iCuE Serves up Skills and Savings to Students

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reviewing the grandeur of the main course still being prepared, the college recently hosted a ground-breaking ceremony to officially begin construction of the new, on-campus College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education (iCuE).

Upon its completion, iCuE will provide students and community members with access to a modern, efficient and affordable educational center, where all aspects of the culinary arts will be taught to the highest possible standards.

“The success of any recipe is determined by the availability and quality of the ingredients, the creativity of the chefs, their courage to try new things and their knowledge that the other chefs they work with as part of a team are there to help make a meal extraordinary,” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “This project is no different. And now that we have the ingredients, and the right team in place, we can get cooking!”

COC to Honor Remo & Ami Belli with “Silver Spur”
Remo and Ami Belli have formed a loving marriage and dynamic partnership dedicated to promoting the many positive benefits that music, education, healthy living and a sense of community can have on the human condition.

He, as the founder, CEO and creative drive behind the world famous drumhead company Remo, Inc., and she, as the intensely passionate influence behind the company’s international HealthRHYTHMS division.
CHANCELLOR from page 1

Colleges undergoing the process compile a comprehensive self-study report that examines every facet of the college’s operations, from classroom instruction, to governance processes, to facilities, equipment, technology and human resources. An outside team of academic professionals visits the campus and verifies the contents of the report. The team submits the results of its evaluation to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which then rules on the college’s accreditation status. During my 25 years at College of the Canyons, we have undergone four reviews of our accreditation. At the conclusion of each one, our accreditation has been re-affirmed by the ACCJC without reservation.

KEEPING SCORE
Another useful tool for evaluation was launched just this year. The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office created the “Student Success Scorecard,” an online accountability tool that tracks student success and performance at all 112 community colleges in California. The results are encouraging, and speak to demonstrated success in helping students achieve their educational goals. They show we are ahead of statewide averages in key categories.

MEASURING OUR ECONOMIC IMPACT
One measure of our impact is not currently tracked by any outside agency. But it is critically important, and speaks to the significance of the college’s presence in the community. It is our impact on the local economy.

As an employer, consumer, and supplier of trained workers to local industry, we are a driver of the local economy in many ways. Those activities yield a significant benefit to the local community, and we recently measured our impact on the economy by conducting a regional economic impact analysis.

The ensuing report examined the impact of three principal activities – college operations, student spending, and increased productivity of former students.

The study of college operations examined how our payroll and spending on supplies, professional services and financial aid created $76.6 million in income for the local economy. As well, student spending accounted for almost another $1 million in local income.

Our greatest impact, however, comes from the education and training we provide to local residents. Since our college opened 44 years ago, thousands of students have studied at COC, and then entered the workforce equipped with the skills needed to thrive in new occupations. In 2012-13, our alumni generated $174.3 million in added income. This represents the higher wages they earned, the expanded output of businesses where our former students work, and the multiplier effects that occurred as alumni and employers spent money at other businesses.

When added together, the sum of college operations, student spending, and increased productivity created a positive economic impact equal to $251.9 million, an amount equal to 2.2 percent of the region's Gross Regional Product. This is a significant benefit to our community, and we are proud of what we bring to the continued growth and development of Santa Clarita.

MOVING FORWARD
And rest assured, we’re not done yet! As you can see throughout this issue, we are moving forward on many fronts to expand our offerings and bring additional value to the community. We recently received $900,000 in grant funds to help close the state’s “skills gap” and develop clear pathways for students to move from the classroom to careers in allied health, advanced manufacturing and information communication technology/digital media fields. As well, we are partnering with Newhall County Water District to create internships for students enrolled in the Water Systems Technology (WST) program at College of the Canyons.

Other programs have won prestigious awards, including our Center for International Trade Development (CITD) program, which is a statewide initiative that was presented with the "E" award, President Obama’s top award for export services. And, the State Bar of California Board of Governors awarded its Education Pipeline Diversity award to the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing’s Educational Partnerships Program, of which COC is a part.

Judging by these results, it is clear that College of the Canyons measures up to, and in fact, surpasses any standard. We are proud of what we have achieved, proud to be this community’s college, and look forward to continued success in the future.

Dr. Dianne Van Hook serves as Chancellor of the Santa Clarita Community College District.
COC International Trade Program Honored with White House “E” Award

The California Community College Chancellor’s Office’s Centers for International Trade Development (CITD) program has been presented with the President’s top award for export services — the “E” award — in recognition of the system’s ongoing contributions to the increase of U.S. exports.

Currently, there are nine CITD offices located across the state, including the center co-located with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) inside the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center at College of the Canyons.

California CITDs provide a range of free and low-cost trade assistance services — including one-on-one technical assistance and consulting, market research, training and educational programs, trade leads and access to special events — to both companies and individuals looking to expand their international business presence.

