on campus at any one time, elbow room was definitely at a premium. The signs of growth were everywhere – more students, full classrooms and crowded parking lots, piles of earth and equipment to mark construction sites.

Despite all of the impressive new facilities of recent years, the campus seemed to be bursting at the seams.

To meet this increase of 1,231 more students – not to mention the 1,599 who were added to the rolls in 1998 – 50 new full-time faculty members were hired. Also brought on board were 26 new classified staff members and six new members of the management team. In all, it was another record year for hiring.

The summer program grew to 6,000 students – the highest number ever.

Facilities expansion continued. The most visible sign was the activity at the

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**Enrollment & FTES Funding**

- **Introduced in 1999**
  - Classroom Village
  - Cougar Den
  - MESA Program

- **Other developments**
  - The college had the second-highest growth factor (21.69 percent) of 71 community college districts statewide.
  - The number of student athletes increased from 225 to 300. Women’s golf and water polo programs were added.
  - Sharon Davis, wife of Gov. Gray Davis, toured the campus.
  - Enrollment growth in the International Student Program reached 397 percent since the program’s inception in 1997.
  - The Canyon Call campus newspaper was honored for excellence by the Journalism Assn. of Community Colleges.
Student Center, one of the college’s original buildings. Work continued throughout the year to remodel 15,000 square feet of classroom and office space, as well as add 9,000 square feet to create an enclosed lounge and increase the size of the student dining room.

Another 10,000 square feet of new classroom space arrived in the form of 14 new modular buildings — collectively called the Modular Classroom Village and located at the southern end of the existing campus. It also housed the first bachelor’s degree programs offered at the college, made possible through innovative partnerships with Cal State Bakersfield and the University of La Verne.

It was the precursor to an even more ambitious project known as University Center, for which planning also began. The idea behind this privately funded center on college property was for other public and private colleges and universities to offer upper-division programs here, eliminating the need for local residents to travel elsewhere to earn degrees.

The partnership with the William S. Hart Union High School District took a bold step forward with an agreement to build a high school campus on college property. To be called Academy of the Canyons, this “middle college” concept would allow high-potential students to attend both high school and college courses.

Grant money once again surpassed the million-dollar mark, coming in at more than $1.7 million. The money would be used to help establish Academy of the Canyons; launch the MESA program to encourage more students to consider majors in science, engineering and other math-based fields; and to continue developing programs in manufacturing, engineering and computer networking.

The planned Performing Arts Center also moved forward. The state disbursed money to begin the planning process, and the City of Santa Clarita committed $2.4 million to expand capacity from 400 to 950 seats and create a facility that the entire community can enjoy.
Expectations & Challenges

The phenomenal growth of College of the Canyons in terms of student enrollment and the expanded breadth of its educational and training programs will likely pale in comparison to what the future holds. And, the reasons to attend the college will become as varied as the students themselves as COC adapts to meet new challenges.

With development of the planned University Center – a “multi-university” complex that will offer a range of specialized degree programs – College of the Canyons will be one of only a handful of community colleges nationwide that house degree programs from other colleges and universities. The center is scheduled to open in temporary quarters on campus in the fall of 2001.

The benefits of such a facility to the community are enormous. University Center will provide convenient access to higher education to more people. It will do so while offering a wide variety of educational programs – everything from certificates to bachelor’s degrees, master’s to doctoral degrees. It will play a major role in educating and training the community’s workforce.

The soon-to-be-built Performing Arts Center will do more than house the college’s performing arts programs and accommodate student productions. It will...
be both a performance venue and a community asset.

Originally proposed as a 400-seat facility, the Performing Arts Center’s capacity rose with the City of Santa Clarita’s commitment to contribute $2.4 million so that it could be expanded and serve a larger, community-wide audience. The groundbreaking occurred in December 2001.

More and more people will continue to pour into the SCV throughout the next decade. Likewise, enrollment at the college will rise, outstripping the state’s enrollment projections as it historically has done and reaching 21,000 students by 2010. As the campus is built out and consumes the property, college officials will be faced with the possibility of developing one or more satellite locations throughout the district.

All of these eventualities, as well as the strategies to deal with them, are contained within two important documents that were completed in 2001.

The Educational Master Plan examines the current curriculum and forecasts emerging trends. It attempts to gaze into the future to determine the educational needs and expectations of the community. Closely associated with this document is the Facilities Master Plan, a road map of sorts to ensure that existing or future facilities can accommodate the programs outlined in the Educational Master Plan.

As the college and the community ride this wave of new challenges and opportunities, so too will the Foundation, the Employee Training Institute and the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies, all of which are based at College of the Canyons. Although closely allied with the college, their missions are more limited and specific. Their stories follow.

With consistency of purpose and a solid foundation on which to build, College of the Canyons is poised to thrive and succeed well into the 21st century.
Helping COC Move Ahead

The first full decade for the COC Foundation ended with the fund-raising arm of the college raising its assets to $744,892, the highest level ever and approximately $270,000 higher than five years earlier.

As a 501(c)(3) non-profit auxiliary organization of the college, the foundation provides financial support so that the college can perform beyond the level that tax dollars alone can support. But it exists to do more than raise money. It supports organizations that enhance learning, sponsors endowed or expendable scholarship programs for students (see list at left), sponsors the Alumni Development Committee and oversees the President’s Circle, Legacy Society and Cougar Club.

