

# THE BOTTOM LINE

NEWS & VIEWS FROM **COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS** • SPRING 2023

## CHANCELLOR'S REPORT



**Dr. Dianne Van Hook**

## \$3 MILLION IN FEDERAL FUNDING will Help Launch New Training Programs

The college received more than \$3 million in the latest federal budget that will be used to purchase equipment required to provide high-quality training in robotic automation production, Non-Destructive Inspections (NDI) of aircraft, and firefighting.

Included in the \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending package signed by President Biden on Dec. 29, the funding was secured by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif), Sen. Alex Padilla (D-Calif), and Rep. Mike Garcia (R-Santa Clarita).

"We are so grateful to Sen. Dianne Feinstein and

Alex Padilla, as well as Congressman Mike Garcia, for their unwavering support in helping College of the Canyons continue to provide skilled training in high-demand careers," said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. "The funding for these projects related to addressing the critical demand for trained workers and technicians in robotic automation production, NDI and firefighting will directly benefit our students and community."

Feinstein and Padilla secured \$2.3 million in funding for the purchase of Regional Fire Academy equipment

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The spring semester is well under way at College of the Canyons and both campuses are alive with activity.

For the first time in three years, the Valencia and Canyon Country campuses again look like they should, with students on their way to class, studying in our Library and Learning Center, or simply gathering together to talk and laugh.

The energy of our students is inspiring, and it lends fresh enthusiasm to the many initiatives that have been developed for their benefit, as well as for the wider community.

Ensuring our students are prepared for the workforce remains a top priority, and we have seen significant progress in our recent efforts to launch new programs and better connect students and

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## ON THE ROAD TO EMPLOYMENT



College faculty and community employers came together at the first-ever Road to Employment event in January to give students a first-hand look at how COC's career education programs can connect them to in-demand, high-paying jobs.

**WE BELIEVE IN TEACHING, LEADING AND STAYING AT THE FOREFRONT OF CHANGE**

## Chancellor

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employers.

We rolled out a new event that we intend to make an annual occurrence. Road to Employment Day brought together both college faculty and community employers to give students a first-hand look at how COC's career education programs can equip them for in-demand, high-paying jobs. Held on the last Saturday in January, it was perfectly timed to help students focus their goals and choose classes before the start of the spring semester.

Two new initiatives received a significant boost in momentum, thanks to more than \$3 million in funding that was included in the federal budget. Rep. Mike Garcia secured \$1 million in community project funding that will help us launch a Robotics Automation Production Lab and Simulation Center. Sen. Alex Padilla also supported the funding, which will enable us to purchase equipment to provide training in advanced manufacturing within the lab housed in the college's Advanced Technology Center (ATC).

We received another \$2.3 million in federal funding to equip our Regional Fire Academy, thanks to the support of Sen. Padilla, Sen. Dianne Feinstein, and Rep. Garcia. The allocation will enable the purchase of fire trucks and other equipment that will facilitate hands-on training for students.

This spring 2023 term saw the debut of five new certification programs in the School of Personal and Professional Learning, which provides community members with the opportunity to learn new skills at no cost.

The new certificates include: Yoga Teacher Training, Real Estate, Fundamental Skills for Commercial Artists, Digital Publishing for the Office, and Certified Paralegal Exam Test Preparation. The programs are designed to equip students with the skills they need to quickly get to work in the careers of their choice.

Our ability to design and launch new programs is due in large part to our strong partnerships with local business and industry. That was particularly evident at Manufacturing Day, an event we held in the fall semester to provide students, parents, and the public an inside look at

***“Our ability to design and launch new programs is due in large part to our strong partnerships with local business and industry.”***

modern manufacturing. Representatives from partners like Northrop Grumman, Woodward, Lief Labs, Bay Center, Universal Studios, Technifex, FANUC and Lincoln Electric were on hand to highlight the career opportunities available for those who take advantage of the training offered at College of the Canyons.

Looking ahead, we eagerly await the opening of the Advanced Technology Center. We are putting the finishing touches on this leased space in nearby Centre Pointe. When it opens later this year, it will provide industry certifications in welding,

robotic welding, advanced manufacturing, and construction technologies, offering upskilling to current professionals and creating a pipeline of high school students entering career pathways.

At the same time, we look forward to launching new training programs that will equip students to work in the fast-changing fields of network technologies, electronic systems, and cybersecurity, thanks to a \$300,000 grant awarded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office. We're also building out our Pre-Apprenticeship program with the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters (SWRCC) in Construction Technology, and debuting two new Fast Track programs in response to local workforce needs. Facilities Management is scheduled to begin later this spring in partnership with the International Facilities Management Association (IFMA), and Certified Logistics Technician will start in July.

These are just a few of the highlights of what we are rolling out this spring. We know there will be other exciting and relevant developments as we create new opportunities along the way. We have never been content to wait for opportunities, but instead, we work to create them so we can meet our community's needs and ensure our students are prepared to thrive and achieve their goals.

*Dr. Dianne Van Hook has served as chancellor of College of the Canyons for more than 34 years.*

The Bottom Line is published by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office to inform the community of news and events of interest in the Santa Clarita Community College District.

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# COC Recognized for INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY USE

The College of the Canyons Biological and Environmental Sciences Department was awarded the State Chancellor's Office Innovative Use of Technology Award at the Chief Information Systems Officers Association (CISOA) Technology Summit in San Francisco. This award recognizes cutting-edge advancements in the department's microbiology laboratories.

