Construction Stands to Benefit Economy

Although deep budget deficits plague California and threaten to harm most state-funded services, there may be a silver lining: A large number of educational bond measures approved statewide last November stand a good chance of helping to jump-start economies locally and regionally.

The notion of economic revival was at the forefront when Gov. Gray Davis announced early this year that matching construction dollars for school construction would be released earlier than anticipated.

Releasing school-construction dollars now, it is believed, will help the economy overall by putting thousands of people to work and creating a market for numerous construction-related goods and services.

College of the Canyons is poised to take advantage of the situation because many of its planned construction projects are far enough along that they can be completed in time for the next school year.

A n n u a l  R e p o r t

Our community looks to College of the Canyons as a place people can turn for the highest-quality training and education at a reasonable cost. It is convenient, efficient, inclusive and a good learning environment.

For 34 years, the college has served as a springboard for high school students on their way to four-year degrees; a place where retraining occurs when the economy takes a turn; a place where businesses turn for high-tech employee training; a place with dedicated and effective faculty.

Local business leaders tell us much of their success is due to the training we provide their employees.

Summer to Sizzle with 600-plus Classes

In a move that runs contrary to what many other state budget-constrained community colleges are doing, College of the Canyons this summer will offer more than 600 class sections – many of them sought-after transfer, general-education and core classes – as well as a wide variety of sports programs through the Community Extension Office.

“Despite a state budget crisis that has hit community colleges particularly hard, students still want and need classes during the summer,” said Sue Bozman, director of public information at the college. “We will do everything we can to meet the needs of the community and find innovative ways to meet them.”
Van Hook
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As superintendent-president of College of the Canyons for the past 15 years and in the community college system for more than 30 years, I’ve never seen the state budget in such uncertainty and flux. The governor and state lawmakers, faced with a $34.5 billion budget shortfall, are scrambling to fix a gargantuan problem.

More than anything, I want our students – our community – to know that community colleges are here to stay, that College of the Canyons and its sister schools throughout California are doing everything they can to keep the doors open and to provide needed services.

The stakes in Sacramento couldn’t be higher. If plans proposed by the governor become law, every current student at the University of California will be funded. The same is true for every current student in the California State University system. Incredibly, the plan calls for a 5.6 percent cut to community colleges!

Thousands of California students could be denied access to education next year at a time when the economy is sluggish, people are being laid off, parents are looking to community colleges to economically provide the first two years of a four-year degree for their children. This is a time when people turn to local colleges in great numbers. It is not a time for lawmakers to cut deeply into community college budgets.

Many community colleges are reeling from mid-year cuts. Some have slashed entire programs and majors such as nursing and law enforcement; laid off faculty and staff; reduced course offerings and made strategic decisions to defer planned maintenance to conserve dollars.

At College of the Canyons, we have not had to make such drastic decisions.

We have a history of being resilient and innovative – of turning lemons into lemonade. These traits are part of our culture. When faced with difficult obstacles, our response is consistent: we roll up our sleeves and devise rational, creative and carefully thought-out solutions to keep our doors open for as many students as possible.

This year’s summer session will consist of 600 sections packed with general-education classes, transfer classes and core academic subjects.

This fall we will offer classes that will meet the educational requirements of our students and the training needs of our local business partners – while providing the college with the greatest efficiencies possible.

While we accept the realities of “lean” state budgets for the foreseeable future, we all must pitch in and make our voices heard in Sacramento. To help you in this important effort, we’ve developed an advocacy Web site where you can express your sentiments directly to the governor and lawmakers. The site also contains a wealth of information about community colleges and College of the Canyons. I encourage you to visit the site – located at www.canyons.edu/advocacy – to make your voice heard.

We must let all of our elected representatives know that we simply won’t tolerate budget decisions that evince a lack of community colleges for disproportionate cuts.

We will remain optimistic. At the same time, we must draw a line in the sand and accept nothing less from Sacramento than the absolute guarantee that we will receive the resources necessary to meet the educational needs of our community.

We must all adopt the approach that in the case of community college budgets, losing is not an option. Education and that investment in our future is just too important.

Dianne G. Van Hook is superintendent-president of College of the Canyons.
Motorists traveling on Rockwell Canyon Road are getting a glimpse of the dramatic architecture of the new Performing Arts Center, which is now under construction near the college’s main entrance drive.

The steel superstructure of the 950-seat theater has been completed, heating and air-conditioning units have been installed, and exterior work is under way. Seating arrangements in the 42,736-square-foot center call for 70 seats at orchestra level, 589 at the main level and 291 in the balcony. The center has been designed so that every seat offers ideal sight lines and acoustics.