The centers are supported by grants from the California Community College Chancellor’s Offices Workforce and Economic Development division, which helps to power California’s economy and grow its global competitiveness.

Since receiving its designation in 2012, the CITD at College of the Canyons has focused its efforts on helping small business owners and entrepreneurs progress through the various stages of export/import trade development needed to see their businesses grow and succeed.

“This award is a great recognition of our efforts, and we are proud to receive it,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “We are equally proud of what we have enabled our clients to accomplish, and the successes they have achieved validate the benefits and importance of the CITD program.”

More than 332 companies and entrepreneurs have attended CITD workshops hosted by the college, and more than 40 companies have engaged with the CITD in one-on-one consulting sessions designed to help them start and grow the export side of their business.

“We are acutely aware of the need to help our small business clients grow sales,” said SBDC Director Steve Tannehill, who also oversees the CITD. “Being a part of the award-winning CITD network provides us with a wealth of resources needed to help our small business clients start or expand their sales to international markets.”

Created by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 to recognize persons, firms, or organizations that contribute significantly to increasing United States exports, the “E” Award is the highest U.S. government recognition any American entity may receive for supporting export activity. The award program is managed by the Department of Commerces International Trade Administration.

For more information about the college’s Center for International Trade Development (CITD) please contact CITD@canyons.edu or visit www.cocsbdc.org.

College District Prepares for Accreditation Process

With a proven commitment to ongoing improvement, College of the Canyons has begun the process of self-study required to uphold its accreditation status. Accreditation is a voluntary peer-review process undertaken by colleges and universities to evaluate their quality of education, and to subsequently make the results known to the public.

The process is overseen by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), which evaluates and accredits public and private postsecondary institutions that offer two-year education programs and services.

The first step in the process is the completion of an intensive institutional self-study. The college has begun writing its self-study, which will be submitted to the ACCJC in summer 2014. A team of higher education professionals will serve as peer reviewers and visit the college in fall 2014 to validate the contents of the self-study.

The ACCJC will then review the self-study, the visiting team’s report, and make a decision on COC’s accreditation status in January 2015.

“Accreditation is critically important to California Community Colleges, as only accredited schools qualify for federal financial aid for their students,” said Dr. Jerry Buckley, Assistant Superintendent/Vice President of Instruction at the college. “In addition, without accreditation, the units our students earn would not be transferrable.”

Upon achieving accreditation status, institutions are then expected to use the report to improve their educational programs and services.

College of the Canyons last had its accreditation reaffirmed in 2009. At that time the commission commended the college for its strong commitment to student success, collaborative governance, the fostering of community partnerships and the provision of a wide array of student support services.

For more information about the Accreditation process, or to read the college’s 2008 Institutional Self Study Report, and/or the visiting team’s official evaluation report, please visit http://www.canyons.edu/Offices/PIO/Accreditation.
Statewide ‘Scorecard’ Highlights COC Student Success Rates

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office has unveiled its Student Success Scorecard, a new online performance measurement system and accountability tool that tracks student success and performance at all 112 California community colleges. The tool is not intended to provide a ranking of the state’s community colleges, but rather a longitudinal look at how students are progressing past momentum points on their way to transferring or receiving a degree/certificate.

However, several encouraging College of the Canyons student statistics have already emerged as a result of the Student Success Scorecard. Those results indicated that first-time COC students who graduated high school as “college prepared” and were eligible to enroll in degree-applicable math and English courses, posted a combined completion rate (defined as earning an associate degree, certificate or achieving “transfer prepared” status) of more than 79 percent — 8 percent higher than the statewide average of 71 percent.

Similarly, COC students who fell into this category also saw higher completion rates than students from five surrounding community colleges. In addition, the roughly 49 percent completion rate for COC “unprepared” student groups (those not eligible to enroll in degree-applicable math and English courses) was 8 percent higher than the statewide average of 41 percent.

Other key student statistics provided by the scorecard indicated that the three largest student ethnic groups at COC — white (41 percent), Latino (39 percent) and African American (7 percent) — all compared favorably to similar ethnic groups at neighboring campuses.

African American students at COC also achieved a combined completion rate roughly 20 percent higher than the statewide average, with white and Latino student groups each posting a rate roughly 6 percent above the statewide average.

“This information will be vital in our continuing effort to better serve our students and community,” said Dr. Michael Wilding, assistant superintendent-vice president of student services at the college. “While these data are positive, the college has many other student statistics that should be equally exciting. Our continued success is largely due to our dedicated faculty and staff who continually strive to be among the best in California.”

Designed to help students achieve their educational goals more quickly, the Student Success Scorecard is part of a larger initiative by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors to increase the number of students who earn certificates and degrees, and/or transfer to four-year institutions.