Spearheaded by Dr. Shane Ramey, a microbiology instructor at the college, the department created an innovative laboratory environment that is capable of achieving the highest safety standards for teaching labs set by the American Society of Microbiology (ASM), commonly referred to as "paperless" labs. The term "paperless" refers to the ability of students to access all necessary



COC Microbiology Instructor Dr. Shane Ramey (right) accepted the State Chancellor's Office Innovative Use of Technology Award at the CISOA Technology Summit.

resources in the lab without ever handling anything that will leave the lab with them, such as a paper lab manual, notebook, and pens or pencils. This is particularly important in a microbiology laboratory where students work with live microbes, and such items could potentially become contaminated.

"I am honored to receive this award on behalf of the biological and environmental sciences department and College of the Canyons," said Ramey. "Paperless microbiology laboratories are extremely rare at the academic level, even among four-year colleges and universities, primarily because of the technological burden of operating such labs. Nevertheless, the benefits that such a paperless lab environment provides our microbiology students are multifaceted

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## COC RECEIVES \$25,000 STANLEY BLACK & DECKER GRANT for Construction Technology Pathways

A \$25,000 grant from Stanley Black & Decker's second Global Impact Challenge will enable College of the Canyons to enhance instruction for students enrolled in the college's new construction technology pathway.

As a Makers grant recipient, COC is among 91 organizations that will help skill and reskill roughly 210,448 makers throughout 2023.

"We are grateful to have received a Makers grant from Stanley Black & Decker to continue providing quality support to students enrolled in new construction technology pathways," said Amber Cole, director of grants development at the college. "This grant will allow us to hire a pre-construction technology lab technician to increase the likelihood of student completion and career success."

The pre-construction technology lab technician will work onsite to provide 50 COC students with one-on-one attention, additional instruction, and mentorship support.

In 2022, COC launched its new construction technology pathway with the support of Stanley Black & Decker's inaugural Global Impact Challenge program.

COC introduced an entry-level construction technology program that leads to certification in introductory craft skills and residential/commercial construction, and helps students gain experience with basic power



tools for carpentry and masonry. Stanley Black & Decker's in-kind tool donation helped create hands-on skills attainment labs for training.

"This grant will be instrumental in help-

ing our students receive high-quality training with the most up-to-date construction technology available," said Harriet Happel, dean of career education, integrative learning, and the Employment Center at the college.

Initiated in 2021, the Global Impact Challenge grant program will award up to \$25 million in grant funding over five years to nonprofits that are supporting trade workforce development initiatives in the construction and manufacturing sectors.

With the first applications submitted in 2022, 182 entrants were evaluated based on number of people served, outcomes projected, sustainable impact, depth of programs, and diversity, among many other considerations.

"Stanley Black & Decker is immensely proud to support College of the Canyons as they work to skill and reskill the next generation of trade professionals," said Stanley Black & Decker Corporate Responsibility Officer Deb Geyer. "Currently in the U.S., there are an estimated 650,000 open construction jobs and 10 million unfilled manufacturing jobs globally. Our purpose is to support 'Those Who Make the World,' and being able to fund educational programs and non-profits that are revitalizing trade careers directly connects to our core mission. Thanks to this year's Makers Grant Recipients, together we will be one step closer to closing the trade skills gap."

## PPL DEBUTS 5 NEW CERTIFICATION PROGRAMS in Spring 2023

This spring, the School of Personal and Professional Learning (PPL) at College of the Canyons is offering five new certification programs for individuals interested in pursuing a variety of careers.

### Yoga Teacher Training Certificate

Provides students with knowledge, skills, and experience across the 12 yoga competencies to become yoga teachers. Within 12 months, students can complete a certificate program through the Yoga Alliance, a nationally recognized training organization.

### Real Estate Certificate

Students will learn about California real estate principles, practices, and law. They will also obtain the knowledge required for the California Department of Real Estate examination for real estate sales and broker licensing.

### Fundamental Skills for

### Commercial Artists Certificate

Equips students with skills leading to employment in the creative arts economy of Southern California. The course will also offer training/refresher skills for professionals already working in the commercial arts field.

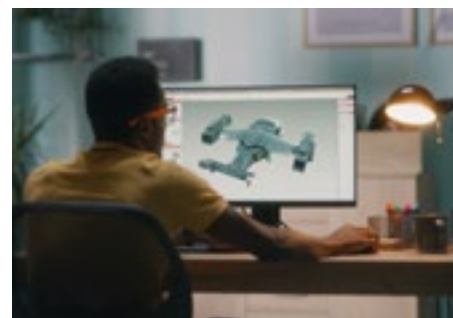
### Digital Publishing for the Office Certificate

Provides office workers with training in digital publishing to meet routine demands, including the creation of newsletters, flyers, brochures, magazines, and calendars.

### Certified Paralegal Exam Test Preparation Program

Prepares students and paralegals for the National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) Certified Paralegal Exam, specifically the exam's knowledge and skills sections. The use of the Certified Paralegal (CP) credential signifies that a paralegal can provide superior services to firms and corporations. The CP credential has been acknowledged by the American Bar Association as a mark of high professional achievement, and the certification helps advance paralegals in their careers and professional development.

PPL classes provide community members the opportunity to learn new skills, at no cost. This spring, PPL is offering more than 250 free classes to the community. To sign up for a class, visit [canyons.edu/ppl](https://canyons.edu/ppl).



