

## **Chancellor's Circle Comments**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen! It is a pleasure to be here with you all, and I thank you for choosing to spend your Saturday evening with us at College of the Canyons to celebrate what we have accomplished on behalf of those we serve.

I am frequently asked what the most important outcomes of a college education are today. And while the answers to that question are situational and vary, the bottom line is consistent. People need to be able to live, work, compete and prosper in an environment that is ever-changing, global and unpredictable. They need to become self-reliant, resilient, learn to trust their instincts and commit to continuing to learn and grow as a part of a fulfilled life.

In that context, we face challenges to enhance our academic excellence in a rapidly changing environment of revenue availability, public accountability and technology – while always striving to enhance access where we can and create the potential for others to be able to pursue their dreams.

And, that is what we work to do at COC every day:

- ✓ **This** is an aspirational place.
- ✓ Every day, in so many ways – COC is living the promise we have made to this community.
- ✓ Through the boundless energy of our students and the inspiring dedication and commitment of our faculty and staff, administrators, board members and volunteers.
- ✓ To motivation provided by our wonderful alumni—and generous friends—

**INDEED, WE ARE A COLLEGE OF DOERS.**

It is my hope that in the next few minutes, I can share with you what we strive to do at COC, the caliber with which we do it, and let our commitment to fulfill the promises we make to our community inspire you and get you even more excited than you already are about your community college.

We kicked off the new academic year in August with a theme that captures the essence of what we are about at COC. ***“Dream. Think. Do! It starts with us.”*** We are indeed a community of dreamers and doers, and we are proud tonight to share the results of doing so with you.

So who are we anyway? And why do we deserve your support? The can-do attitude, energy, enthusiasm and resilience that characterize College of the Canyons are an integral part of our culture that predispose us to “see” things others do not see as we continue to reach new levels of service and excellence every day. Rather than taking the easy, or familiar path, we go where others do not naturally navigate. As Robert Frost said, “Two roads diverged in a wood, and I — I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.”

While not always the typical path based on what has been done in the past, our determination to be the best, and the courage and confidence we have to take risks, has in fact enabled us to achieve beyond the norm in areas that matter.

Many colleges today are simply focused on surviving. And, in some ways, you can't blame them. In our community college system, we all face the same decisions when we come to a fork in the road. But the direction we take is different than the norm. We have consistently committed ourselves to thriving. We are determined to take the path that will:

- ✓ Enable us to become the place that people, businesses and organizations in our community can count on
- ✓ Become one where all have a chance to explore their dreams, pursue success and discover what they can accomplish when they aim high, stay focused and keep moving forward.
- ✓ We build relationships and networks that will stand the test of time and bring out the best in all of us.

**WE DREAM. WE THINK. WE DO.**

And, we get it done! That is why we chose this location for our dinner tonight. This expansion of our Library and Learning Center is our latest visible example of dreaming big, thinking and acting strategically – and getting it done!

As I stand here tonight, I remember with great fondness one of our very first President's Circle dinners years ago. It was held in the cafeteria because we didn't have anywhere else to hold an event of this magnitude. Dick Lucktefeld had just returned from visiting his son Chris at Notre Dame. And, he brought us all a present – four large Hefty bags full of fall leaves we used for decorations. I talked about someday hosting the dinner in a new venue that we were planning to build. That venue was the Library, and it opened in 1997.

At the 1997 event, dining in a place where our DREAM had been achieved, I stood there bursting with pride. I pointed across the parking lots below toward a little dirt hill, and I promised that someday-- with the help of the people in the audience our staff, alumni and friends -- we would open a Performing Arts Center. And when we did, we could have our President's Circle dinner on the stage.

In the Fall of 2004, that DREAM was ACHIEVED. When we had our dinner on the stage in our new Center, at that time, I fast forwarded and described the lobby of the future University Center. Together we imagined what that place would mean for our college.

In the Fall of 2011, two years after it opened, we had our dinner there.

DREAM ACHIEVED.

Those of you who have been with us for a number of years have seen our progress firsthand. That progress symbolizes the impact that you in the (now) Chancellor's Circle have in helping us move forward with our dreams and enabling us to build capacity for the future.

