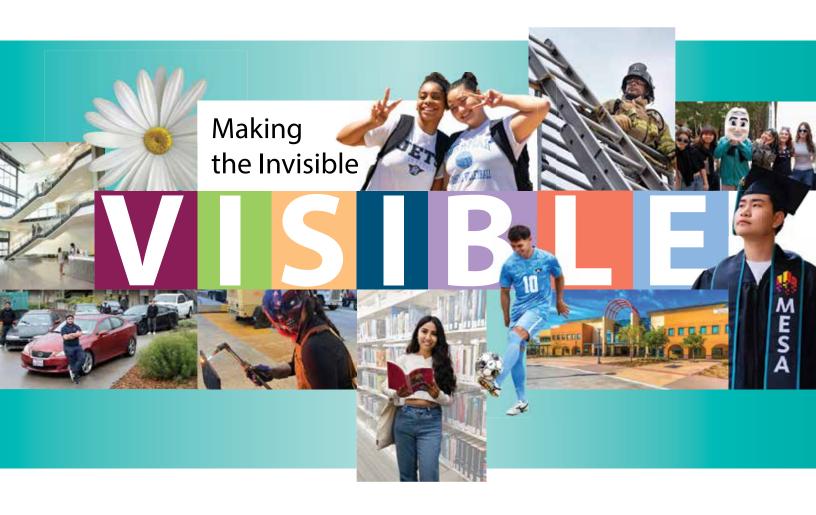
### **2024-2025 Annual Report**





### About San Diego Miramar College





### **About San Diego Miramar College**

One of three credit colleges within the San Diego Community College District, San Diego Miramar College offers associate degrees, certificates of completion, and the first two years of a bachelor's degree. Founded in 1969, and located in Mira Mesa, the college serves 16,000 students annually with 42 programs that offer 75 associate degrees and 97 career technical education certificates.

Partnerships with local industry and the City and County of San Diego prepare students for high demand and well-paying careers in the highly competitive labor market, including biotechnology, paralegal (ABA approved), aviation (FAA-certified), automotive, diesel and advanced transportation and energies. Miramar College is home to the Southern California Biotechnology Center, Advanced Transportation and Energy Center and the San Diego Regional Public Safety Institute, which comprises the San Diego Law Enforcement Academy and the Fire Technology & EMT program. Since 1969, the college has provided training for nearly all law enforcement and firefighters in San Diego County. Miramar College is accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) through 2031.

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### Making the Invisible Visible: A Year of Growth and Impact at Miramar College

I am pleased to share with you this Report to the Community and some highlights from the 2024-2025 academic year.

This past academic year put us a step closer to our vision to offer a campus that makes the invisible, visible. We recently upgraded and opened a full-service Veterans Resource Center. Miramar College went from offering our Veterans and active duty military a small room across from the Admissions Office to a state of the art facility located in the I-Building. With our close proximity to MCAS Miramar it just made sense that we make this resource center a reality. In addition, this funding has allowed Miramar College to provide an upgrade to its satellite teaching facility at Marine Corp Air Station Miramar (MCAS).

Each year, Miramar College educates over 2,000 Veterans, active duty military and their dependents.

Our faculty and staff spent this past year, working tirelessly, to prepare curriculum for our first ever baccalaureate degree, which will debut with a cohort of 50 students in the fall of 2025. Miramar College debuted a Bachelor's of Science degree in Public Safety Management. This degree will align perfectly with our already robust Regional Public Safety Training Institute which educates most of San Diego's First Responders.

Miramar College is also doing its part to make the community a greener place, especially when it comes to our Best-in-Class Automotive program. The College received a \$270,800 Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. government's independent science agency. The three-year grant will fund the college's Zero Emission Vehicle Initiative to support future automotive technicians. It will also prompt faculty members at the college to provide ideas to improve technician education.

In December, six young women graduated from a unique program that removes the financial barriers that often prevent women from becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

The Earn While You Learn program is a partnership between AMR (ambulance service) and Miramar College. Under the program, AMR covered the cadets' expenses for tuition and books, and paid them for the hours they attended class, as well as the time they spent in the field shadowing AMR paramedics and EMTs as they respond to actual emergencies. Cadets were also offered medical, dental, vision and 401(k) benefits. With the support of the Conrad Prebys Foundation and other private donors, Miramar College is covered the cadets' national EMT exam and credentialing fees.

And once again our degree and certificate numbers rose, thus demonstrating how Miramar College is preparing our students for their next step in either their educational journey or career.

What a successful year!

Sincerely,

PA.A

Dr. Wesley Lundburg, President, San Diego Miramar College



www.sdmiramar.edu President's Message 3



#### **Mission Statement**

San Diego Miramar College's mission is to prepare students to succeed by providing quality instruction and services in an environment that supports and promotes success, diversity, inclusion, and equity with innovative programs and partnerships to facilitate student completion for degrees/certificates, transfer, workforce training, and/or career advancement.

#### **Vision Statement**

San Diego Miramar College will be the center of education innovation, and services to support our diverse students and community.

San Diego Miramar College, in keeping with this vision, supports and emphasizes the following guiding values:

- Access to learning and support services, for all students to successfully achieve their educational and career goals
- A culture that embraces and promotes equity, inclusion, civility, responsibility, sustainability, from a global perspective
- Diversity, equity, inclusion and success of our students, classified professionals, faculty, administrators, and programs that reflect our community
- Creativity, innovation, flexibility, and excellence in teaching, learning, and services
- The ability to recognize and respond to opportunities and challenges emerging from a complex and dynamic world
- Strategic resource and partnership development to support curriculum and program innovation
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Effective participation in governance with respect and professionalism, through intentional, purposeful and effective communication embraced by the college community
- Transformative processes that include a culture of evidence, collaborative inquiry, and action for promoting student success

### Student Body President on Track to Fulfill Dreams of Going to Law School



Political science major Hailey Hua, who is of Chinese descent, is hopeful to be a well-rounded representative for the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community. She always had a clear goal to enroll at Miramar College and to transfer within the University of California (UC) system to later go to law school.

Hua took an interest in government while in high school. A graduate of Canyon Crest Academy, she dabbled in politics, government, and journalism. "Although it was really rigorous, I enjoyed it. I learned a lot more beyond just the Constitution of the United States," she said.