## PARALEGAL STUDENT WINS NATIONAL AWARD for Essay

College of the Canyons paralegal studies student Ryan McLaughlin won the American Association for Paralegal Education (AAfPE) Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX) national honor society scholarship after taking first place in the annual essay competition.

McLaughlin is the second College of the Canyons student to win the \$1,500 scholarship award in as many years.

His essay, "Accessibility and the American Legal System: A Case for Paralegal Licensure," explored whether paralegals should be licensed to practice law under limited circumstances. His essay is scheduled to be published in the AAfPE's The Legal Educator.

"I was surprised that I won first place in the AAfPE essay contest, as there are so many intelligent paralegal students at not only COC, but throughout the country," said McLaughlin.

"However, the essay topic was one that was incredibly thought provoking. I spent a



significant amount of time researching and crafting my essay. The paralegal studies program at COC has enhanced my legal research and writing abilities, which has allowed me to confront challenging legal topics with confidence."

McLaughlin is working toward his

associate degree in paralegal studies and plans to graduate this spring. His goal is to work as a paralegal while pursuing his juris doctor degree.

AAfPE's membership includes hundreds of universities, colleges, and other institutions of higher learning throughout the United States and in Canada, and more than 125 chapters belong to its LEX national honor society, including College of the Canyons.

College of the Canyons is one of 29 California Community Colleges in partnership with the State Bar of California through California LAW, a nonprofit organization, offering a pathway to law school to some of the state's top law schools.

Approved by the American Bar Association, the college's paralegal studies program helps students gain a broad-based understanding of the American legal system and the role of the paralegal.

For more information about COC's paralegal program, visit <https://www.canyons.edu/academics/paralegal/index.php>



# COC Recognized for INCREASING STUDENT VOTING

College of the Canyons was the only California community college named among “America’s Best Colleges for Student Voting” by Washington Monthly magazine for its commitment to inspiring students to vote and actively participate in community decisions.

To document the efforts of colleges and universities promoting civic engagement, the magazine highlighted more than 230 institutions around the country.

“The Center for Civic Engagement at COC is extremely proud to have been recognized for a third consecutive year by Washington Monthly magazine,” said Patty Robinson, faculty director of civic and community engagement initiatives at the college. “Encouraging our students to take an interest in civic engagement for the betterment of their communities is our driving force.”

COC participates in the ALL IN Campus

Democracy Challenge, a national, nonpartisan awards program recognizing colleges and universities for improving civic learning, political engagement, and student voting rates. As a part of this initiative, students, faculty, and staff have worked together to develop and implement an action plan to increase voting and civic engagement.

During election seasons, COC hosts numerous discussion panels and distributes nonpartisan materials that provide additional information on propositions and candidates.

The school also participates in the National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE), which provides colleges and universities with data on student registration and voting rates. These numbers provide benchmarks to measure the success of future voting engagement efforts.

To be included in the magazine’s student voting honor roll, COC had to submit its 2020

and 2022 action plans to the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. In addition, it had to sign up to receive data from the NSLVE and make its 2018 and 2020 NSLVE data available to the public.

Of the 26 California community colleges participating in the ALL IN challenge, COC was the only one listed on Washington Monthly’s honor roll.

“Schools need to have shown a repeated commitment to increasing student voting — and have been transparent about the results,” said the magazine about its eligibility criteria.



# EDISON AWARDS 11 FIRE TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIPS

Eleven College of the Canyons fire technology students received \$1,000 scholarships from Edison International to cover tuition, books and school-related fees.

The students — Diego Aguilar, John Donckels, Michelle Fadley, Sonia Flores, Reyne Manzano, Preston Marrott, Samantha Miranda-Rodriguez, Elias Ponzio, Trevor Rein, James Smith, and Nicholas Wust-Ekberg — had to have a cumulative GPA

of 2.7 or higher, be enrolled in the college’s fire technology program, and respond to four essay questions about their fire service career goals.

“For the fifth straight year, the College of the Canyons Fire Technology Program is fortunate and honored to receive the \$25,000 Edison Fire Technology Grant,” said Keith Kawamoto, chair of the college’s fire technology department. “Our program stresses

the importance of becoming well-educated, well-trained, and effective first responders. Edison’s support helps us accomplish this mission. I am confident that the bright futures of this year’s recipients will continue to make our program, Edison, and our communities proud.”

The scholarships were awarded through a \$25,000 grant from Edison International in support of the college’s development of

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# COC RANKED AMONG TOP COLLEGES for Hispanics

College of the Canyons was ranked nationally No. 17 and 35 in The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine for enrolling the largest number of Hispanic students and granting the most degrees, respectively.

In addition, the college was ranked No. 9 among the Top 10 Schools by Major for its Parks Recreation, Leisure, Fitness and Kinesiology degrees.

The magazine rankings for the Top 100 Community Colleges for Hispanics are based on the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) data for community colleges with the highest number of Hispanic students enrolled during fall 2020 and spring 2021.

“We are proud to be a Hispanic-serving institution and we are honored to have been recognized once again for our unwavering commitment to serve the needs of our diverse students,” said College of the Canyons Deputy Chancellor and Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer Dr. Diane Fiero.

According to the data, the college had a Hispanic population of 15,410 students,



totaling 49 percent of the total student enrollment, which was 31,696 in the year 2020-21.

That same year, of the 3,200 associate degrees awarded by the college, 1,459 of degree recipients were Hispanic students.