The unveiling of the Student Success Scorecard places California Community Colleges among the most transparent and accountable systems of public higher education in the nation, and will play a pivotal role in demonstrating the correlation between college preparation and future student success, while helping the state’s educational leaders find new ways to improve student success.

“The scorecard results make it clear how important preparation for college is to student success,” said California Community College Chancellor Brice W. Harris in a statement. “If students come to college well prepared they complete certificates and degrees or transfer at rates exceeding 70 percent.

“And for the first time,” added Harris, “colleges will have clear data regarding student success by race, ethnicity, gender and age to help them focus on closing performance gaps.”

The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Student Success Scorecard can be accessed at http://scorecard.cccco.edu/scorecard.aspx, as well as the College of the Canyons homepage www.canyons.edu.

New VPs provide leadership to college instruction and communications

College of the Canyons welcomed two new vice presidents during the fall semester.

Longtime community college educator Dr. Jerry Buckley joined COC as assistant superintendent/vice president of instruction.

Eric Harnish, was promoted to vice president of public information, advocacy and external relations.

In his new position, Buckley will provide administrative leadership to all instructional services at the college, as well as enrollment management, accreditation, and administrative support for the college’s instructional division deans and maintenance of the college’s high academic standards.

“We are pleased to welcome Dr. Buckley to the team at College of the Canyons,” said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “His enthusiasm, leadership, past experiences, and focus on innovation will enable us to enhance our already outstanding instructional programs, responsiveness to our community, and yield exciting new opportunities for our students.”

For the past year and a half Buckley has served as the Vice President of Instruction and Accreditation Liaison Officer for San Diego Miramar College, having helped to develop 11 new transfer degrees during his brief tenure there.

Prior to serving at Miramar College Buckley worked for 21 years in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District in San Diego. While at Grossmont, he served for 15 years as a full-time faculty member. He also served as the interim associate dean of instructional computing services for one semester and as the dean, mathematics, natural sciences, exercise science and wellness for five years.

“I look forward to joining the culture of innovation and creativity here at College of the Canyons that’s seen in the wide variety of high quality programs and services offered to students and the community,” said Buckley.

Harnish began his career at College of the Canyons in January 2002 as the special assistant to the chancellor, responsible for leading all operational and administrative aspects of the Chancellor’s Office and communicating the chancellor’s vision to the campus and the community.
College of the Canyons Receives $900,000 ‘Deputy Sector Navigator’ Grants

The College of the Canyons Economic Development Division received approximately $900,000 from the state Chancellor’s Office to fund the staffing of three new “Deputy Sector Navigator” liaison positions to help COC better connect with the industry partners it serves.

The grant award is the result of an ongoing reorganization effort of the state’s Workforce and Economic Development program titled “Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy.”

The program aims to help close the state’s “skills gap” by providing in-demand skills training for employers, creating relevant career pathways and stackable credential programs, promoting student success, and ultimately helping more Californians find employment.

As part of that reorganization effort, the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office has placed a greater emphasis on regional economic development activities, with a particular focus on the strongest industry sectors for each region of the state.

State Bar Honors Civil Rights Clinic Partnership at COC

As one of the partnering academic institutions associated with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) Educational Partnerships Program, College of the Canyons is among the honorees for the 2013 State Bar of California Education Pipeline Diversity Award. The State Bar of California Board of Governors established the Education Pipeline Diversity Award in 2008 to recognize outstanding efforts of law-related educational programs that train and support students to become interested in the judicial system and pursue careers in law.

This year’s award recognizes the DFEH’s Educational Partnerships Program, which has partnered with five academic institutions to help begin training a new generation of civil rights lawyers, investigators and law professionals.

Included among the partner honorees are: California State University, Bakersfield; College of the Canyons; University of California (UC) Irvine School of Law; UC Davis School of Law; Rio Hondo College; and the DFEH’s Equal Rights 101 & Fair Housing 101 youth education campaigns.

The award was presented October 12 during the State Bar Annual Meeting Diversity Awards Reception in San Jose.

“As the first state agency to receive this prestigious award, I am proud of the good work of the Department, our educational partners, program coordinators, attorneys, staff, faculty/mentors, fellows and interns,” said Phyllis W. Cheng, director, Department of Fair Employment and Housing. “Congratulations to all of our partners, and many thanks for their support in making this recognition possible.”

The college’s partnership with the DFEH began in the fall of 2012 with the establishment of the College of the Canyons Civil Rights Clinic (CRC), located inside the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center.

“The critical thinking skills will help students succeed in their future studies and careers. Most importantly, they are learning the fundamentals of civil rights and the importance of protecting human dignity.”

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, Chancellor, College of the Canyons

As a result, College of the Canyons has been able to provide students with hands-on training in areas related to the investigation and processing of work/housing discrimination claims and other civil rights based legal issues.