The experience inspired Hua, 19, to get involved with her local community to help minority populations like her and to join the Associated Student Government (ASG) of her then future college.

Although well qualified for admission into top universities Hua's first-choice was Miramar College, which she began in fall 2023. "Going to a community college allows you to explore yourself at an affordable cost and to gain different opportunities than a four-year university. You can get to know your professors and your student government more personally."

Miramar College continued to impress Hua. "They have a lot of resources for immigrants such as EOPS which benefits first-generation students," she said. "There is so much to take advantage of within the community college system. I knew I wanted to be a part of their student government before I even started college."

During her first semester, Hua joined the college's ASG as Senator and was elected president for the 2024-2025 academic year, as well as serves as the college's student representative on the San Diego Community College District Board of Trustees.

"Every member of AS, no matter their role, has been welcoming. My peers are so ready to take action and that inspires me." As a result, Hua and her team have seen critical changes take place across institutions working directly with Region X, the Student Senate for California Community Colleges and Region 10, a statewide effort to strengthen California's early learning and care system to support young children and their families.

Hua interned for Congresswoman Sara Jacobs and Councilmember Marni von Wilpert. She advises her fellow classmates, "maximize your college experience, get involved, don't just hope it will go by because it will go by fast and there are a lot of opportunities."

Hua graduated in spring 2025 with plans to transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles to study political science and thereafter pursue a Juris Doctor degree.



I am still wrapping my head around the fact that our elected officials and people in power actually want to listen to students and what our needs are," said Hua, who as a student trustee participated in state and federal lobbying in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. "Every district and college should have advocacy opportunities."



### **Newly Expanded Veterans Resource Center**

On Feb. 26, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on campus to celebrate the grand opening of the newly expanded Veterans Resource Center (VRC). The ceremony featured guest speakers, the Mira Mesa High School Junior Air Force ROTC color guard, and a performance by the 3rd Marine Aircraft Band from Miramar Corp Air Station Miramar.

The newly expanded Veterans Resource Center is located on the ground floor of the English Building (I-104).

Former California State Representative Brian Maienschein attended the event and was presented with a plaque honoring his leadership, which back in October of 2022, led to the funding used to enhance the VRC. Then State Assemblymember for the 77th California Assembly District, Maienschein secured \$2.5 million in funds from the California 2022-2023 budget. "This is going to provide a tremendous amount of resources for Veterans in our region," said Maienschein. "If you look at it, in the state of California very often times Veterans are an overlooked group, and community college students are an overlooked group, and here we are able to combine the funds to help both of them, and that's what makes today extra special."

This funding has provided enhanced services and infrastructure to the College's military community, which totaled 2,500 military affiliated students during the last academic year. The new construction has expanded the VRC facility from a roughly 1,000 square foot space to roughly 3,000 square feet. The facility is now equipped with new furniture, private study and meeting rooms, a technology room, and a student lounge. Expanded services include: peer mentoring; tutoring; admissions support; orientation; expanded access to VA benefits; and mental health counseling services. Additionally, the VRC will now house the very first full-time counselor dedicated to our Veterans, with additional academic and career counseling hours to support.

In addition, this funding allows Miramar College to upgrade to its satellite teaching facility at Marine Corp Air Station Miramar (MCAS).

"This funding has allowed us to provide improved services and infrastructure to better support our military community," said



Former California State Representative Brian Maienschein helped cut the ribbon to the newly expanded Veterans Resource Center.

Ron Felix, Miramar College Student Services Technician at MCAS Miramar.

"Specifically, we have been able to expand our footprint at the satellite office at MCAS Miramar, enabling us to upgrade all technology and furniture, ensuring our spaces are both functional and welcoming. We are grateful for this investment in our military students and are excited to see the positive impact these improvements will have on their educational experience."

Each year San Diego Miramar College provides a comprehensive set of enrollment and student support services to approximately 2,500 veterans, active duty military and their dependents through its Veteran Resource Center (VRC).



The military community is a distinct culture," said Gregory Smith, chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. "And in order to best serve our military community, we need to intentionally create spaces where people can come together, be in a community, create belonging, and have success."

### Partnership with AMR Produces 6 All-Female EMT Graduates

Six young women graduated Dec. 18, 2024 from a unique program that removes the financial barriers that often prevent women from becoming an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

The Earn While You Learn program is a partnership between AMR (ambulance service) and Miramar College. Under the program, AMR covered the cadets' expenses for tuition and books, and paid them for the hours they attended class, as well as the time they spent in the field shadowing AMR paramedics and EMTs as they respond to actual emergencies. Cadets were also offered medical, dental, vision and 401(k) benefits. With the support of the Conrad Prebys Foundation and other private donors, Miramar College covered the cadets' national EMT exam and credentialing fees.

Because women are under-represented in the field of emergency medical services, AMR and Miramar College accepted only female applicants, making it the first all-female EMT academy in the region. Nationally, women make up only about one-third of all EMTs.

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The program was a huge accomplishment for me," said 20-year graduate Camryn Leon. "I never even thought this opportunity would be available to someone like me. They made this entire program an amazing experience. I got to become close to these amazing ladies and I am excited to make a difference."

During the 16-week academy, which began in Sept. 2024 at Miramar College, the six cadets learned a wide variety of EMT skills, including driving an ambulance, delivering a baby, performing CPR, using an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), and administering an EpiPen to someone experiencing a life-threatening allergic reaction.

Upon completing the academy and passing an exam administered by the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians, the six were hired by AMR, the largest ambulance transport company in the nation.

"We are truly grateful for the opportunity to partner with AMR, as this collaboration was essential to our students' success," said Dr. Jacqueline Hester, dean of the School of Public Safety



These six graduates completed the Earn While You Learn program—a powerful partnership between AMR and Miramar College that covered their tuition, paid them to train, and supported them every step of the way.

at Miramar College. "The financial support provided was not just a number; it was a vital lifeline for our students who have completed our EMT program, especially those who faced financial challenges. This assistance allowed them to fully engage in their journey, offering invaluable educational and learning opportunities. Together, we are dedicated to closing the equity gap for women pursuing careers in emergency medical services. We take immense pride in the achievements of all the young women who completed the EMT program at Miramar College."