According to COC data, there was a 13 percent increase in the number of Hispanic students who were awarded a degree between 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Many Hispanic students attending COC have benefited from the college's innovative programs, such as the Canyons Promise program, which gives incoming students the tools and resources they need to transition smoothly into college life.

Of the 5,560 students the program has admitted since its launch in 2017, 53 percent of students self-identified as Hispanic.

The program provides increased opportunities for new full-time college students to achieve their educational goals by waiving tuition and fees during their first year of study.

Students who maintain the program's requirements may have their Canyons Promise benefits extended to their second year of study.

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## ASU Partnership to Offer TRANSFER PATHWAYS

College of the Canyons is partnering with Arizona State University to provide students a seamless transfer experience with the MyPath2ASU™ program. MyPath2ASU™ allows students to take the steps needed, at the start of their college experience, to successfully plan their transfer to ASU, ensuring a smooth transition process and student success.

MyPath2ASU™ is a set of customized tools available to transfer students from accredited, U.S. regional institutions. These tools ensure a seamless transfer experience to ASU after earning credits or an associate degree from a U.S. community college or university and shortening the time to degree completion.

“We are very excited to enter into this partnership with Arizona State University because of the opportunities it will give students to achieve their education goals,” said Dr. Jasmine Ruys, COC vice president of student services. “COC students will be able to complete their associate degree and then seamlessly transfer to a wide variety

of bachelor's degree programs offered by Arizona State University with classes held online and at their Los Angeles campus. We're also working with ASU to make their classes available in the near future at the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center.”

Through this partnership, students using



MyPath2ASU™ will find their transfer experience simplified. They will have access to personalized benefits to help them navigate the transfer experience, to include:

- End-to-end learner navigation through course-by-course guided pathways
- Ensure course applicability by assisting students with taking courses that apply to their associate and ASU bachelor's degree

- Guaranteed general admission to ASU and admission into MyPath2ASU™ major of choice if all requirements are satisfied; some majors have additional or higher admission requirements

- More than 400 course-by-course guided pathways into immersion and online ASU degree programs

- Self-service, degree progress tracking through My Transfer Guide to minimize loss of credit

- Connected experience through personalized ASU communications to prepare academically and build a connection to ASU

ASU and College of the Canyons will work collaboratively to promote educational degree pathways containing ground and online course offerings. These pathways will ensure their courses are applicable toward their degree in their chosen major and minimize credit loss.

For more information, visit <https://www.canyons.edu/student-services/counseling/transfer/outofstate.php>





# Chancellor's Circle DINNER



Community leaders and college supporters gathered in the new Student Services/ Learning Resources Center at the Canyon Country campus for the annual College of the Canyons Foundation Chancellor's Circle Dinner. Guests enjoyed a performance by the Choral Singers from the School of Visual and Performing Arts and dinner catered by Wolf Creek, with the menu created by COC Culinary Arts graduate Evelyn Contreras. Chancellor Dr. Dianne Van Hook highlighted college initiatives, and student Ciara Asberry shared what a difference the foundation's support has made in her success. And, Chancellor's Circle Chair Jill Mellady announced the Roger Van Hook Raising the BAR (Believe, Achieve, Receive) Student Support Fund.





## COC Recognized Among **MOST ENGAGED CAMPUSES FOR STUDENT VOTING**

College of the Canyons was among 394 colleges and universities across the nation recognized by the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (ALL IN) for the 2022 ALL IN Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting.

The ALL IN Most Engaged Campuses for College Student Voting recognizes institutions that complete these four actions that are designed to increase student voter participation:

- Participated in the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge
- Shared 2020 National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement (NSLVE) Reports of campus voting data with ALL IN

- Developed and submitted a 2022 democratic engagement action plan with ALL IN
- Have a current signatory to ALL IN's Higher Education Presidents' Commitment to Full Student Voter Participation.

***“College student voter turnout has increased since 2016, and this increase has been driven by students.”***

“This recognition is a tremendous honor,” said Dr. Patty Robinson, faculty director,

civic and community engagement at College of the Canyons. “It speaks to the effort and dedication of our students to engage their peers and help them understand that they have an important voice that needs to be heard in our democratic process.”

Recent NSLVE reports, which provide comparisons of voting information specifically related to COC for election years 2014, 2018, and 2020, show overall voter participation and engagement rates (not just registering, but getting students to the polls) has increased. COC's voting rate increased significantly from 12.2 percent in 2014 to 42.6 percent in 2018 and then to 67.8 percent in 2020.

The increase from voter registration to

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Manufacturing Day featured speakers from Northrop Grumman, Woodward, Lief Labs, Bay Center, Universal Studios, Technifex, FANUC and Lincoln Electric. They highlighted the career opportunities available for those who take advantage of the training offered at College of the Canyons.



# COC Partnering in \$7.5 MILLION NSF ENERGY GRANT

College of the Canyons is one of five community colleges from across the nation partnering in a \$7.5 million National Science Foundation (NSF) grant that was awarded to Madison Area Technical College.

Over the next five years, the consortium of participating colleges will form the CREATE National Energy Center, which will provide resources to build a skilled technical workforce, improve gender equity in the energy field, expand partnerships between education and industry, and contribute to the transformation of global energy industries.

Funded through NSF's Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program, the CREATE National Energy Center will be the only one of its kind in the country.

"We are honored to be the only California community college that is taking part in this groundbreaking energy initiative," said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. "We look forward to contributing to the CREATE National Energy Center's mission of preparing students to enter the rapidly evolving global energy workforce."