As a result of your confidence in us, COC is a place of high standards, integrity and results as evidenced by what you see around you. COC is an aspirational place and we are living the promises we make to our community in so many ways.

Our focus on new facilities isn't about building just for the sake of building or overcoming a challenge. It's the space representing DREAMS ACHIEVED and **capacity** built for programs, outcomes, relationships, partnerships, people and possibilities. The expansion of the Library, and the new space for the Learning Center that you are enjoying tonight will make an amazing difference in how we can support student success, and that, of course, is why we are all here. DREAM ACHIEVED!





So, how does **this** building do so?

The expanded **Library**:

- Offers an Information Commons that doubles the number of computers available;
- Provides a Mediascape collaborative workstation, donated by the Library Associates and 10 group study rooms;
- Hosts a Special Collections room to hold and display materials of historic significance to the college and community;
- Features venues for the display of student artwork, such as you were able to see during the reception tonight;
- Adds a Children's Reading Corner for Library outreach activities;
- Offers space for student performances and recitals.

**The Learning Center**, where we are now, or TLC, serves as the College's main center of tutoring and academic support.

## **The Learning Center's facility:**

- Expands the space for tutoring by 300% and adds;
- seven group study rooms + 400 computers;
- two dedicated rooms for exam proctoring;
- a collaboration room for academic student clubs to meet;
- Provides dedicated space for accelerated math and English classes to enable students to make quicker progress toward their academic goals;
- Provides dedicated space for workshops and computer-based guided learning activities.
- Offers the latest in technology to students.
- Hosts a computer lab with AutoCAD and Solidworks software, supporting students in Engineering, Interior Design, and Architecture and so much more!

It is truly an amazing space and a great gift to our students – and it symbolizes not only potential, but what can happen when talented people work together.

How did we build this great place \$7 million under budget, in 19 months, with enthusiasm, excitement and innovation? We did it because at COC we are a **real** team and we have pride and a belief in our ability to make things happen.

People often ask me, “What is your secret?” “How do you accomplish all that you do at College of the Canyons?” Unlike other community colleges that seem to be stuck in first gear, or even moving in reverse, we do not live in the past. We do not only do what we did before because that means we would only get what we had previously gotten. And that will never again be good enough.

The secret that makes us different is really no secret at all. It's simple. It's our attitude. Someone once explained the power of attitude this way: "Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but by how we react to what happens; not by what life brings to us, but by the attitude we bring to life. A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst...a spark that creates extraordinary results. "

At COC we do that every day:

- ✓ Where others see challenges, we see opportunities.
- ✓ Where others would offer excuses, we see a chance to work hard, to learn, to grow.

Doing so frees us to dream, inspires us to think, and empowers us to do our best together. What fuels our ability to do so? Our mindset.

Stanford University Professor Carol Dweck addresses this in her fascinating book “Mindset: The New Psychology of Success.” If you haven’t read this book, you need to. It asserts that people can generally be divided into two groups: Those with a fixed mindset, and those with a growth mindset.

The fixed mindset is exactly what it sounds like – an approach that keeps you stuck in one place. Naturally, the growth mindset is just the opposite.

A growth mindset:

- ✓ Believes that you can always get better.
- ✓ Asserts that although people differ in every which way—initial talent and aptitude, interest, temperament—EVERYONE can GROW through application and experience.
- ✓ Challenge us that a person’s true potential is truly unknowable.

Why? Because it is impossible to foresee what can be accomplished with years of passion, toil and training. **WHAT WE DO KNOW IS THAT WHAT WE DAILY SEE IS ONLY A FRACTION OF WHAT IS POSSIBLE.** Think about that for a minute – think back on when you were young. Did you ever imagine you would be where you are today? I expect you did not. I expect you didn't give yourself enough credit for what you could become.

The growth mindset:

- Believes desirable qualities will create a passion for learning.
- Challenges us to not only seek out the tried-and-true, but instead relish experiencing what will stretch us.
- Asks us to develop the passion for stretching oneself and stick to what we do, even (or especially) when it is not going well.
- Gives us all permission to thrive even during some of the most challenging times of our lives.
- Assumes people will be resilient.