The graduation ceremony took place in Kearny Mesa at AMR's regional headquarters.

#### **COYA Grant**

Miramar College received a prestigious California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship Grant (COYA) from The California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and its Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS). This significant grant is part of the state's initiative to enhance pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships, providing youth with opportunities to enter and progress in high-quality careers.



Miramar College was one of 51 projects funded by The California Department of Industrial Relations for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The College received \$286,715. This funding has been earmarked to identify barriers to careers in the Fire Service.

The grant establishes San Diego Miramar College as a pre-apprenticeship program linking with the Statewide California Joint Apprenticeship Program and regional Fire Departments, including San Diego Fire-Rescue. The intent of the planning grant links recruitment of opportunity youth programs across the region, including underserved communities, promoting education and training for careers in the fire service in the development of a future application for a (COYA) implementation grant to secure funding for expenses related to the fire academy and support services ensuring student success.

The Fire Protection Technology program at Miramar College is a comprehensive program that offers degrees and certificates in various fields related to fire protection, rescue, and public safety technology. This program provides students with the skills and knowledge they need to succeed in their chosen careers.

The Miramar College Firefighter 1 Academy offers students the option of earning their State Fire Training Firefighter I Certification, required for entry-level employment, by attending a "cohort" of courses on campus. Two cohorts are hosted each academic year.

### Ron Felix Awarded Marine and Family "Making A Difference Award"



Ron Felix, Miramar College Student Services Technician at MCAS Miramar, was presented with the Marine and Family "Making a Difference Award" at MCAS on Jan. 31, 2025.

Ron's ability to see the importance of collaboration to achieve a bigger goal and his willingness to

assist others to accomplish that goal is the true essence of team work.

Ron Felix embodies the essence of teamwork through his remarkable ability to see the importance of collaboration in achieving bigger goals. His willingness to assist others and ensure their success exemplifies true dedication and commitment.

With over 20 years of service in military education, Ron has made an indelible impact on countless service members and their dependents, helping them achieve their educational aspirations. Ron's tireless efforts, patience, and care have guided countless individuals through their journeys, ensuring they always felt supported.

His extraordinary dedication was especially evident in the revitalization of classes held on base after the COVID-19 pandemic. While many institutions struggled to fill in-person classes, Ron's persistence and expertise brought programs back to life. Within a year, every class was full, a testament to his hard work and passion for education.

### ATE Grant for Zero Emission Vehicle Training

Miramar College received a \$270,800 Advanced Technological Education (ATE) grant from the National Science Foundation, the U.S. government's independent science agency.

The three-year grant will fund the college's Zero Emission Vehicle Initiative to support future automotive technicians. It will also prompt faculty members at the college to provide ideas to improve technician education.

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I'm thrilled that our Automotive Program is so highly thought of within the industry, both regionally and nationally, that the National Science Foundation would entrust us with this funding," said Dr. Wesley Lundburg, president of San Diego Miramar College. "It is our mission to prepare students for the future and nothing addresses future needs in the automotive industry than zero-emission vehicles. With California moving toward requiring these types of vehicles by 2035, we are now moving toward being a trusted educator in the field."

The Zero Emission Vehicle Initiative, according to Principal Investigator Martin Kennedy and Co-Principal Investigator Ryan Monroy, professor of Automotive Technology at San Diego Miramar College, will make education on zero-emission vehicles a reality for technicians and independent repair shops in the region. Previously, many of these shops, along with their technicians from underserved communities, had no access to this training. As principal investigator, Kennedy will lead the new initiative with Professor Monroy along with the support of the dean of the School of Business, Technical Careers, and Workforce Initiatives, Claudia Estrada-Howell.

Miramar College will be collaborating with the newly formed ZEV advisory committee, which includes over 25 organizations, Mobilize Summit (400 faculty, fleets, and industry), and the San Diego Automotive Teachers Community of Practice.

Professors Kennedy and Monroy, along with Special Projects Manager Jonathan Kropp, began preparing the grant



Professors Kennedy and Monroy, along with Special Projects Manager Jonathan Kropp prepared the grant proposal

proposal in 2020 with mentoring and technical support from Mentor-Connect, which provides mentoring and technical resources to help two-year college faculty write competitive grant proposals. Mentor-Connect is an ATE project led by Florence-Darlington Technical College in partnership with the American Association of Community Colleges.

Mentor-Connect was instrumental in Miramar College obtaining this grant. They provided two conferences along with endless support to ensure our grant proposal was successful.

The ATE program focuses on the education of technicians who work in high-tech fields that drive the nation's economy. Because two-year community and technical colleges are the leading sources of technician education in the United States, faculty from these higher education institutions have had leadership roles in most ATE projects since the program began in 1993.

### 2024 Excellence in Placement Award Winner

The Campaign for College Opportunity announced 20 California Community Colleges as honorees of the 2024 Excellence in Placement Award and Miramar College is one of the 20.

The Campaign for College Opportunity is a California non-profit bipartisan policy and research organization focused on a single mission: to ensure all Californians have an equal opportunity to attend and succeed in college in order to build a vibrant workforce, economy and democracy.

Miramar College received its Excellence in Placement honor for Campuswide Transfer-Level English Success. Miramar College was one of the state's top 3 community colleges in supporting the highest percent of students completing transfer-level English within one year of their initial enrollment in an English course (academic year 2022-23).

Community college campuses were honored for implementing landmark equitable placement policy AB 705, championed by Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin and signed into law in 2017. Many colleges are also being recognized with equity designations for supporting Black and Latinx students to succeed in transfer-level math and English. Students have historically faced significant obstacles in the transfer process between community colleges and four-year universities, including a lack of accessibility to transfer-level English and math classes required for transfer and confusing mazes of requirements to access the University of California (UC) or California State University (CSU). Research has shown that only 19% of transfer-intending community college students do so within four years of enrollment—with significant underrepresentation of transfer-intending Latinx and Black students.



#### **Excellence in Placement Honorees**

Campuswide Transfer-Level English Success – Top three California Community Colleges in supporting the highest percent of students completing transfer-level English within one year of their initial enrollment in an English course (academic year 2022-23).

Skyline College, De Anza College, and San Diego Miramar College.