Other colleges participating in the NSF grant with Madison Area Technical College are Central Carolina Community College, Delaware Technical Community College, and Indian River State College.

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*"We are honored to be the only California community college that is taking part in this groundbreaking energy initiative."*

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COC's \$1.7 million allocation of the award will be used to develop new energy curriculum, conduct faculty professional development activities and student outreach, and disseminate Energy Center resources to a nationwide audience.

"The CREATE National Energy Center is the result of years of hard work and dedication by the partner colleges focused on training qualified instructors, expanding educational opportunities for students, and driving

innovation in the field of energy across the United States," said Gabrielle Temple, CREATE project manager at the college.

The center will provide professional development opportunities and serve as a venue for more than 900 national STEM educators to network in order to share energy technology innovations and address gaps in energy education.

"The world is in the midst of a once in a century transformation of our energy infrastructure," said CREATE Director and Madison College instructor Dr. Ken Walz. "Renewable energy is the fastest growing energy source in the world and is projected to provide more than 90 percent of new electric power capacity through the next decade. This creates an enormous opportunity for students to secure well-paying, family supporting jobs that cannot be exported, are not easily done by robots and benefit society at large."

ATE supports partnerships between two-year institutions of higher education and other academic institutions to improve the education of technicians in science and engineering.

# National Award Honors BEST PRACTICES IN PURCHASING

For the second time, the College of the Canyons Contracts, Procurement, and Risk Management (CPRM) department received a 2022 Annual Achievement of Excellence in Procurement® (AEP) award from the National Procurement Institute, Inc. (NPI).

The department was among the 171 successful applicants from across the nation to receive the prestigious award in 2022.

"We are honored to have been recognized for the second time by the National Procurement Institute," said April Graham, CPRM director at the college. "Our department's success is made possible through our teamwork approach and dedication to adhering to the highest standards for professionalism."

The award's application process is designed to encourage procurement professionals to go beyond the minimum requirements set yearly by AEP sponsors and to recognize innovative programs and solutions that demonstrate outstanding achievements.

The application process required submission of narratives clearly explaining and demonstrating evidence of various best practices including:

- Procurement ethics
- Electronic procurement manual
- Professional development program
- Surveys of internal customers and external vendors

- Internal customer training
- Formal vendor training
- Performance measures
- Centralized procurement authority
- Online electronic vendor registration
- Internal procurement automation
- Online surplus auction system
- Staff member bachelor degrees

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# Sharlene Coleal Receives 2022 ACBO EXCELLENCE AWARD

Sharlene Coleal, assistant superintendent-vice president of business services for College of the Canyons, received the 2022 Association of Chief Business Officials (ACBO) Achievement of Excellence Award.

Formerly known as the Walter Star Robie Award, the ACBO award is presented to distinguished community college business administration professionals who have demonstrated outstanding achievements and exemplary service to California community colleges since 1988.

"I am honored to have been selected by my community college chief business official colleagues for this prestigious award," said Coleal. "I credit Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook for her leadership, our COC Board for their support, my COC colleagues for their collaboration, my managers and staff for their standard of excellence and my CBO peers for their shared expertise. This award acknowledges the culmination of professional accomplishments of a chief business officer, both at their college and at a statewide level, and to receive it at this point in my career is an incredible recognition."

In her 21 years of service to the college, Coleal's demonstrated fiscal acumen and



Sharlene Coleal

business administration experience led to numerous milestones and achievements. Chief among them is providing fiscal oversight for more than \$500 million of general obligation bonds that funded numerous projects at both College of the Canyons campuses.

During Coleal's tenure, the college's annual budget grew from \$82.5 million in 2001-02 to \$361.5 million in 2022-23 as enrollment increased from 12,726 in 2001 to over 32,000 in 2021-2022. Throughout that period of dynamic growth, the District achieved balanced budgets and clean audits year after year under Coleal's leadership.

College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook considers promoting Coleal to the role of CBO in 2002 "an excellent decision."

Chancellor Van Hook added: "At College of the Canyons, we have a tagline: 'If you can imagine it, you can achieve it. If you can dream it, you can do it.' We have done that due to the amazing team we have and because of Sharlene's talents and care. I congratulate Sharlene for receiving the 2022 ACBO Achievement of Excellence Award. Her unique talents, ambitions, intelligence, and

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## COC's Diversity Efforts Earn STATEWIDE RECOGNITION

College of the Canyons received the 2022 Institutional Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility (DEIA) Champion Award from the Association of Human Resource Officers/Equal Employment Officers (ACHRO/EEO).

The award is given to an educational institution within the California community college system that has demonstrated efforts towards an organizational culture that maximizes every opportunity to be intentional and innovative in creating and advancing DEIA within the community.

Dr. Diane Fiero (deputy chancellor and chief diversity, equity, and inclusion officer), Flavio Medina-Martin (director, diversity and inclusion), Dr. Rian Medlin (interim asst. superintendent/vice president, human resources), Dr. Lauren Elan Helsper (Director, EEO, Leaves, and Workplace Safety Programs), and Miranda Zamudio (Senior HR Generalist/Academic Personnel) received the award Oct. 27 on the college's

behalf at ACHRO's Fall Institute event.