The foundation’s financial impact on the college has become increasingly significant over the years as funding levels have risen. Annual dollars granted to the college have grown dramatically – from approximately $75,000 in fiscal year 1995-96 to nearly $275,000 in 1999-00.
Examining a single year, of $964,531 in total revenue for 1999, nearly $650,000 went directly to student scholarships, academic support and the like.

To generate that level of funding, the foundation relies on the support of prominent community leaders, corporations and alumni members. Introduced in 1992, the President’s Circle is one such foundation-organized group – and its premier support group. Members make annual contributions of $1,500 or more, which support the areas of greatest need.

Legacy Society members have made a planned gift to the COC Foundation to support future needs. It is composed of individuals who have made planned gifts through appreciated stock or securities, wills, bequests, real estate, deferred gifts, charitable trusts and/or insurance policies.

The Silver Spur Award Dinner is one of the foundation’s largest annual fundraising events. Each year a member of the community is singled out for recognition and honored with the Silver Spur Award for Community Service.

The foundation’s annual Celebrity Golf Tournament raises money for scholarships and the Southern California Special Olympics.

Established in 1986, the Alumni Development Committee organizes and coordinates all student/alumni activities supported by the foundation. It operates in conjunction with the foundation’s Board of Directors to enhance educational programs and strengthen the relationship between alumni and their alma mater.

The foundation also coordinates and operates Friends of the Symphony of the Canyons, which enhances the quality of music education at the college and in our community; Library Associates, which supports books, reading and high-quality library services at the college’s Library; Friends of the Fine Arts, which supports the COC Art Gallery through membership and fund-raising events; and the Cougar Club, which raises money to strengthen COC Athletics.

EXPENDABLE / Continued
Margaret May McGuire Memorial Scholarship
Pat McMonagle Memorial Scholarship
Greer Passick Nursing Scholarship
SCV Printing House Craftsmen Scholarship
Santa Clarita Valley Soroptimist International of SCV Scholarship
Valencia Industrial Association (VIA) Anne K. Voelker Scholarship
Joan Waller Child Development Scholarship
Adelini Scholarship
Christopher Van Aken Scholarship
Emeriti Scholarship
Friendz Scholarship
Blue Barrel Scholarship
Valencia Bank & Trust Scholarship
Mark Christian Memorial Scholarship
Silver Spur Honorees
1989 - Cliffie Stone
1990 - Elisha “Aggie” Agajanian
1991 - Scott & Ruth Newhall
1993 - Tom Dieckman
1994 - John Hoskinson
1996 - LaVerne Harris
1997 - Robert Ormsby
1998 - Dick Luechtefeld
1999 - Roberta Veloz
As the residential community grew, so too did its business sector. The corresponding rise in the number of specialized industrial companies created a critical need for a well-trained workforce.

College of the Canyons played a major role in meeting that demand through its Employee Training Institute (ETI) and Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT). ETI was launched in 1989 in response to the business community’s need for customized, industry-specific training. One of its first tasks was to develop a leadership-development program in cooperation with the SCV Chamber of Commerce. More than 100 community members – from government employees to business owners – participated over five years.

In the mid-’90s, ETI formed a broad coalition to determine specific needs for training, education, technical assistance and other economic-development matters. This laid the groundwork for ETI’s training programs.

In 1994, ETI turned its attention to the growing need for industrial-training programs. This was a time of significant downsizing in California’s...
defense industry, and many companies faced the challenge of converting from defense to commercial manufacturing. Accomplishing this required that much of the workforce be retrained.

ETI and the Valencia Industrial Association developed the first of four Employment Training Panel (ETP) contracts on behalf of local employers. Since 1996, the institute has developed and administered ETP contracts totaling $908,000 that provided training for nearly 1,500 local workers.

The number of workers trained rose steadily during ETI’s first decade, growing from 160 in 1992 to nearly 1,100 in 2000. Likewise, the number of companies seeking training also increased – from 22 to 179. By the close of 2000, 3,857 workers had participated in ETI and CACT training programs.

Closely allied with ETI is the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies, which was created at COC in 1998. The center provides workforce development and technical assistance to manufacturing firms in four counties. The center is an educational partner with the California Manufacturing Technology Center (CMTC), providing affordable training consultation services and technical assistance to manufacturing firms. The CMTC recognized COC as an outstanding partner in 2000. And, the California Community College Chancellor’s Office and the Economic Development Network of the California Community Colleges honored COC’s CACT as the statewide Outstanding Business Partnership in 1999.

Through CACT and ETI, the college is playing a significant regional role in developing programs and services that help local businesses to become or remain competitive.
This publication is dedicated to the memory of those who left us, but whose passion, wisdom and dedication to this institution and its mission live on because of the difference they made in the lives of countless students, colleagues and friends.

Robert Berson
Billye Bonnell
James Boykin
Carlo Cefaratti
Theodore Collier
Robert Downs
John Drislane
Luann Kline
Ramon LaGrandeur
Helen Lusk
Anton “Tony” Remenih
Robert Rockwell
Verle Schimmel
Burdett “Bud” Shearer