What is resilience anyway:

- ✓ It is the discipline that is the bridge between goals and opportunities.
- ✓ It is the personal commitment to persist and never give up.
- ✓ The race goes not always to the swift, but to those who keep running.
- ✓ That means we must recognize we have powers we have never dreamt of, and are capable of doing things we had previously told ourselves we were not capable of doing.

And, it assumes we will get going-DO!

Resilience is ever more important in the times that we are in, as much around us is changing.



And that's where you come in. You give us the support to grow – to dream, to think and to do! As I look around the room this evening, I see true friends of College of the Canyons. Some of you are old friends, whose connections date back years – decades, even – to when you were students here.

Now that I say that, I'd like to see just how many of you are connect to us through the student body.

Would those of you who are or were our students, stand?

Please stay standing. If you did not attend here, but you have a family member who did or does, please join the ranks of the standing.

And now, if you are still seated and have hired our students as your employees or have used our college to train your employees, please stand.

For those of you still seated, what are you waiting for?

Others of you are new friends who are just getting acquainted with what we offer, and what we accomplish on behalf of the great community of Santa Clarita. Regardless of your connection, it is an honor to have you here and I want to thank you for your interest, for your passion, and for your commitment to doing what's best for our students and our community.

We do what we do because of you and with you!

Japanese poet Ryunosuke Satoro said, "Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an ocean." So much of what we do at College of the Canyons is made possible through collaboration:

- ✓ When a team of dedicated individuals makes a commitment to act as one, the sky's the limit.
- ✓ We partner with others to find new ways to get new things done.

- ✓ Thanks to the inspiration and support provided by the people in this room and beyond – the investment of time, energy, talents and resources, we accomplish more than others colleges can only dream about.

Since we gathered for this event last year, the college has done great things:

- Launched **Skills for Healthy Aging Resources and Programs (SHARP)**, the first and only initiative of its kind in the country, to train students in effective strategies for caring for older people.
- Established the **Civil Rights Center**, which provides students with hands-on training on how to investigate and process work and housing discrimination claims.
- Joined with the City of Santa Clarita to create a plan for a **Business Incubator** in the old Newhall Public Library.
- Received approval to establish and open a **Center for International Trade Development (CITD)**.
- Debuted the **Chancellor's Cabaret Series**,

- Partnered with the Newhall School District to initiate the **K-6 Science/Electronics Initiative** and promote increased awareness in science and technology focusing on Electronics and Physics.
- Built the permanent **Athletic Hall of Fame** display in the lobby of the Gym.
- Continued to develop online textbooks for our students, saving them more than \$220,000 they otherwise would have spent buying textbooks.
- Celebrated the **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of the Early Childhood Education Center.
- Hosted “**Rock the Rhythm, Beat the Odds,**” featuring more than 10,000 students and attendees in the stands to showcase the importance of art and music *in* education.
- Sponsored the first-ever **Mathematics, Sciences, and Engineering Division Speakers Symposium**, featuring local industry engineering specialists and experts in fields such as Biomedical Science, Biotechnology, Material Science, Medicinal Chemistry.

- Debuted an exhibit of Graphic Multimedia Design student work at the **Santa Clarita City Hall Gallery**.
- Secured a \$1.25 million **Upward Bound** grant to establish a program in partnership with the Golden Valley High School to prepare at-risk youth for college-level work.
- Were noted as a statewide leader for student completion and success in Career Tech Education/Business Partnerships.
- Grew our **year-over-year Foundation revenue** for the third consecutive year.
- Generated **\$2 million** to assist local businesses in developing their capacity and contributing to the revitalization of our local economy.
- Generated **\$5 million in grants in 2011-12** for a total of **\$23 million** over four years..
- **Continued a very successful program is the Economic Development Division**, which focuses on creation and delivery of services to promote the growth and prosperity of regional businesses while developing the current and future workforce of the region.

- In 2011-12, Economic Development Division generated \$1.8 million, trained 4,152 employees and worked with 977 employers.
- Add in the Santa Clarita WorkSource Center and the more than a thousand clients counseled on campus each month and we have one powerhouse Economic Development Department right here at College of the Canyons!