Sound will be provided by a state-of-the-art, non-amplified acoustic-resonance system that electronically adapts the house to the performance. This system eliminates the need for an orchestra shell.

The 52-foot-wide orchestra pit (pictured above) will accommodate a mid-sized symphony orchestra of 45 to 60 musicians. It also features a motorized lift.

Incorporated into the center’s design are a green room, sound-and lighting-control booths, costume and makeup rooms, covered and open stage shops, 42 line sets of rigging, and a full tension-grid ceiling system that eliminates the need for catwalks.

Also within the center will be a 2,035-square-foot “black box” theater for smaller productions. Seating capacity will range from 80 to 135.

Developed in partnership with the City of Santa Clarita, the center is expected to be completed and open in early 2004.

The orchestra pit, stage and backstage area of the college’s new Performing Arts Center can be seen in this view from the balcony. Every seat will offer ideal sight lines and acoustics. Completion of the 950-seat theater is expected in early 2004.
College of the Canyons, which completed an extensive evaluation and self-study last fall, was granted unconditional re-accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in January for the maximum allowable six-year term.

An Accrediting Commission team visited the college Oct. 22-24, 2002, and met with more than 250 faculty and staff members and more than 90 students. The commission also visited 82 class sessions and held four “open meetings,” allowing comments from community members.

The final report called College of the Canyons an “excellent institution” and commended the college in a number of areas. Superintendent-President Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook was specifically congratulated for her strong leadership role, as was the Board of Trustees for its support of the college. The report commended the faculty and staff as “committed and innovative” and noted the college’s efforts in creating “educational and support programs that reflect the interests, needs and aspirations of its students.”

“College of the Canyons is dedicated to providing excellent programs and services to our students and community,” said Dr. Phil Hartley, assistant superintendent/vice president of instruction and student services. “I am pleased the commission concluded that what we are doing at College of the Canyons is exemplary.”

College of the Canyons first received formal accreditation from the WASC in 1972. Regional accreditation is important in securing certain types of student financial aid and transferring units to and from other higher-education systems.

“We have a great faculty, staff and student body and tremendous community support that allows us to continue to develop and excel,” Hartley said.

Absorbing Presentation

Biology instructor Gregory Nishiyama uses a slide of the popular children’s cartoon character “Sponge Bob Square Pants” as an introduction to his scholarly presentation, “Surviving in a Coral Reef,” on Oct. 23. Previously, Nishiyama presented a research paper in Italy at the International Sponge Conference, which attracts some of the most prominent chemical ecologists and reef biologists. The presentation program allows faculty members to share their passions with colleagues.
Humanitarian Trek Aims at Reading

The search is on. With an eye toward the future, College of the Canyons is looking for land in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley that will eventually be home to a satellite location of the Valencia campus.

The Canyon Country Educational Center, as it will be known, will be a full-service educational facility serving an area where many of the college’s students already live. Research conducted for the college’s most recent strategic plan shows 32 percent of students reside in the eastern side of the community, with more than 18 percent of students in Canyon Country and nearly 14 percent in Saugus. That fact, coupled with enrollment trends showing that the Valencia campus will be near capacity by the end of the decade, necessitate establishing another facility.

Identifying possible locations is one of the most important steps in the process of developing a site. The college has enlisted the help of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee. The ad hoc group is composed of community members by forming the Canyon Country Educational Center Site Selection Committee.

About 85 full- and part-time instructors have benefited from the Institute of Teaching & Learning at College of the Canyons. Launched in early 2002, the institute is designed so that experienced instructors can share their skills and secrets of teaching success with campus colleagues through fully developed coursework. “If you’ve taught in the classroom for 30 years, you’ve developed skills and a ‘bag of tricks’ that others can benefit from,” said Floyd Moos, English instructor and director of the institute.

College Seeks Land in Canyon Country

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The college is aware of several possible sites, but is hoping to hear from landowners and developers who might know of additional property that might be suitable. Ideally, the college would like to find a site in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley that has at least 50 buildable acres.

Those interested in working with the college to identify or offer property should submit written communication to Dr. Dianne Van Hook, Office of the President, College of the Canyons, 26455 Rockwell Canyon Road, Santa Clarita, CA 91355.
Event Explores Graying of America

More than 150 people attended the first Age Wave Expo on May 3. The event explored the impact of an aging America on families, communities and society.

The event included a presentation by marriage and family therapist Judith Harris and activities promoting generational interaction.

A fascinating aspect of the day was the presentation of histories of local seniors’ lives – the result of sociological research by students.