### Moore Named Region 10 Woman of the Year

Jeanette Moore, administrative assistant for Lou Ascione, dean of the School of Liberal Arts, was selected as 2025 Classified Professional-Woman of the Year by the San Diego Chapter American Association for Women in Community Colleges. This award is given annually to a woman at each campus who demonstrates exceptional leadership and advocacy for women in Region X community colleges, the community, and for those who have been marginalized in education. It is a prestigious honor that serves to recognize great leaders.



In March of 2025, the San Diego City Council celebrated Women's History Month to acknowledge the achievements of women, the barriers that have been broken, and the challenges that still remain in the face of gender inequality.

On March 18, the City Council recognized ten incredible women who are making history in San Diego, among them, the

Mayor Todd Gloria presented the certificate

honoree from District 2 was Shelly Parks, Basic Needs Coordinator at Miramar College and the President of the Ocean Beach Community Foundation (OBCF). Parks stepped up to lead the OBCF during a tumultuous time, keeping this important OB community organization intact. The OBCF sponsors many beloved traditions such as the Holiday Parade, Iconic Crooked Tree, Food and Toy Drive, Taste of OB Restaurant Walk, and the annual Pancake Breakfast.

Outside of all the great work she does in Ocean Beach, Parks has decades of experience working in the local nonprofit sector. She has served with Jewish Family Service, as the Director of Programs at the San Diego Food Bank, 211 San Diego's CIE National Team, and currently as the Basic Needs Coordinator at San Diego Miramar College. Parks is a licensed clinical social worker and has a Master of Social Work from SDSU.

### Maria Battisti Vice President of **Administrative Services**

Maria Battisti was hired in June 2025 as the new Vice President of Administrative Services (VPA).

Service has been the foundation of Battisti's professional journey. She began her career in the United States

Air Force, where she developed a deep appreciation for discipline, integrity, and a commitment to a greater purpose. These values continue to guide her leadership philosophy. After completing her military service, she transitioned into public education, joining the California Community College system in 2013.

Since then, Battisti has dedicated her career to advancing student success and institutional effectiveness through sound fiscal stewardship and collaborative leadership. She rose through the ranks of business services, acquiring a comprehensive understanding of financial operations, and has served for five years as a Vice President of Finance and Administrative Services. Her leadership portfolio includes oversight of budgeting, facilities planning, fiscal accountability, and strategic resource allocation.

Her experience also includes a role in the K-12 sector as Chief Business Official for an elementary school district, where she gained a broader understanding of the educational continuum and reaffirmed her belief in the importance of equity, access, and responsible resource management at all levels of public education.

Battisti holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and a master's degree in business administration (MBA), both of which have



### **LaChaune DuHart** Director of Militaru Affairs and Militaru **Education**

LaChaune DuHart was hired as Miramar College's first ever Director of Veterans Affairs and Military Education, overseeing both the Veterans Resource Center (VRC) and Marine Corps Air Station operations.



Born and raised in Detroit, DuHart served with distinction in the United States Army as a 68T Animal Care specialist/non-commissioned officer. Her military career took her to diverse locations before a medical retirement following her service at Fort Carson, Colorado.

DuHart holds an associate's degree in social work, a bachelor's degree in social work and Sociology, and a master's degree in social work. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and Ph.D. candidate in social work at Colorado State University, she combines clinical expertise with scholarly rigor.

Some of her relevant experience in higher education includes roles as a VA student employee, VA School Certifying Official, Transition and Support coordinator, and assistant director of Veteran Recruitment & Outreach. Most recently, DuHart served as Director of Veterans Services at the University of Northern Colorado while concurrently working as an adjunct professor for the Colorado State School of Social Work.



# Jeffrey Orgera Named Dean of Academic Services

Dean Orgera will have oversight of the School of Academic Services, which includes Library and Tutoring Services, High School programs, Marine



Corps Air Station, Personal Growth, Honors, International Education, and Online Learning & Technology.

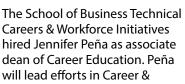
Dr. Orgera's experience reflects the college's commitment to Miramar 2.0 with his extensive background in advancing student success and equitable outcomes.

In his former positions, his work has been centered in serving students, designing and delivering academic success services, and engaging a campus community, which aligns with the "heart" work and the "why" of the Miramar College mission.

Dr. Orgera strives to be a visible leader who always advocates for all students, especially underrepresented, and designs structures that help them connect, progress, and feel a sense of belonging and purpose. He is a proponent of exploring opportunities and collaborating with colleagues.

Dean Orgera started his career in the community college system as an academic advisor and adjunct faculty teaching Psychology. He pursued degrees in Educational Psychology and Higher Education Administration— a great combination to build a foundation, scaffold, and integrate teaching and learning.

### Jennifer Peña Named Associate Dean of Career Education





Life Design Services and oversee key career education initiatives, including the Strong Workforce Program (SWP), Perkins, and other grants and special projects that support student career development and workforce alignment.

A dedicated higher education professional, Peña brings over a decade of experience in career development, student success, and workforce partnerships. She has a strong track record of managing large-scale budgets, securing competitive grant funding, and fostering strategic collaborations that connect students to meaningful career pathways. Her leadership is rooted in a deep commitment to equity, continuous improvement, and student-centered innovation. Peña previously served in the acting associate dean role for seven months, where she provided strong leadership during a time of transition.

Since joining Miramar College in 2019, she has served in several impactful roles supporting Outreach, student retention, and program development. She is widely recognized for creating inclusive, welcoming environments and leading initiatives that uplift historically underrepresented students. As a proud first-generation college graduate, Peña is deeply passionate about access and opportunity, and she works to ensure all students feel seen, supported, and empowered to thrive.





### Men's and Women's Swimming

Miramar College fielded a men's and women's swim team for the first team during the '24-'25 academic term. And what a first year it was:

The women's team took 2nd at the PCAC Championship.

The men's team took 3rd place at the PCAC Championships (8 points from 2nd ).  $\blacksquare$ 



**Miramar Women's Swim Team** 



Miramar Men's Swim Team



### Jets Swim Qualifies for State in First Season

In its first year as a program, the women's swim team earned a spot at the 2025 3C2A State Championship, with five athletes qualifying to compete at Santa Rosa Junior College from May 1–3. Emma Fritz, Sofie Salazar, Catrina Leon, Nalani Galindo, and Emmalea Roberson represented the Jets at the meet after a strong showing throughout the regular season.