"We are honored that ACHRO/EEO recognized our district's collective efforts to expand the principles of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism and Accessibility

***"Our goal is to make sure all of our students and employees feel seen, heard, and safe on our campuses. Everyone is welcome here."***

(IDEAA) on our campuses," said Fiero. "I want to thank our innovative chancellor, our supportive board of trustees and the more than 200 dedicated employees and students who are passionate about IDEAA and help us move forward every day. Our goal is to make sure all of our students and employees feel seen, heard, and safe on our campuses. Everyone is welcome here."

Nominated institutions must have

effectively demonstrated achievement in DEIA areas that led to meaningful change related to institutional and employee-centered DEIA enhancements, professional development, community service, selection, and recruitment practices. In addition, nominees must have also made strides toward developing opportunities for students, employees, and community members who are historically underserved.

In November 2020, the college opened the virtual Multicultural Center (MCC) as part of its ongoing commitment to promoting on-campus diversity. The interim MCC was opened in April 2022 and the permanent MCC is expected to open this year.

The center's purpose is to provide safe spaces for historically minoritized and marginalized groups on campus with the goal of increased diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout the district.

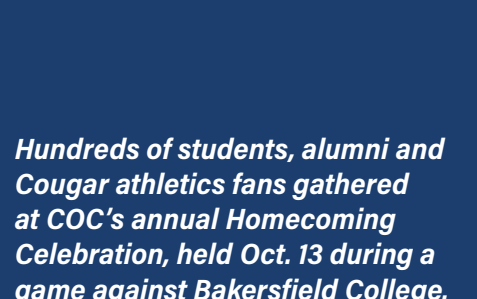
In addition, the college established a deputy chancellor and chief DEI officer position at the executive level in April 2021.

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# COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS HOMECOMING



Hundreds of students, alumni and Cougar athletics fans gathered at COC's annual Homecoming Celebration, held Oct. 13 during a game against Bakersfield College.





## FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE

### COC Celebrates EMT program's Golden Anniversary

College of the Canyons recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program, which is the second oldest program of its kind in Los Angeles County.

Since 1972, COC's EMT program has trained more than 5,000 EMT students, with many going on to launch successful careers in firefighting, law enforcement, nursing, and other related fields.

"We are very proud of the college's EMT program accomplishments and its consistent efforts to provide the highest quality of training available to students during the past 50 years," said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook.

"We enjoyed celebrating this momentous achievement with the program's faculty, staff, and alumni."

The semester-long course HLHSCI-151 offered at COC prepares students for certification and employment as EMTs. Upon successfully completing the course, students are eligible to take the National Registry of EMT examination.

The college's EMT program is approved by Los Angeles County EMS Agency, State of California and the National Registry of EMTs.

"Reaching 50 years of program excellence is a tremendous milestone, one that we were very excited to celebrate with the Santa

Clarita community," said SB Tucker, EMT program director at the college. "We were very excited to see former students, faculty, and staff, as well as individuals interested in joining the EMT program."

The celebration was held at the College of the Canyons Institute for Culinary Education (iCuE) Education Plaza. The event included a short ceremony, guest speakers, and a catered breakfast served by iCuE students.

In addition, attendees were able to experience hands-on teaching demonstrations and learn about student career paths into hospital emergency rooms, ambulance training, local agency, and military careers.





# Committee Affirms **BOND SPENDING AUDITS**

**T**he Santa Clarita Community College District's Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee voted to accept the results of an independent audit confirming the district properly accounted for all bond expenditures in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

Eide Bailly, LLP conducted financial and performance audits, and issued the District an unmodified opinion—the best rating possible—noting no adjustments, audit findings, questioned costs or instances of bond noncompliance.

"The audit results demonstrate our ongoing commitment to fiscal transparency and our mission to expand access to high-quality education and state-of-the-art facilities that can accommodate the needs of our students and staff as well as the training needed to support our local businesses and their workforce training needs while supporting community members who wish to continue to grow and advance in their chosen fields of employment," said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook.

Auditors reviewed documents associated with 71 percent of expenditures made with bond funds, which is a higher percentage compared to normal audits due to the large dollar amount associated with capital

expenditures. Purchase orders, approved invoices, bid documentation, contracts, and payments were reviewed and found to be compliant with state regulations and district board policies.

Independent Citizens' Bond Oversight Committee Chairman Fred Arnold commended the district for providing ample documentation to facilitate the independent audit.

"Seventy one percent of an audit is very high," said Arnold. "There's a ton of work that goes into documenting all of this for the whole community. I commend the college and am grateful to fellow committee members for volunteering their time. I am honored to serve with you."

Several other committee members said it was an honor to be associated with the college and expressed appreciation for all the hard work on the part of staff for ensuring that bond funds are used appropriately to complete facility projects that benefit students and the community.

The audit showed \$21 million of Measure E funds spent during 2020-21, primarily on construction of the Student Services/Learning Resources Center and the Don Takeda Science Center at the college's Canyon Country campus.

"I want to take a moment to thank Business Services managers and staff, as well as Mr. Jim Schrage, for their excellent efforts in ensuring that this audit is done in the way that was just described by the auditors, as we didn't have any findings or issues with the audit," said Sharlene Coleal, assistant superintendent vice president of business services at the college.

Schrage, assistant superintendent/vice president of facilities at the college, praised the college's business services department for its fiscal acumen.

"They do a spectacular job," said Schrage. "To get a no-comment financial audit year after year after year—they are to be applauded for their work on this."