- One of the programs of which we are extremely proud is the **Center for Applied Competitive Technologies**; a program in which we partner with local businesses Aerospace Dynamics International and Haas Automation. And I call it out today.
- At a groundbreaking ceremony for **ADI's** FOURTH building a little more than a week ago, it was nearly impossible to believe that our relationship with ADI dates back to 1998 when they first approached us to ask if we could deliver customized software training to their engineers.
- Over the last 14 years, the COC program has continued to evolve and today we work together as an extraordinary team.
- I particularly want to acknowledge John Cave and Bill Barritt's recent help in support of Senate Bill 1402, a key piece of legislation that authorized the Economic and Workforce Development through the state Chancellor's office, and in turn, enables us to do much of what we accomplish through the Economic Development Division in Sacramento.

- I would also like to recognize ADI's recent designation as the "Supplier of the Year" for Boeing, as well as their landing an extremely notable AirBus contract. This not only raises ADI's profile, but also that of Santa Clarita, and will help boost our local economy.
- Help me congratulate John Cave of ADI who is here with us tonight; a visionary in his own right.

Another accomplishment this year program of which we are particularly proud of is a new Math program.

- **Math 075** is a pre-statistics math program that allows students to complete both arithmetic and pre-algebra in one 8-week course, leading to a five-fold increase in student completion of statistics coursework (from 13 percent to 78 percent), for students with initial elementary algebra placement.



- One of **my favorite success stories** from the new Math 075 course comes from Kathy Kubo's class and student Pola (Pole-ah) Pardon. This particular student began her studies in Math 058. Students who start out Math 058, statistically speaking, have only a 6% to 8% chance of getting through college-level math. For single mothers, it's often half of that. But, this particular student enrolled in Math 075 the first semester it was offered in Spring 2012. The course includes your typical math work. But also there's writing and reflecting, statistical analysis, and working with the affective domain, which is a mindset that helps to motivate the self. By implementing the affective domain, the student reoriented how she looked at things she formerly viewed as failures and saw them as options and used them to learn.

- She has continued her path of successes. After Math 075, she tackled a difficult stats class and passed that as well— **more than beating the odds!**

**There are hundreds of stories like this that emphasize why we do what we do.**

**How did we do all of this?**

We did it with consistent spirit and enthusiasm to help us accomplish all of the things I just mentioned. The people at College of the Canyons, the teams in which they work, and our partners in the community, continue to inspire me as they demonstrate resilience each and every day – something we definitely need as we continue to move ahead. Few colleges have the courage or the energy we do.

Why? I'm not sure. Perhaps it's fear of the unknown, a lack of confidence, a false sense of comfort in the status quo, or inertia that paralyzes some and intimidates others.

Sadly, for the students themselves they will not leap ahead, gain a competitive advantage, or lead and clear the trail to make a path for forthcoming dreams and opportunities if they are in that place. I'm proud that, unlike these institutions, College of the Canyons sets it apart from the rest! As Gifford Pinchot said, "The vast possibilities of our great future will become realities only if we make ourselves responsible for that future."

At COC, we eagerly accept accountability for what and how we are building for the future and make the most of every day with each of you!

Our perspective is the fuel that drives this place. When posed with questions that are met elsewhere with a "no, it is not possible," instead we answer "can do" and "we will" and we **do** it!

**TOGETHER WE THINK BIGGER, ACHIEVE MORE AND CREATE MAGIC. And we plan to continue to do so in the next year.**

So what are we looking forward to accomplishing?

- **Completing our Culinary Arts Campaign.** We are nearly two-thirds of the way toward achieving our goal of generating \$6.7 million needed to build a permanent home for this growing program.
- Students currently have very few palatable choices to receive the training and build the skills needed to thrive in this industry.
- ✓ Private proprietary institutions can cost anywhere from \$50,000 to \$75,000 a year.

- ✓ However, at a cost of \$36 per unit at College of the Canyons, our students receive comparable training for a cost between \$2,000 and \$5,000 – a huge benefit to our students and the culinary field.
- ✓ When students accrue \$75,000 in loans, it is highly unlikely they will remain in the field.
- ✓ As in any industry, new graduates must pay their dues, and with entry-level wages for restaurant jobs in the \$10 to \$14 an hour range, paying off loans like that is impossible.
  