#### **Individual Event Oualifiers**

Three swimmers qualified for individual events by finishing the season ranked among the top 16 in the state in their respective races:







**Emma Fritz** 

Sofie Salazar

Nalani Galindo

**Emma Fritz:** 50 Freestyle, 100 Freestyle, 200 Freestyle

**Sofie Salazar:** 100 Individual Medley, 100 Butterfly, 200 Individual Medley

Nalani Galindo: 100 Individual Medley

Their performances reflect the depth and balance of Miramar's young roster.

#### **Relay Team Success**

The Jets also qualified three relay teams for the state meet:

- · 400 Freestyle Relay
- · 400 Medley Relay
- · 800 Freestyle Relay

Relay teams are made up of a combination of the five swimmers and have to rank in the top 16 statewide to qualify. With over 50 colleges fielding women's swim teams in the 3C2A, Miramar's placement is a strong indication of the program's potential moving forward.

### **Engineering Club Places at World Competition**

The Miramar College Engineering Club won 2nd place in their division at the MATE World ROV Championship held June 19-21 in Alpena, MI. The team also took first place for their marketing display.



### Three Miramar College Students Medal at SkillsUSA



**Charles Hammerling** 

**David Barrios-Diaz** 

Adrian Rodriguez

Three Miramar College Diesel Technology students took home medals at the SkillsUSA Regional Diesel Technology competition:

**Charles Hammerling** won the gold medal.

David Barrios-Diaz won the silver medal.

Adrian Rodriguez won the bronze medal.

All three winners moved on to the state competition with a chance to earn a spot at Nationals.

At the State level of SkillsUSA:

Gold: David Barrios-Diaz

Silver: Charles Hammerling
Bronze: Adrian Rodriguez

### Miramar College Alum Presents at National Conference



### 2024-2025 Alumni Success

Miramar College alumna Tracy Naputi attended the 2024 Advanced Technology Education (ATE) Principal Investigators' Conference in Washington, DC in October.

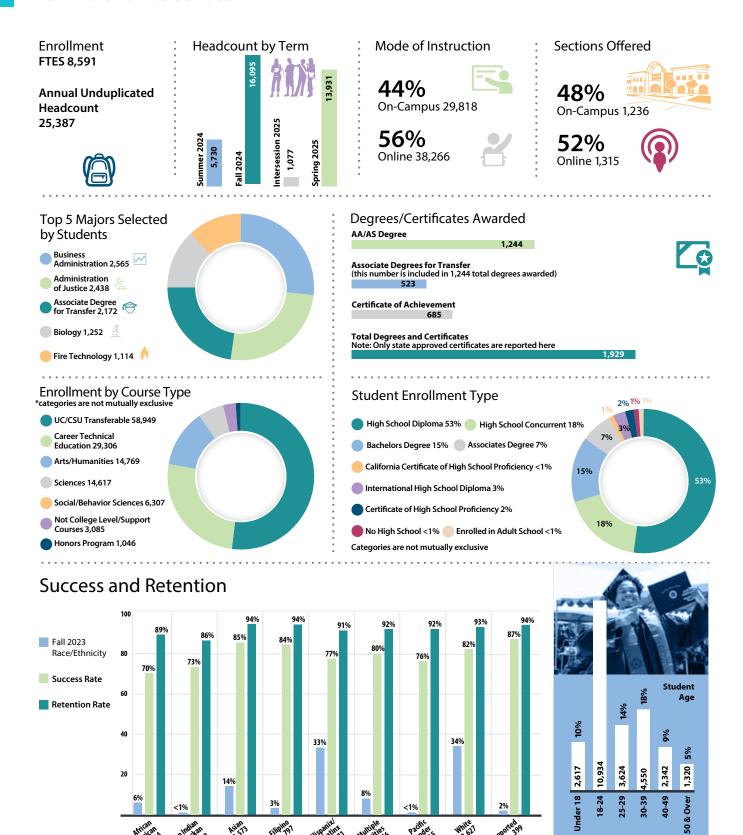
Naputi took part in a panel discussion on Emerging Technologies and the Future of Work - A Students Perspective. The panel discussion focused on how ATE students are navigating and employing emerging technologies from a variety of STEM disciplines.

Naputi also presented a poster detailing her remarkable journey through the biotechnology field, highlighting the challenges and triumphs of pursuing an education and career while raising a family. This journey starts with a certificate program to holding various positions in the industry, to joining the Biotechnology Center Advisory Board, and becoming a Wacker Biotech intern on the Validation Team.

Tracy Naputi is a biotechnology professional with an associate's degree from San Diego Miramar College. She is currently an NSF ExLENT Intern at Wacker Biotech, pursuing her bachelor's degree and aiming for a master's degree in biotechnology. Naputi has held positions in immunoassay development at Biolegend and served as a QC Analyst at Werfen. She serves on the advisory board for the Southern California Biotechnology Center, actively advancing the industry. Dedicated to continuous learning and collaboration, Naputi is eager to engage in discussions, share insights, and explore new opportunities at the ATE Conference.



#### 2024-2025 Numbers & Facts



First generation college students

28%

financial aid

10,167



Student course load Full-Time 1,766 | 7% (24 or more credits)

**DSPS** services

950

4% Students receiving

Part-Time 23,621 | 93% (Fewer than 24 credits) D S P S





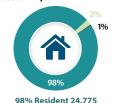


Military Status Total:

4,432 | 17%

Military Spouse or Dependent 1,778 %4

Headcount by Residency Total: 14,972



98% Resident 24,775 2% Non-resident 589 <1% International Student 23



40% Students receiving

Cohort 8 (2023-2024)

695

Cohort 9 (2024-2025)

868

**Total Promise Participants** 

1,563

Employment Status at Time of Application

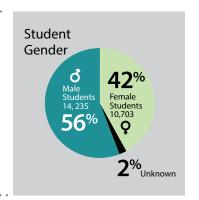
Employed < 40 Hours:

**42%** 

Employed ≥ 40 Hours:

25%

Not Working: 29%



Employees 1,656 (as of July 2025)

Classified Staff | 5%

Non-academic hourly | 21%

Contract Faculty | 8%

Adjunct faculty | 63%

Management | 2%

Supervisory | 1%

Special Admitted Headcount: 2,281 | 9%

CCAP | 1,967 | 8%

Concurrent | 647 | 3%

Employee Gender



Non-binary, unknown, unreported less than 1%





### Online Faculty Awards

The DESC's Recognition of Outstanding Work in Online Teaching for Spring 2025 went to Communications Professor Lisa Brewster and Sociology Professor Piero Weiss!!