Since 2017, the college has spent a total of \$104 million of Measure E bond revenue, according to the audit. Funded projects include the parking structure at the Valencia campus, along with the Central Energy Plant, Science Center, and Student Services/Learning Resources Center at the Canyon Country campus, as well as repairs and modernization of existing campus facilities.

Local voters approved Measure E in June 2016, providing the college with \$230 million to invest in facilities upgrades.

## **FEDERAL FUNDING**

FROM PAGE 1

to expand its capacity to train and provide work-based learning experience to new entry and mid-career firefighter workers and technicians.

The Regional Fire Academy training and certifications provided by COC will streamline and expedite worker entry to middle-skill jobs while helping regional and statewide fire organizations close the widening skill gap.

COC's Regional Fire Academy meets the standards of an Accredited Regional Training Program (ARTP), designated by the Office of the California State Fire Marshal (CSFM). As an ARTP, College of the Canyons' Regional Fire Academy can deliver a CSFM Accredited Fire Fighter I/II Academy.

The bicameral efforts of Sen. Padilla and Rep. Garcia led to the successful securement of \$1 million in community project funding for a Robotics Automation Production Lab and Simulation Center at the college.

The funding will go toward purchasing ad-

vanced manufacturing equipment necessary to provide training and increase capacity in advanced manufacturing within the Robotic Automation Production Lab and Simulation Center housed in the college's Advanced Technology Center (ATC).

The center will provide state-of-the-art technical training to more than 300 students per year for high-skill jobs in advanced manufacturing/computerized machining, welding/material joining, robotic welding, integrated personal fabrication, integration with the Internet of Things (IoT), and construction technologies.

"This project will continue the college's demonstrated history of creating a supportive community network to help students successfully navigate pathways from high school to college and eventually to employment in high-wage, high-demand fields," said Harriet Happel, dean of career education, integrative learning, and the Employment Center at the college.

## **AWARD**

FROM PAGE 9

- Participation as a presenter on a procurement topic at a conference
- Implementation of a cooperative procurement strategy

In 1995, NPI established the AEP program in order to recognize organizational excellence in public procurement.

At COC, the CPRM department ensures that the procurement of all goods and services is in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Board of Trustees, the California Public Contract Code, the California Education Code, and other applicable state laws.

The award-winning department also works to confirm that in any purchase transaction, the requirements for competition have been met, bidding and negotiation have been conducted in accordance with applicable policies, and no conduct of compromise to the public trust is present.

## TECHNOLOGY

FROM PAGE 3

and include, in addition to enhanced safety, a demonstrable increase in student engagement and collaboration. All in all, COC's paperless microbiology labs are better preparing our students for careers in the health sciences where they will be using some of the same technologies while caring for patients that have infectious diseases."

Ramey was able to establish paperless microbiology laboratories at COC by incorporating technology into the labs that students interact with. For example, every microbiology student at COC has their own lab-dedicated iPad and Apple pencil that allow them to access the digital open education resource (OER) lab manual and other web-based resources, take notes, and share data with their lab partners, as well as their own specialized microscope with an advanced camera system that allows them to view and take pictures of their specimens using their iPad. Students can then access all of their lab notes, data, and pictures from anywhere via their cloud-based OneDrive accounts.

"Dr. Ramey and the biology department have done an amazing job creating an interactive learning space for our students where they can experience a state-of-the-art laboratory environment," said James Temple, vice president of information technology at the college. "It was a pleasure to collaborate with Dr. Ramey to integrate and modify the technology tools necessary to make the paperless lab a reality at College of the Canyons."

COC's first paperless microbiology laboratory was established in the fall of 2021 with the opening of the Don Takeda Science Center at the Canyon Country campus. As of this semester, the microbiology lab at the Valencia campus has also been converted to a paperless lab so that all COC microbiology students have the same enhanced learning experience, regardless of which campus they attend. This was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the College's Biological and Environmental Sciences and Information Technology (IT) departments.

"I wish to congratulate Dr. Shane Ramey and the biology department for receiving this statewide award," said Dr. Omar Torres, chief instructional officer at the college. "Their efforts to go above and beyond to ensure the safety of students while also introducing them to working in a Biosafety Level 2 environment is to be commended."

## EDISON

FROM PAGE 5

present and future fire personnel.

"The Edison Grant also provides our program with resources to purchase uniforms, firefighting gear, and equipment," said Kawamoto. "Edison's support allows us to equip our students with the knowledge, skills, abilities they need along their journey toward becoming first responders. We very much appreciate Edison's continued support of the COC Fire Technology Program and the Fire Service."

College of the Canyons offers fire technology courses within the School of Mathematics, Sciences & Health Professions to help provide ample fire department staffing to battle California's wildfires.

This program offers certificate/degree opportunities for both pre-service individuals and in-service professionals who seek career advancement. COC fire technology courses align with the uniform curriculum established by California Community Colleges.

## STUDENT VOTING

FROM PAGE 8

voter participation clearly correlates to the convenience of voting. The college secured a Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk drop-off ballot box for early voting at the Valencia campus, followed in late elections by an on-campus Vote Center and most recently with a Mobile Vote Center, all of which were open to students, as well as the surrounding community.

"College student voter turnout has increased since 2016, and this increase has been driven by students. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge is excited to expand our ALL IN Student Voting Honor Roll to recognize these student voting champions across the country," said Jennifer Domagal-Goldman, executive director of the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge. "These students registered voters, served on their campus voting coalitions, spearheaded voter

## ACBO AWARD

FROM PAGE 10

accomplishments complement precisely the stellar community of past recipients and make her highly deserving of the honor."