The event was co-sponsored by the SCV Senior Center, Sunrise at Sterling Canyon and the Magazine of Santa Clarita.

Impact

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enough along in the planning and approval process that funding will be provided in a timely manner.

Santa Clarita Valley voters approved an $82.1 million bond measure for College of the Canyons in November 2001. Called Measure C, it was proposed to help relieve severe classroom overcrowding, renovate existing facilities and construct new buildings.

Although the Performing Arts Center now under construction was funded prior to the passage of Measure C, a nearly 20,000-square-foot dance and music center (see page 3) will begin construction this fall just north of the Performing Arts Center. It is one of the first projects at College of the Canyons to be funded by Measure C.

The recent passage of local and statewide bond measures means that College of the Canyons and Santa Clarita Valley school districts that passed similar measures will bring an estimated $583 million to local construction over the next 10 years, according to the college’s Office of Institutional Development & Technology. Furthermore, both the direct and indirect employment impact of the new money College of the Canyons brings in – that is, money from outside of the area – will be nearly 4,000 local jobs.

Based on these economic projections and the fact that 81 of 103 educational bond measures were approved statewide last November, these or similar bond measure-influenced economic conditions could be replicated across the state.

In all, more than $9.3 billion was authorized for school construction and repairs last November, as was the $13 billion state bond measure that will provide much of the matching construction funds.

Locally, $324 million worth of educational bond measures have been approved over the past several years, and $259 million has been earmarked for SCV school and college districts through passage of last November’s statewide bond measure.
Education-Reform Hearing Hosted

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors discusses business during a meeting at College of the Canyons on Nov. 13.

The California Community Colleges Board of Governors met and elected officers during a meeting at College of the Canyons on Nov. 13. The 17-member board is appointed by the governor. New officers are Catherine L. Unger, Antonia Hernandez, George Caplan and Amy Dean. The board sets policy and provides guidance for the 72 districts and 108 colleges in the California Community College system. On a related note, California Community College systems awarded the 2003 Connie Tripp the 2003 Solly Laub Spotlight Award during a recognition luncheon at the Omni Hotel in Los Angeles on March 15. The Spotlight Awards are the most prestigious awards for volunteers in the organization’s L.A. Chapter. Tripp is an instructor trainer and teaches lifeguard training, water safety, CPR and first aid at College of the Canyons.

College of the Canyons held its third annual Drum Circle on March 8. More than 75 people attended the March 8 event, raising about $3,100 for the Family Studies & Early Childhood Education Center at the college.

MESA Receives Hewlett-Packard Grant

Hewlett-Packard Co. has awarded College of the Canyons’ Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program an equipment grant worth more than $100,000.

The so-called Wireless Mobile Classroom consists of 30 wireless laptop computers, color printer, copier, scanner, fax, digital projector and digital camera on a special motorized cart.

The MESA Program is part of a statewide network of programs that helps educationally disadvantaged students majoring in math, engineering and science. The technology will be used to enrich the experience of MESA students in engineering, mathematics and other technical courses at College of the Canyons. It is hoped that students in the program will go on to become computer engineers and scientists.

“Everyone at MESA is excited about the award,” said Susan Crowther, COC’s MESA program director. “Our students and our faculty advisors are thrilled about how this equipment will enhance the quality of learning experiences for our students.”

MESA’s primary goal is to prepare students for university transfer in the science, math and technical fields. Students in the program participate in a variety of rigorous academic activities and support services, including academic excellence workshops, computer and book loan programs, counseling and academic advisement, scholarship assistance, professional development workshops, guest speakers and field trips to universities and industry sites.

Hewlett-Packard has a long history of investing in successful programs like MESA that help low-income, minority and first-generation college students achieve academic success and become prepared for transfer to universities as computer science or computer engineering majors.

“We are so pleased that Hewlett-Packard offers this program and that the company allows community college programs across the state to compete for this type of equipment grant,” Crowther said. “It will make a huge difference in the lives and the futures of very deserving students across the state.”

The equipment is scheduled to arrive at College of the Canyons at the end of May or early June. The MESA staff will have a chance to become familiar with the technology before using it in fall semester classes.
University Center on Track

The campaign to build a permanent University Center has raised more than $4.1 million, putting it nearly halfway to its $10 million goal.

“This is a project whose time clearly has come,” said Campaign Manager Kathleen Maloney, who credited a host of visionary contributors with helping to fill a vital community need by bringing bachelor’s and graduate degree programs to the valley.

University Center is a consortium of universities offering degree programs right on the College of the Canyons campus. Already, nine institutions are offering a wide variety of degree programs in an interim facility that opened in January 2002. Talks are under way with other potential partners.