**Lisa Brewster** won for her amazing online work teaching COMS 180: Intercultural Communication.

**Piero Weiss** won for his excellence in online teaching of SOCO 101: Principles of Sociology.

Both winners represent Liberal Arts and teach the above named courses asynchronously. Their dedication to online education demonstrate what is possible in learning, leading, and lighting the way to each of our faculty, staff, and students here at Miramar!.



### Bochicchio Earns Cal Coast Educator Grant

Professor **Gina Bochicchio**, from the Physical Sciences Department, received a \$750 Cal Coast Educator STEAM grant. ■



### Dayag Joins Child Development Faculty

**Veronica Dayag** has been a dedicated professional in the field of Early Childhood Education since 2000. She began her educational journey at Palomar

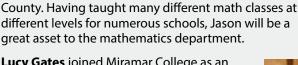


College. Veronica holds both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College. Currently, she is pursuing a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at San Diego State University, which she is set to receive in 2025.

With a rich and varied career, Veronica has served as a preschool teacher, preschool director, director of curriculum, and Principal of a K-8 school. Her experience also includes six years as an adjunct professor, where she has shared her expertise and passion with future educators.

### MBEPS Announces New Faculty

Jason Thoma has been hired as a Math contract faculy. Thoma is a native San Diegan and attended Grossmont College and San Diego State University for both his bachelor's and master's degrees in pure mathematics. Thoma has been an adjunct faculty member in the district since 2017, having worked at both City and Miramar Colleges. Additionally, Jason has been an adjunct faculty member at many other districts and colleges across San Diego



**Lucy Gates** joined Miramar College as an Exercise Science contract faculty member. Gates has made a profound impact during her tenure as an adjunct in the Department of Exercise Science and Athletics. Her exceptional leadership and coaching skills were prominently recognized last year when she was honored as the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference (PCAC) Coach of the Year. This prestigious accolade came on the heels of a triumphant season where she



led the women's water polo team to a conference title, showcasing her ability to inspire and drive her team to success. As the newest contract faculty member in the Exercise Science Department, Lucy will bring her extensive knowledge and passion for fitness and athletics into the classroom, enriching the educational experiences of Miramar students. As the head coach of the women's water polo team and the newly established women's swim team, Lucy is expected to foster a new era of excellence and achievement in Miramar in both the pool and the classroom.

### Romero Named Professor in the Communication Studies

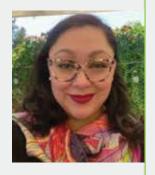
**Professor Torey Romero** is our newest faculty member in the Communication Studies Department in the School of Liberal Arts.



Romero is a San Diego native who attended Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District as a firstgeneration student. Upon completing her Associates Degree for Transfer, Torey transferred to San Diego State University, completed her BA in Communication Studies in 2016, and completed her MA in Communication Studies in 2018. After graduation, Torey served as an adjunct instructor at various community colleges in the San Diego region, including Miramar College. Torey has taught many different courses in the Communication Studies discipline, but she particularly enjoys teaching public speaking as she appreciates the confidence students gain in themselves as their public speaking skills grow. Torey values the relationships she has been able to foster with her students, and she is particularly informed by her experience as a non-traditional student when interacting with the students she serves today.

### Caro Hired as History Professor

Mayela Caro is a public historian specializing in 20th century United States cultural history. Previous to her teaching position, Mayela worked as a curatorial assistant for the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in history at the University of



California, Riverside, which she will be receiving in 2025. Mayela holds a M.A. and B.A. from California State University San Marcos. Mayela deeply values her role as an educator and cherishes the opportunity to engage with and mentor students.

### Morris Hired as Art History Professor

Dr. Meredith Morris (Meggie) is a
San Diego native who took her very first
college class at Miramar while still in
high school. After serving as an adjunct
instructor across San Diego since 2017, she
is thrilled to be joining the Miramar faculty
and the broader SDCCD community in her
new full-time role. She traveled east for
school, receiving her BA from the University of
Richmond in 2006, double majoring in International
Studies and History, with a minor in Spanish. She then
received her MA (2009) and PhD (2014) in The History
of Art and Archaeology from the Institute of Fine Arts, the
graduate art history program of New York University.

### Dr. Mangrum Joins English Department

**Dr. Kya Mangrum** is the newest faculty addition to the English Department. Kya Mangrum was born and raised in Watts, CA. After finishing a three-year course of study at Los Angeles Community College, she completed her Bachelor's degree at the University of California, Berkeley. Kya



taught junior high school and high school English for seven years before returning to school to complete a PhD in English Language and Literature at the University of Michigan.

After her PhD, Kya was awarded a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Cornell University. As an associate professor of English at Westmont College in Santa Barbara she became the first Black woman awarded tenure at that institution. Kya's research focuses on how photography and other visual technologies transformed how formerly enslaved people and their allies wrote about U.S. slavery and its after-lives.

### Rod Porter and David Navarro take gold at the DEKA World Championships

After qualifying for Worlds in three separate events earlier in the year, Rod Porter and David Navarro made it to Ocala, FI for the DEKA World Championships Dec. 13-15, and they took home the gold in the DEKA Strong age-group 120+ teams division. They also took bronze in the DEKA Mile and DEKA Fit.

DEKA, which is Greek for 10, is a fitness competition that has 10 workout stations (lunges, rower, box jumps, medicine ball sit-ups, skierg, farmer carry, assault bike, ball over shoulder, tank push-pull & weighted burpees) with different length runs in between depending on the event; the Fit, Mile, or Strong.



### A Visit to Ireland



Laura Gonzalez along with Mesa's International Education Coordinator, Dora Schoenbrun-Fernandez in Ireland

Miramar College Professor Laura Gonzalez, Miramar College's International Education faculty coordinator, visited Ireland as part of the Institute for Study Abroad Ireland professional development program that individual faculty and classified staff across the district participated in over spring break. Twenty-nine travelers took part over spring break from March 29-April 4.