Supported by faculty members from both the college’s Social Science & Business and Humanities Divisions, the CRC provides training to approximately 10 students each semester, depending on class size and instructor availability.

Participating students are recruited by faculty members to serve as CRC interns at the college’s Valencia campus. Students receive academic credit through the college’s Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) program, while also training and working directly with DFEH staff.

Such internship opportunities have resulted in one former CRC intern receiving a full-time position with the DFEH.

“College of the Canyons is proud of its partnership and honored to be involved with the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH),” said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook. “The COC Civil Rights Clinic provides students with the outstanding opportunity to work side-by-side with DFEH staff in reviewing discrimination cases while learning investigative skills.

“Our students are experiencing first-hand the actual process of examining claims of discrimination filed within the state,” added Van Hook. “These critical thinking skills will help students succeed in their future studies and careers. Most importantly, they are learning the fundamentals of civil rights and the importance of protecting human dignity.”

For more information about the College of the Canyons Civil Rights Clinic (CRC) please contact Patty Robinson at (661) 362-3992.
CULINARY from page 1

Serving as the permanent home for the college’s culinary arts program, the new building will feature a demonstration kitchen, a savory kitchen, a sweets kitchen, a banquet kitchen, a chocolate room, a wine studies classroom, multiple culinary labs, a retail bake shop and a variety of instructor office spaces.

All of iCuE’s teaching spaces will train students for occupations in the burgeoning restaurant and food service industries, which account for one of the largest sources of private sector employment in the nation.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Labor has projected that food service management jobs are expected to grow by nearly 5 percent from 2008 to 2018. In addition, it’s estimated that the Santa Clarita Valley and greater Los Angeles area have more than 2,000 restaurants of all types and sizes, which will require well-trained employees for years to come.

“Our skilled culinary arts graduates have gone on to work in some of the most prestigious kitchens in the L.A. area,” said Dr. Van Hook. “Their success, and the continued growth of this program have inspired us to create a dedicated on-campus facility in which we will train the next generation of chefs and restaurant entrepreneurs.”

The completion of the college’s culinary facility will also provide local students with increased access to a more affordable culinary arts training program. Students enrolled in a culinary arts program at a private institution may pay more than $50,000 for similar training. With COC courses costing just $46 per unit, students will be able to receive culinary arts training at a cost of between $2,000 and $5,000.

As an added benefit, COC culinary arts students will also be able to conveniently enroll in other “core” college classes needed to achieve a certificate or degree, without the inconvenience of having to travel back and forth between campus and the college’s current off-campus kitchen location in Castaic.

“Having an on-campus culinary facility will make a significant difference in the lives of students who are trying to manage their time between the classroom and the kitchen and begin their careers,” said Cindy Schwanke, COC culinary arts instructor and lead iCuE faculty member. “The food service industry continues to grow, and employ millions of people. It’s exciting to know that College of the Canyons is a part of that.”

Coming at a cost of roughly $8 million, the iCuE project will be paid for through a combination of private donations and Measure M bond funds that were remaining after completion of the college’s recent Library Expansion project. In all, more than 460 community supporters and roughly 96 percent of the college’s full-time staff have contributed to the COC Foundation’s Culinary Capital Campaign.

The project is currently scheduled for completion in the fall 2014 semester. 

This summer Cougar Stadium underwent a several-weeks long artificial turf replacement and track resurfacing process just in time for the start of the fall 2013 COC and Hart District sports seasons. During the project, which began on June 17, the college removed the pre-existing surface — which was originally installed in 2003 — to make way for a new layer of state-of-the-art FieldTurf “Revolution” Monofilament Turf. Designed to provide an unparalleled level of player safety, while also helping to keep the playing surface temperature up to 40 degrees cooler than traditional turf, the college’s new playing surface is the same utilized by Division I schools across the nation, including the University of Texas, University of Missouri and U.S. Naval Academy. The Cougar Stadium track has also been completely resurfaced with a new 7mm layer of rubber and granules and restriped with official collegiate track & field markings. The pole vault/long jump/triple jump runways have also been completely resurfaced, and are looking great! Funding for the approximately $780,000 renewal project was made available through a joint Santa Clarita Community College District/Hart District deferred account set aside for maintenance and replacement (both districts have equally contributed to this fund on an annual basis since the turf was originally installed in 2003). The remaining project balance was paid for by the college with Measure M bond funds, which local voters approved in November 2006. 

Culinary Capital Campaign.
COC Partners with Newhall County Water District for New Internship Opportunity

Students enrolled in the Water Systems Technology (WST) program at College of the Canyons will now have even more opportunities to begin a career in the state's all important water industry, thanks to a new partnership and internship agreement with the Newhall County Water District (NCWD).