The tremendous population growth of the SCV, as well as the changing nature of the workforce and economic development, have created an urgent need for higher education beyond the community college level, but many residents cannot spend countless hours commuting to distant campuses.

The college is prohibited by state law from offering upper-division classes, and California has no plans to build a state university here. So the concept of University Center – bringing the degree programs to the people – is vital to community development.

University Center Partners & Programs

Cal State University Bakersfield
- B.A. in Communications
- B.A. in Liberal Studies
- Mult. Subject Teaching Credential
- M.A. in Education Administration; Tier I, II Admin. Services Cred.
- M.A. in Education; Prof. Clear Teaching Credential

University of La Verne
- B.A. in Business Administration
- B.S. in Child Development
- MBA
- M.S. in Ed. Counseling; Personnel Services Credential
- M.Ed. in Ed. Management; Tier I Admin. Services Credential
- M.Ed. in Reading; Reading, Language Credential

Woodbury University
- B.S. in Business Management
- MBA

ELS Language Centers
- Intensive language institute for English language learners.

California Lutheran University
- B.S. in Computer Science

Cal State University, Northridge
- B.S. in Nursing (Spring 2004)
- M.A. in Educational Administration
- M.A. in Health Admin. (tentative)

Chapman University
- B.A. in Criminal Justice
- B.A. in Psychology
- B.A. in Social Sciences

Cal State University, Fresno
Comming Soon:
- B.S. in Architecture, Geomatics, Civil Engineering, Construction Mgt.
- B.S. in Interior Design

Nova Southeastern University
- Ed.D. in Higher Ed. Leadership

Additional programs are planned. For the latest updates call (661) 362-5474 or visit us online at www.canyons.edu/offices/UnivCtr/.

Summer

From Page 1

serve students while we endure the pain of budget uncertainties.”

The summer session will consist of four-, six- and eight-week classes that begin June 9, and a four-week session starting July 7.

Summer sessions have been designed to begin after high school students finish their spring terms so they can get a head start on their college educations. Many high school students opt to take classes during the summer so that they can take fewer units at their four-year schools – freeing up time for extracurricular activities or part-time jobs.

The classes will place a heavy emphasis on transferability to UCs and CSUs, general-education classes and core academic classes focusing on subjects such as English, math and science. These classes will appeal not only to students who will continue their educations at COC, but to any student home for the summer from a four-year school and who wishes to take a class or two.

The schedule is posted on the college’s Web site (http://www.canyons.edu).
Students will present new and original works in animation and film on May 24. The animation showcase “Animayhem” will be held in Room M-318 at 6 p.m., while the RTVF film showcase will be held in the Student Center at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free.

Eliminating the need for elaborate scenery, high-priced costumes, and stage and sound effects, the New Works Festival highlighted 13 student-actors in 13 student-written plays in a raw, nuts-and-bolts motif. “We wanted to showcase these students’ efforts in something that was entirely innovative and unique, as opposed to a traditional play or musical,” said director Nancy Kissam. The free festival was held in the Fine Art Gallery May 15 to 17.

Lead music instructor Bernardo Feldman, recipient of an ASCAP Award last year, wrote and produced an original score for “Paris is a Woman,” an independent film that was screened recently in New York, Las Vegas and Los Angeles as part of the New York International Independent Film and Video Festival.

The college’s Sociology Club sponsored a screening March 27 of “Survivors,” an award-winning film about domestic violence by animation professor Sheila Sofian.

Forty pieces of sculpture from the renowned art collection of “master of horror” actor Vincent Price were exhibited in the college’s Fine Art Gallery from Feb. 25 to April 5. The exhibit featured a variety of works— from ethnic carvings to bronze castings.

The efforts of a strong blend of amateur and professional performers raised the College of the Canyons Theatre Department’s production of “Jesus Christ Superstar” to new heights.

“This was a huge production, not something typically seen on a community college campus,” said director Mark Salyer.

The figure of Jesus was portrayed by Ben Benefield, a graduate of the Academy of Film and Television whose first love is music, having conducted his first symphony at age 9.

Joining the cast as Mary was Ever Fecske, who recently returned from a three-episode stint on the FOX-TV drama “Boston Public,” where she played opposite American Idol finalist Tammyra Grey. Cast member and Valencia High School graduate Mia Jones also has TV credits to her background, including appearances on “Hill Street Blues” and “Thirtysomething,” as well as in numerous commercials.