Gonzalez developed this program with the director of the institute to be both professional development for internationalizing our curriculum and campuses, and also educational in a general way about Ireland's culture and history. The Institute has a curriculum uniquely focusing on community colleges in the US, based on shared narratives with the US, especially civil rights.

The objectives of the program were to:

- Grow faculty and institutional enthusiasm for internationalizing
- Logistics and supports for both online courses and study travel
- Creating collaborative partnerships with other institutions
- Addressing the challenges of internationalizing the curriculum

This program was a combination of workshops, field trips and seminars, in Dublin. ■

### **Soto-Garibay Named Dreamers Office Counselor**

**Gabriela Soto Garibay**, who also goes by Gaby, is the newest counselor in the Dreamers Office!

Gaby brings over 12 years of experience in higher education, where she has supported a variety of student programs aimed at serving diverse student populations through both outreach and in-reach retention efforts.



Her work includes contributions to programs such as First Year Experience, EOPS/CARE, Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) grants, the San Diego Promise, and most recently, the Undocumented Resource Center at San Diego City College.

She began her academic journey at Cuyamaca College, earning her Associate Degree for Transfer in Sociology, before transferring to San Diego State University, where she completed her bachelor's degree in Sociology. Gaby later earned her master's degree in Education with a concentration in Counseling.

As a first-generation college student, Gaby is deeply committed to supporting undocumented students and other underserved communities in higher education. She believes strongly in equitable access to education for all, regardless of immigration status.

In her new role, Gaby supports the Dreamers Office through program development, case management, and academic counseling.

### New Counseling Faculty

**Cristina Garibay-Taylor** has joined DSPS as a full-time contract counselor. Cristina has served as an adjunct in the DSPS Office for the past 8 years. Cristina obtained her Master's of Science in Rehabilitation Counseling from SDSU where she also received her Bachelor's of Science in Criminal Justice. Cristina also has a certificate in Rehabilitation Technology.



### 2024-25 Classified Senate Leadership

President: Malia Kunst

Vice President: Carol Sampaga

Treasurer: Vacant

**Secretary**: Brenda O'Connor (temporary appointment for

spring semester)

**Senators at Large**: Steven Slatten, Bill Pacheco, and Lynne Campbell

Area Senators: Elizabeth Whitsett, Adrian Acain, Adam Vincej,

Rachel Halligan, and Arni Neff

### 2024-25 Academic Senate Executive Team

President: Pablo Martin

Vice-President/President-Elect: Carmen Carrasquillo

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Dawn Diskin

Contract Member at Large: Olivia Flores

Adjunct/Part-Time Member at Large: Desi Klaar

Chair of the Chairs Committee: Kevin Petti

Chair of the Curriculum Committee: Darren Hall

### Miramar College Student Becomes a Champion of Change

Xtopher "X" Ruiz was given two choices once he graduated high school – to join the military or to go to college.

After trying his hand at San Diego Mesa College for a few semesters, Ruiz deployed with the U.S. Navy while raising four children. Years later he went back to school in 2022 to study child development at Miramar College. His studies led him to a rewarding path to aid his community and a job opportunity.

"Miramar College has been an experience to say the least. At first, I was shy and kept my head down but I learned quickly that wasn't the best way to help my peers," said Ruiz. "Every student is on a different walk of life and faces very different struggles. I yearned to be a light for them."

He added, "I identify as an African American male however my partner is a Dreamer so finding an outlet to advance Latinx equality has become important to me."

As Ruiz started to get involved on campus he was disappointed with the lack of sustainability for student led organizations. "When I joined the Black Student Union (BSU) it came to my attention that every club I was in was going to close and I didn't want that. I needed to be a part of creating safe spaces that are here to stay."

In addition to his involvement with the BSU, Ruiz is the vice president for the Miramar College Associated Student Government (ASG) and is a member of the Muse Club, Music Club, Student Veterans Organization, as well as the Latinx conVoces organization, which promotes the well-being and inclusion of Latinx populations in higher education.

Ruiz and his partner, Claudio Nevells, joined ASG together to strengthen their mutual passion for politics and civic engagement. Now in his second term as Vice President, Ruiz is working closely with ASG President Hailey Hua and Senator Nevells to improve campus communication and student wellness.

While Ruiz is a fierce voice for his peer, housing insecurity made him reluctant to continue his leadership roles and his education. "Life outside of school can be daunting. I went through homelessness



and sometimes I wanted to give up," he explained. "What pushed me to keep going is all of the students I meet who share with me that they never experienced milestone moments like prom and that they appreciate all that Miramar is doing for them."

In between academics and volunteering, Ruiz finds time to serve as president of the college's Club Spectrum, a center for LGBTQIA+ students and allies. Following a year of proposing that Miramar College host a queer prom, he saw his goal come to fruition in May. Together with Club Spectrum advisor Laura Gonzales, Dean of Student Affairs Cheryl Barnard, and a student committee, Miramar hosted its inaugural LGBTQIA+ prom with 30 students in attendance.

"Miramar College touches my heart. I didn't know how we would pull off a queer prom and I couldn't have done it without my team," exclaimed Ruiz. "The full support from our district blows my mind. In high school I was a different person. I didn't think my voice mattered, but the fact that in college we have so many ideas come to life is astonishing."

Following the widely successful event, Ruiz was hired as the college's pride project assistant, where he assists the student affairs department with outreach and the development of LGBTQIA+ on campus resources.

"I couldn't believe they employed me after prom for a position they newly created. I am in a role I always wanted to be in. Even as a queer kid in high school, I always wanted to be an ally for other queer kids."

Ruiz has plans to transfer to San Diego State University and to continue his work in higher education and LGBTQIA+ advocacy.



I love the duty of uplifting our president, embodying leadership, and being able to build a system that succeeds, said Ruiz, who is launching the college's first student-run podcast.