Housed at the college's Canyon Country campus, the WST program is designed to prepare students for careers in the fields of drinking water treatment and distribution processes.

Students who complete the college's WST program are often employed as water distribution operators, treatment plant operators, service representatives, wastewater collection workers and/or wastewater treatment operators.

"Water technology is one of those potential career fields that people typically don't think about," said Regina Blasberg, Chair of Engineering Technologies at the college. "Many of the state's water agencies are facing the potential loss of between 20 and 60 percent of their current staff due to retirement in the next five to 10 years — so employment opportunities should remain high."

Upon completion of the college's 21-unit WST program, and an additional certification from the California Department of Public Health, students are eligible to begin seeking employment throughout the industry. However, many employers are now requiring prior work or internship experience as a condition of employment.

"Despite the number of available job openings throughout the state it's still somewhat difficult for our water students to secure a position without having documented 'hands-on' experience," said Kristin Houser, dean of Career Technical Education (CTE) at the college. "This new internship agreement with Newhall County Water District will provide that experience and help our students quickly find employment after graduation."

To be eligible for the NCWD internship program students must have an internship application on file with the college's Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) department, be currently enrolled in the college's WST certificate program, and have completed at least one course with a grade of B or better.

Consisting of 60 hours of combined training and coursework, the internship also provides students with a minimum of eight hours of safety training along with hands-on experience working alongside members of the NCWD's construction, maintenance, water quality, production and customer service crews.

"We are thrilled to be able to partner with College of the Canyons to offer students the opportunity to gain real-world experience working alongside our water experts," said Steve Cole, NCWD general manager and chair of the college's Water Technology Advisory Committee. "In a community with ever-changing and challenging water-related issues, this program will be a win-win for everyone involved."

For more information about the college's Water Systems Technology (WST) program please visit www.canyons.edu/offices/cte/.

A diverse number of local internships are currently available, students are encouraged to explore and apply for these opportunities, in order to gain the type of hands-on work experience that will better position them to gain employment in their chosen career field.

Students selected for an internship will enroll in one to four units in the course CWE-188, and work a minimum of 60 hours on an assigned workplace project, which can be included on a professional resume.

"When coupled with the strong academic and career technical education programs available at COC, an internship can give students the edge over other applicants as they apply for a job upon graduation," said Gina Bogna, director of internships and job development at the college.

"Students can also use the internship experience to 'test drive' a potential career, before making a long term academic commitment to a major they are unsure of."

"Now is the perfect time for students to start looking for an internship that's right for them," added Bogna.

For more information about the college's Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) program please visit www.canyons.edu/interns.

Diverse Internship Opportunities at COC

The college's Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) program can help students achieve their career goals faster and more efficiently through a variety of pre-established internship programs available to COC students.

With more than 200 local internships currently available, students are encouraged to explore and apply for these opportunities, in order to gain the type of hands-on work experience that will better position them to gain employment in their chosen career field.

Students selected for an internship will enroll in one to four units in the course CWE-188, and work a minimum of 60 hours on an assigned workplace project, which can be included on a professional resume.

"When coupled with the strong academic and career technical education programs available at COC, an internship can give students the edge over other applicants as they apply for a job upon graduation," said Gina Bogna, director of internships and job development at the college.

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"Now is the perfect time for students to start looking for an internship that's right for them," added Bogna.

For more information about the college's Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) program please visit www.canyons.edu/interns.

NEW VPs from page 4

community. In 2004, Harnish had his job duties expanded to become the college's director of external relations, overseeing the district's government relations and advocacy activities at the local, state, and national levels.

Most recently, in July 2011 Harnish was promoted to the position of special assistant to the chancellor/interim managing director of government relations and advocacy.

In his new position, Harnish will provide strategic leadership to the district's Communications Division, which includes the Public Information, Switchboard, Reprographics and Graphic Design departments. He will advance the college's many goals and objectives through the use of strategic communications, community and media relations, legislative advocacy, public relations and marketing activities.

"In addition to managing the daily operations of my office, Eric has worked to cultivate close ties with elected officials who represent College of the Canyons and the Santa Clarita Community College District," Dr. Van Hook said. "Because of his efforts, we have made our voice heard in Sacramento and influenced the outcomes of policy and budget decisions that directly affect our students."

"College of the Canyons is among the most dynamic colleges anywhere, and I am proud to work here," Harnish said. "In this position, I look forward to growing our reputation for innovation and partnerships, and ensuring the community and our students better understand how they can access the many resources we have available."
Because of their tireless efforts, the College of the Canyons Foundation has named Remo and Ami Belli recipients of the “Silver Spur” Community Service Award for 2014.