Coleal's service to the district also includes serving as a mentor for district leadership programs and aspiring leaders. She provides administrative oversight for the district's Budget, Payroll, Fiscal,

## HISPANIC

FROM PAGE 8

Accepted students enroll in a one-year sequence of courses with priority registration, preceded by a week-long summer boot camp to learn skills needed to be a successful college student.

Canyons Promise courses are offered with the benefits of free Open Educational Resources to use as textbooks, peer mentors, and other learning community elements. To ensure students remain on track, ongoing counseling and student support is also offered. Additionally, Canyons Promise students receive a parking pass or city bus pass.

The Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine's annual ranking is based on total student enrollment, the percentage of Hispanic students in attendance, two-year schools awarding the most associate degrees to Hispanic students, and the percentage of associate degrees to Hispanic students by two-year schools.

education efforts, advocated for campus polling locations and organized other voter engagement efforts to ensure their peers were confident and informed voters. We are excited to see what they continue to accomplish ahead of the 2022 midterms."

The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge empowers colleges and universities to achieve excellence in nonpartisan student democratic engagement. Campuses that join the ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge complete a set of action items, with the support of ALL IN Challenge staff, to institutionalize nonpartisan civic learning, political engagement, and voter participation on their campus. The ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge currently engages more than 9 million students from more than 950 institutions in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Grants and, Contracts/Procurement departments and serves as the treasurer and board member for the College of the Canyons Foundation. She has participated in numerous State Chancellor's Office committees and workgroups and has been active in statewide advocacy throughout her years in the system.



# CINEMA INSTRUCTOR RECEIVED ANNIE AWARD

College of the Canyons cinema instructor Mindy Johnson received the prestigious June Foray Honor at the 50th Annie Awards on Feb. 25 at UCLA Royce Hall.

The juried award is given to individuals who have made a significant and benevolent or charitable impact on the art and industry of animation.

"I was completely gob smacked," said Johnson about hearing the news. "I did not expect it at all. When I got the call, I was in complete shock."

Johnson is being recognized for her expertise, continued research and ground-breaking discoveries into the earliest women and under-represented groups in the animation and film industry.

"By exposing the past, I try to illuminate the future and cause change," said Johnson. "Change in the industry is happening, but it's moving slowly."

Her latest discovery is believed to be the earliest surviving hand-drawn animation, animated and directed by a woman: Bessie Mae Kelley, a pioneering animator who worked with Bray Studios in late 1917.

Thanks to Kelley's grandnephew who had stored the film, Johnson was able to restore two of her surviving films.



"This discovery completely changes our entire cinematic history," said Johnson. "It challenges the myth that women were not present at the dawn of the animation industry."

Johnson's forthcoming book "The Only Woman Animator: Bessie Mae Kelley & Women at the Dawn of an Industry" introduces Kelley's work to the world and highlights her early contributions to the animation industry.

Johnson, who has been teaching film studies and film history at COC as an adjunct instructor for 20 years, also teaches animation history at CalArts and Drexel University.

"The cinema studies program and the School of Humanities are so very proud to count Mindy among our ranks," said Andy McCutcheon, dean of the college's School of Humanities. "I can't think of a more deserving recipient of this prestigious award. Mindy is not only a ground-breaking, recognized scholar in her field, she is also an amazing teacher who inspires our students through her example, especially women who aspire to a career in the fields of cinema studies, animation, or film making."

"It's still sinking in," said Johnson. "To receive that acknowledgement industry-wide is profound. I am deeply honored. It will continue to reverberate for years to come."

## DEIA AWARD

FROM PAGE 10

The college has 9 different groups working on IDEAA initiatives:

- Institutional Effectiveness and Institutional Excellence (IE)2 focuses on student equity and achievement
- Center for Teaching and Learning (CETL) trains faculty on culturally relevant pedagogy
- Equity Minded Practitioners focuses on equity in the classroom from an instructional perspective
- Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee focuses on the District EEO Plan
- Call to Action Coalition, a cross-functional group that ensures progress on the State Chancellor's Call to Action Goals
- Cultural Diversity Advancement Team coordinates district-wide events among several campus groups
- Multicultural Center Committee oversees planning for the Multicultural Center including training and event offerings
- Dreamers Taskforce focuses on needs



On hand for the presentation of the award were COC and ACHRO/EEO representatives, including (from left): Christine Phillips, Chen Yu Hou, Flavio Medina-Martin, Diane Fiero, Lauren Helsper, Miranda Zamudio, Rian Medlin, TreShawn Hall-Baker, Juli Mosier, Charo Albarran, and Abdimalik Bull.

- of undocumented students
- Anti-Racism Speaker Series Group plans for diverse speaker events and book series

IDEAA components have also been included in the college's Faculty, Classified and Administrative Development Committees, Leadership Education in Action Program (LEAP), and College Planning Team.

The college has also created nine student alliances, which are affinity groups where

students can learn to navigate college, connect with faculty and staff mentors, and meet with resource specialists. Currently, the college alliances include Adult Reentry Alliance (ARA), African American/Black Student Alliance (BSA), Autism Social Alliance, Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA), LatinX Alliance, Native American & Indigenous Alliance (NAIA), STEM Equity Alliance (SEA), Trans Alliance, and the Veteran's Alliance Organization (VALOR).



**Santa Clarita Community College District**  
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Santa Clarita, CA 91355

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