- I expect that 2 years from now, we will host this dinner in the beautiful dining room that is a part of the Culinary project!

- We're going to be **building a new Student Services/Administration Building**. We will begin in December with demolishing the current A Building. And then we will break ground on a new, state-of-the-art, two-story facility. Our existing one was built for a campus serving 5,000 students. Now, we have new space, and when the state adequately funds enrollment, we will serve upwards of 27,000 students a year. The new building will bring most of our student services functions together under one roof, making them more accessible to students, who currently have to visit multiple buildings across the campus for various services.
- **We're going to be planning a planetarium at the Canyon Country Campus**. That will provide our community with an educational experience second to none. The planetarium will provide us with the viewing of spectacular images of the sparkling night sky, amazing journeys into deep space and science exhibits that inspire both the

young and not so young and serve as a destination location in Canyon Country.

- Expanding our **Community Garden**.
- We will expand the **K-6 Science/Electronics Initiative** to more schools.
- And build on the work of the **Sustainability Committee** and continue to raise funds for its environmental education and awareness at the K-12 level through the **Santa Clarita Environmental Education Consortium**.

Leave it better than you found it.

- We'll expand **English 096**, which advances students through two freshman composition pre-requisites in one course, reducing the time students spend in developmental English by one semester.
- We will launch the **Institute of Law, Ethics, and Public Policy**.



- We will publish our updated **Education and Facilities Master Plan** that will guide our campuses' development, and point us toward establishing a third campus site, likely in the western portion of our service area.
- **The 18 faculty who received a mini-grant grant through the Chancellor's Circle Mini Grant program** will use the funds to continue their work in:
  - *The Allied Health Division with the Start Right, Web Based Assessment Tool* and **Pilot Use of the National Health Career Assoc.**
  - *Athletics – Kinesiology Division via The Zone, Lending Library Expansion*
  - *Career Technical Education Division and Catering for Culinary Capital Campaign*
  - *Fine and Performing Arts Division* with **ArtStart and Just Jazz**

- Math, Science & Engineering Division learning more about  
**Florescent Microscopy to Image Cancer Cells; Hands on  
Astronomy Project; Biology Outreach Program Augmentation;  
and Outdoor Research Garden at Canyon Country**
- Humanities Division launching a **One Day Student Writing  
Conference**
- Social Science and Business Division hosting a **Domestic Violence  
Awareness Concert; Adventures in Archeology**
- Student Services Division implementing a **Computer to Support  
Live Scan Pens for DSPS and EOPS Student Book Buying Project**

**We will continue to dream. Think. Do. Someone once said that what we can easily see is only a small percentage of what is possible!.** At College of the Canyons we pride ourselves on our ability to look beyond what is within easy reach, and instead stretch for that which requires more effort, but is ultimately more rewarding. As members of Chancellor's Circle and friends of College of the Canyons, **you** inspire us to do so.

Your willingness to stretch with us enables us to dream, to think, and to ultimately do. Your high standards and expectations motivate us to build bridges between our goals and our accomplishments.

We thank you for being a part of our team where dedicated individuals make a commitment and “the sky is the limit.”

For someone like me, being connected matters. People matter. Relationships matter. That is why this dinner is so special to me. As I look at all of you, I recall great moments with some of you, challenges met, partnerships formed, new trails blazed and dreams achieved.

I have memories of conversations of the development of shared strategies where new ideas were born and I see the hope and promise of what’s yet to come and all of it creates immense pride at all we have accomplished together and in adventures yet to come!

Thank you for giving of yourselves, your resources, your passion, and your confidence. With that, your community college will continue to Dream. to Think and Do. And Deliver on the promise we hold for our community.

I close with a quote from Atari and Chuck E. Cheese founder Nolan Bushnell:  
“The critical ingredient is getting up and doing something. It’s as simple as that. A lot of people have ideas, but there are few who decide to do something about them now. Not tomorrow. Not next week. But today.”

Now, let’s get out there and build our dreams!

Thank you and good night.