"Remo and Ami have touched thousands of lives through music. Whether inspiring students and enabling them to express their creativity through sound, or healing minds and bodies with the therapeutic power of drumming, their dedication to improving the human condition has been felt around the world," said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook.

In fact, the Bellis work in the community dates back almost as far as the Remo Inc., company name. Always on the cutting edge of technical innovations in the music and drumhead industry, in 1963 Remo, with several other likeminded musicians, combined forces to form the non-profit music service organization, Percussive Arts Society (PAS), to promote percussion education, research, performance and appreciation.

Remo continues to lend generous support to PAS and organizations including: American Music Therapy Association; International Association for Jazz Education; The Grammy Foundation; National Association for Music Education; Drum Corps International; Winter Guard International, Bands of America; and Youth Education in the Arts.

The creation of the REMO Recreational Music Center in North Hollywood has also provided the company with a permanent venue to promote music education, health, and community. The Center regularly hosts free drum circles, workshops and concerts open to professional and amateur musicians, children, aging adults, medical patients and anyone who might benefit from the experience of making music in a friendly, non-challenging environment.

Remo and Ami also continue to play an active role in the American Music Therapy Association, having established the HealthRHYTHMS division of Remo, Inc. 13 years ago to further promote the use of music and drum-based therapeutic strategies that can be integrated within group counseling sessions, support groups, rehabilitation centers, long-term care facilities, schools and corporate employee wellness programs.

As the liaison for the company's HealthRHYTHMS division, Ami continues to use her training as a medical practitioner to communicate with doctors and healthcare officials across the nation in an effort to help transform musical instruments into medical tools. The company also relies on Ami to inform the larger medical community about the emerging data related to music’s expanding role in protecting and helping one’s body, mind and spirit.

The Bellis have sponsored scientific studies through UCLA and Los Angeles Unified School District that demonstrate the significant health benefits of drumming, while Remo, Inc. has supported the training of more than 2,000 HealthRHYTHMS facilitators in countries around the world.

These philanthropic efforts took center stage at College of the Canyons during the college’s “Rock the Rhythm, Beat the Odds” communitywide drum circle event, held in Cougar Stadium in May 2012.

Remo, Inc. sponsored a music education program before the event in which every sixth- and seventh-grader in the Santa Clarita Valley received percussion-based music and rhythm instruction, designed to maximize creative expression, build social and emotional skills and emphasize the process of learning over performance.

The event included legendary musicians Mickey Hart (The Grateful Dead) and John Densmore (The Doors) and helped raise awareness of the value of arts education while bringing together more than 10,000 SCV residents together in the name of drumming.

Through the years, Remo, Inc. has generously supported the COC Foundation and several other educational endeavors at the college, including the COC Music Department and Early Childhood Education Center.

As well, the Bellis support the Santa Claritas Performing Arts Center (PAC), the PAC K-12 Arts Education Outreach Program, the PAC’s Patrons of the Performing Arts support group and the Culinary Arts Capital Campaign.

"Through their generosity, Remo and Ami have created amazing learning opportunities for our students," Dr. Van Hook said. “The spirit of possibility and creativity inherent in music is embodied in the Silver Spur Award, so it makes the Bellis particularly worthy of this honor.”

-Dr. Dianne Van Hook, Chancellor

The 2014 Silver Spur Celebration ‘Music and Medicine’ will take place Saturday, March 1, 2014, at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion 5th Floor Salon in downtown Los Angeles. This year’s event is co-chaired by Randy and Mitzi Moberg, members of the COC Foundation Board of Directors.

For more information about the 2014 Silver Spur Award Celebration, to purchase tickets, or become an event sponsor, please contact the College of the Canyons Foundation at (661) 362-3737.
colleges in those regions to enhance their working relationships with local businesses. Second, it will provide resources dedicated to keeping community college programs on pace with industry needs.”

With this grant, COC will host three liaison positions in the areas of allied health, advanced manufacturing and information communication technology/digital media.

Specifically, the Deputy Sector Navigators will support and improve regional workforce training for entry level and incumbent workers within their particular industry sector by helping to:

• Develop on-campus faculty collaborative groups.
• Create college level certificate programs
• Oversee the articulation of curriculum agreements between secondary and postsecondary educational systems which form potential career pathways for students.
• Implement work-based learning and internship opportunities.
• Provide increased access to professional development opportunities.

The following Deputy Sector Navigator positions have been filled at College of the Canyons, effective immediately:

• John Cordova, Interim Deputy Sector Navigator — Allied Health
• Paula Hodge, Interim Deputy Sector Navigator — Information Communication Technology/Digital Media
• Joe Klocko, Deputy Sector Navigator and Director, COC Centers for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) — Advanced Manufacturing

As a host college, COC will continue to play a key role in steering the direction of critical economic development programs related to these vital industry sectors, while being able to pursue the establishment of new, mutually beneficial business partnerships within the region.