The talent didn’t stop on the stage. Also involved were costume designer Richard Bostard, with 20 years of experience on shows such as “Cats” and “Phantom of the Opera;” Julie Ferrin, who made her debut with College of the Canyons as sound designer; and Richard Taylor and Wes Peelle, who put together a dynamic and moving lighting package that surprised and delighted.

“Superstar” was presented in the College of the Canyons amphitheater May 8 to 11. For information on future productions call (661) 362-5070.

The college’s Sociology Club sponsored a screening March 27 of “Survivors,” an award-winning film about domestic violence by animation professor Sheila Sofian.

Pros Help Stage ‘Superstar’

Student Art Displayed

Attendees of the April opening reception for the Student Art Show examine some of the works in the Fine Art Gallery. The artwork was created by College of the Canyons students and exhibited in April and May. The works represented various art forms such as painting, drawing, photography and sculpture. The exhibit was juried by Louise Lewis, art gallery director at California State University, Northridge. For information on future exhibits call (661) 362-3612.
Men’s soccer will join the ranks of intercollegiate sports offered at College of the Canyons this fall. “I’m just thrilled,” said women’s soccer head coach Phil Marcellin, who will assume the role of head coach for both the men’s and women’s teams. The team can begin play in late August; tryouts are tentatively scheduled for late June. Marcellin led the women’s team to three consecutive Western State Conference titles from 1999 to 2001. In another development, both teams will play night games in Cougar Stadium, whose field has undergone a dramatic transformation (see photos on Page 11).

The 2003 football team will face some of the toughest teams in Southern California in its defense of the conference and Southern California crowns. In the newly realigned Western State Conference, College of the Canyons has been shifted into the North Division along with Ventura, Moorpark, Bakersfield, Allan Hancock, L.A. Valley, L.A. Pierce and Santa Barbara colleges. The college will end its one-season experiment of scheduling home games at 4 p.m.; start times will revert to 7 p.m. in Cougar Stadium.

The college’s club hockey team has been raising eyebrows. In only its second year, it finished the season with a 14-4-0 record. Perhaps most notable was the team’s impressive performance in the ACHA Division II Nationals in March. It beat top-ranked teams from Georgetown University, Wagner College and the University of Tennessee. The Cougars lost to Hope College and finished fifth in the nation.
A number of sports camps will return this summer and are now enrolling. They include:

**Football Camp**
Offensive coordinator Dean Herrington is expanding this camp to include wide receivers. On hand to share their insights will be former Herrington prodigies Matt Moore, quarterback for UCLA, and Kyle Matter, quarterback for Stanford. The camp, open to players 12-18, runs June 17-19. Cost: $200.

**Basketball Camp**
Women’s basketball coach Greg Herrick presents the 15th season of this camp. The Lady Cougars finished 25-7 this past season and reached the second round of the playoffs. The camp, open to boys and girls ages 6-16, runs June 23-27. Cost: $175.

**Men’s Basketball Camp**
Men’s basketball coach Howard Fisher will stress fundamentals such as defense, dribbling, passing, shooting and rebounding, and feature competitions, guest speakers and full-court games. Two sessions: June 30-July 2 ($150) and July 7-11 ($250). Open to boys and girls ages 6-16.

**Soccer**
Those joining coach Phil Marcellin’s soccer camp will be some of the first to experience Cougar Stadium’s new field turf (see photos at right). Morning and afternoon sessions scheduled June 23-27, June 30-July 3 and July 28-Aug. 1. Open to boys and girls ages 5-16. Cost: $80-$100.

**Information**
Sports information line, (661) 362-3432.

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**Women’s Softball Clinches Title**

The Lady Cougars secured their position as Western State Conference Blue Division champions after beating Santa Monica College 20-6 on April 22. It is the team’s fourth conference title in five years.

A week earlier College of the Canyons swept Bakersfield in three games, handing the Renegades their only losses of the year.

In addition to being named the WSC Pitcher of the Year, Jennifer McLarty earned all-conference and all-state recognition and became the second 20-game winner in college history.

Coach Ray Whitten was named WSC Coach of the Year, while third-baseman Nicole Delfino was named all-conference, all-state and second team all-American.

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Third baseman and conference RBI leader Nicole Delfino drives in a run during a 4-0 win over Bakersfield on April 17.
Culture on Display

The Honor Grove took on a decidedly Asian atmosphere during the Japanese Festival on April 23. Clockwise from upper left: martial artists demonstrate their techniques; books, food and culturally themed displays dot the lawn; a couple of youngsters stand transfixed before a gyotaku (fish-painting) demonstration; and international students display their authentic Japanese attire. The event was sponsored by the college’s Heritage Committee.