For more information about the California Community Colleges Workforce and Economic Development program titled “Doing What Matters for Jobs and the Economy” and the “Deputy Sector Navigators” initiative please visit http://doingwhatmatters.cccco.edu/.

The Chancellor’s Circle is a partnership between College of the Canyons and a diverse group of businesses, community members, non-profit groups, government leaders and others who are committed to strengthening our community – by actively supporting a strong community college. The underlying tenet of the Chancellor’s Circle is the strong belief that by working together we can add value to a community college education, provide support for creative and innovative programs that enrich the educational experience of students, and provide needed workforce skills that will strengthen and sustain our economy – that we can achieve, by working together, much more than we can by working alone.

Please consider joining us!

• Call the College of the Canyons Foundation at (661) 362-3435
• Visit canyonsfoundation.org and click the Support Groups button
and, at the time, one of only five women of the 70 CEOs in the state. She hit the ground running and has never looked back. Twenty-five years later, College of the Canyons resembles its former self in name only, having been transformed into one of the leading community colleges in the nation.

RADICAL TRANSFORMATION
Numbers help put such a radical transformation into context. The college’s budget, for example, has grown from approximately $8 million in 1988 to nearly $181 million today. Enrollment has grown from 4,000 to a high of 27,000 students. And physical space has quadrupled, climbing from just under 200,000 square feet to today’s 812,000 square feet across two campuses, with additional construction this year that will boost square footage even more.

While numbers provide context, they can obscure the true impact of this progress, which is this: Her efforts, passion and unrelenting resolve have transformed not only the college, but the lives and livelihoods of the hundreds of thousands of people who have embarked on an educational journey here.

One of the few people who had a sense for what this “fireball” could do was Michele Jenkins. President of the Board of Trustees today and in 1988, Jenkins led the development of the CEO search. Having overseen that process 25 years ago, she remembers vividly how one person stood out above all the rest.

“At the time, I couldn’t help but smile to myself, thinking about how much of a difference she was going to make at the college because she’s just so dynamic,” Jenkins recalled. “Days later, after she had been formally introduced, I asked one of our instructors what he thought about our new president, to which he replied, ‘Administrators come and go, and it won’t really make a difference who the administrator is.’ I simply smiled again and thought to myself that he has no idea what this woman’s leadership will bring to College of the Canyons. Today, 25 years later, I’m still smiling.”

Dr. Brice Harris, chancellor of the California community college system, said Dr. Van Hook’s focused, dedicated service to a single college district over the course of 25 years has allowed College of the Canyons to thrive.

“Such longevity is a rarity and speaks to the skilled leadership she provides to the college community day in and day out,” Dr. Harris said. “This type of stability fosters institutional focus and commitment on a remarkable scale.”

DARING LEADERSHIP
College of the Canyons has been propelled forward by a unique combination of institutional support and daring leadership. Aided by the passage of two multimillion-dollar bond measures over the past dozen years, Dr. Van Hook has presided over the highest level of construction and preparation for the future since the college opened in temporary quarters at Hart High School in 1969. She has substantially transformed the Valencia campus – and provided the vision to create an entire new campus in Canyon Country – to keep up with community demands, enhance access, and anticipate the educational needs of the future.

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FROM STUDENT TO CEO
A strong believer in California’s community college system, Dr. Van Hook began her higher education journey at Long Beach City College. She went on to California State University, Long Beach, which honored her recently as its 2013 Distinguished Alumna for the College of Liberal Arts. She graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sociology in 1972. While attending classes, she worked as a Head Start preschool teacher, and upon graduation became a junior high school teacher. She later went on to earn both her master’s degree and doctorate from the University of La Verne.

While working as a counselor at Santa Ana College, she launched the highly regarded New Horizons program, which helps re-entry students succeed in college. The program was ultimately implemented at 60 community colleges throughout the state. From there she went to Feather River College to serve as dean of instruction/student service in 1984. Two years later she became dean of the Lake Tahoe Community College District – her last stop before returning to Southern California to take the top post at College of the Canyons.

INDELIBLE IMPRINT
A quarter century later, Dr. Van Hook is not only the longest-serving community college CEO in the state, she is a respected visionary and leader – the go-to CEO of California’s community colleges. Named chancellor of the Santa Clarita Community College District in 2008, she is widely regarded as a strong, knowledgeable and consistent advocate for community colleges. Her expertise and experience have contributed to her receiving every statewide recognition that can be bestowed on a California community college CEO.

Similar sentiments come from the local business community. “Her impact on the local business and educational communities cannot be measured by traditional standards, but rather by the across-the-board progress we have made through her efforts,” said Don Fleming, president of the Santa Clarita Valley Automobile Dealers Association and general manager of Valencia Acura. “Over the years I have heard her say on many occasions, ‘If you can dream it, you can do it.’ The results of her dreams are proof positive she is a get-it-done person.”

A popular metaphor describes time as a flowing river whose current carries those who don’t resist it through happy, easy days – living, unquestioning, in the moment. That may be relevant for most, but not Dr. Van Hook. While no one can control the current of time, some adventurous souls have the courage and ability to change its course into magnificent territory.

And so it has been for 25 years at College of the Canyons.

“At every stage, Dianne has been a leader in terms of innovation, always thinking outside the box, and always with the perseverance and ability to rally people around an idea and see that idea expressed in reality,” said Dr. Jack Scott, immediate past chancellor of California’s community colleges. “She has left an indelible imprint upon all of California’s community colleges – particularly on College of the Canyons and the entire Santa Clarita Valley.”
College of the Canyons held a “Silver Celebration” in August to honor COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook’s 25 years.

1. COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook is congratulated by (from left) Diane Stewart, dean of early childhood education; Claudia Acosta, chair of the Modern Languages Department; and Cindy Grandgeorge, controller.  
2. Members of the college’s executive team present Dr. Van Hook with flowers and a gift.  
3. Dr. Van Hook enjoys a rendition of The Beach Boys’ “Be True to Your School.”  
4. Michele Jenkins (right) was president of the Board of Trustees when Dr. Van Hook was hired in 1988. She is joined by her daughter Lorian (left).  
5. Dr. Michael Wilding, vice president of student services, and Dr. Jerry Buckley, vice president of instruction, enjoy the festivities.  
6. More than 150 people gathered to celebrate Dr. Van Hook’s 25 years of service to College of the Canyons.  
7. Retired COC staff members (from left) Janice Neenan, Lenore Marta, Karen Wood, June Mattais, and Pam Bauer congratulate Dr. Van Hook.  
8. Dr. Van Hook joins with COC’s former vice presidents of instruction (from left) Joe Gerda, Dr. Phil Hartley, Dr. Carole Long, and the current vice president, Dr. Jerry Buckley.  
9. Dr. Van Hook listens to a presentation.  
10. Assemblymember Scott Wilk (left) and Newhall County Water District Board Member and COC alumnus BJ Atkins (right) celebrate with Dr. Van Hook.  
11. Assemblymember Wilk signs a commemorative flag created for Dr. Van Hook.  
12. Dr. Van Hook’s husband Roger shares special memories with the group.  
13. Morris Thomas from Congressman Howard “Buck” McKeon’s office presents Dr. Van Hook with a certificate of recognition.
As one of just five incoming transfer students to be recognized, former College of the Canyons Associated Student Government (ASG) president Michael Kramer has been named a 2013 UCLA Alumni Scholar.

The UCLA Alumni Club annually dedicates scholarship funds to deserving students transferring from a California Community College. To be eligible, applicants must attend UCLA beginning the fall quarter immediately after transferring, have a minimum 3.75 GPA, and have completed the equivalent of 90 transferrable quarter units, with at least half of them earned from a community college. Scholarships are awarded after an application screening and interview process, with the award amount divided into annual installments to be paid over two years.

Kramer’s award will provide him with $3,000 for the 2013-14 academic year along with a $2,000 renewable award amount in 2014-15. Kramer is also eligible to receive up to $5,000 in additional grant awards, based on his level of student activity and campus involvement at UCLA.

In addition to the monetary award, scholarship recipients also receive membership in the UCLA Alumni Scholar Club and Alumni Association, along with a wide range of on-campus student support services including: personalized academic counseling, guidance, mentoring and career advice; access to leadership development opportunities designed specifically for Alumni Scholars; and invitations to various career development and networking events held throughout the year.

“This scholarship is much more than just the monetary amount,” said Kramer, who is majoring in History at UCLA with a minor in Public Policy. “I’ll also be paired with two UCLA Alumni mentors to help guide me in my future academic and career endeavors.”

A 2013 graduate of College of the Canyons, Kramer earned associate degrees in both Paralegal Studies and History, while also playing a very active role in the college’s ASG. During his time at COC, Kramer served as the ASG’s Social Student Involvement Coordinator, Vice President of Activities and eventually ASG President — all while maintaining full-time employment.

“I feel very fortunate to have attended COC,” said Kramer. “The combined level of support I received from the faculty, the department deans, my ASG advisors, Chancellor Van Hook and the Board of Trustees have each helped me to get to this point — and that is part of what makes College of the Canyons so special.”

After graduating from UCLA Kramer hopes to attend law school, with aspirations of one day running for political office.

“The guidance I received at COC has encouraged me to forever strive to be the best I can be,” added Kramer, “while working to positively impact others.”