# Service Awards Ceremony

### **Presentation of Service Awards**



#### **5-Year Service Awards**

Carol Sampaga Luis Juarez Rodriquez

#### **10-Year Awards**

Anastasia Doan Cleon Platts Jonathan Taddeo Meredith McGill Rachel Martinez Stephen Quis

### 20-Year Awards

Edgar De Los Reyes Herminio Rosas Jessica Aguilar Lily Cava Melanie Cordero Rakena White Val Sacro

### 25-Year Awards

Francine McCorkell Lynna Vo Pamela Phaymany Stacy Aquino Tam "Quy" Nguyen Van Chau



### **Classified Professional's Awards 2024–2025**

These awards are Peer level awards for Classified Professionals open to Supervisors and Staff. The purpose of these awards is to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of Classified Professionals.



### Biggest Fan

Adrian Acain



### The Communicator

Malia Kunst



#### **Dream Team**

Department Award

The Lunch Ladies & Fellas



#### **The Energizer**

Stan Herivaux



#### The Innovator

Elizabeth Whitsett



### The Mentor

Elizabeth Whitsett





### **Rookie of the Year**

Brenda O'Connor



### **Unsung Heroes**

Emilia Manalastas



### Outstanding Classified Professional of the Year

Stan Herivaux

#### 2024-2025 People

**Michelle Phan** hired as Instructional Lab Technician, EMT

**Steven Slatten** hired as the Administrative Assistant IV for the Dean's Office of Business Technical Careers & Workforce Initiatives.

**Elias Lopez** joins Miramar College as Administrative Technician for the LEAD Office.

**Brenda O'Connor** named Administrative Assistant IV position in the Office of the Dean of Mathematics, Biology, Exercise, and Physical Sciences.

**Caleb Varela Johnson** joined Miramar College as our first ever full-time contract faculty counselor at the Veterans Resource Center (VRC).

**Viki Eagle** hired as Director of Native American Student Support & Success Program (NASSSP).

**Alex Blanche** is our newest Physics/ Physical Science Instructional Lab Tech.

**Jessica Kramer** joins Miramar College as Chemistry Instructional Lab Technician.

**Adrian Acain** moves from Instructional Services to Administrative Technician in Athletics

**Michael Tiong** joins Miramar as the adjunct Pride Center Faculty Coordinator.

**Doris Nowsu** joins as Nurse, Health Services.

**Carina Castro** has been hired as Occupational Environmental Health and Safety Coordinator for Administrative Services.

**Haruko Takeshita** is our new accounting technician, Student Accounting.

**Helena Ayersman** joins in the role of EOPS Sr. Student Services Assistant.

Brittany Etheridge, a proud San Diego Miramar College alumna, returns to her educational roots as CARE and CalWORKs counselor.

**Jennifer Pena** was named acting associate dean of Career Education on Sept. 27.

MESA Director **Alex Hofler** has left Miramar College to join San Diego State University.

**Olivia Picolla** joins Miramar College as Acting Director of Promise and Outreach within the Enrollment Services unit.

**Dan Roberts** has been hired as a project manager to run the college's new CRM.

**Temmy Najimy** selected to serve as the Acting Administrative Assistant IV in the Office of Enrollment Services.

**Shelly Parks** hired as Basic Needs Coordinator.

**Christian Soriano** has joined as Administrative Technician/Lead Scheduler for the Instructional Office.

**Melanie Cordero** moves into the role of Program Support Technician for EOPS/CalWORKs.

**Israel Gutierrez Hernandez** joins Miramar College in the role of Program Support Technician for EOPS and NextUp programs.

**Rose Marine** leaves admissions to join the district office.

**Professor Jordan Omens** re-elected as the Chair of the Administration of Justice Department for the next term beginning July 2025.

**Professors Dawn Diskin** and **Duane Short** re-elected as the Co-chairs of the Business Department for the next term beginning July 2025.

**Dr. Nessa Julian** received the Outstanding Leadership Award for 2024-2025 from the Management Association

**Matt Cain** elected Chair of the Department of Health, Exercise Science and Nutrition. **Mardi Parelman** has been elected Department Liaison for the upcoming academic year.

**Dan Igou** re-elected as Chair of the Department of Social Sciences.

**Molly Fassler** elected Chair of the Department of Behavioral Sciences in the School of Liberal Arts.

**Jessica McCambly** elected to serve again as the Chair of the Visual and Performing Arts Department

**Mary Hart** re-elected as Chair of the Library Department.

**Kandice Brandt** elected Department Chair, and **Ali X. Gonzalez** elected Assistant Chair for the next term beginning July 2025.

**Lisa Brewster** elected Department Chair for Humanities.

**Meredith McGill** named Acting Student Services Support Officer in Outreach & School Relations

The Chemistry Department elected **Fred Garces** as the Department Chair and **Cynthia Gilley** as assistant Chair.

**Dr. Jae Calanog** will continue to lead as Chair of Physical Science Department for the next term.

Mary Kjartanson (EMT/Fire Department Chair) and Darren Hall (Assistant Chair) reelected.

Child Development Department selected **Dawn DiMarzo** and **Veronica Dayag** as the Interim Department Co-Chair's.

Election Chair for the Mathematics Department: Chair **Francois Bereaud**; Assistant Chair: **Julia McMenamin**; Department Liason: **Melissa Wolfson** 

Department of English, Languages and Ethnic Studies elects **Professor Lisa E. Muñoz** as the Department Chair for the next term (July 2025 through 2027).

**Randy Claros** will serve as the Counseling Chair for the next term, July 2025 - June 2027.

**Joseph Arriola** is the new Student Assistance Technician for Financial Aid

The Biology department elected **Andy Lowe** as the Department Chair and **Becca Bowers-Gentry** as the Department Assistant Chair.

**Gene Choe** is this term's Diesel Department Chair.

**Professor Ryan Monroy** elected Department Chair for the next term (July 2025 through 2027) Department of the Automotive Technology.

**Paul Geasland** joins Miramar College as Company Kitchen Chef Manager.

**Roger Olson**, librarian, retired after a long career at Miramar College.

**Dawn DiMarzo** selected as Chair of the Department of Child Development

**Veronica Hartmann** from Counseling will be the new Curriculum Chair.

**Marcella Osuna** steps into the Acting EOPS and CalWORKs Coordinator as **Monica Demcho** leaves for a yearlong sabbatical.



**Larry Beveridge**, longtime adjunct instructor for the Miramar College Police Academy, passed away in September. He was 86 years old.

Longtime Miramar College employee

Lonnie Pham passed away on October 23.

Lonnie was a valued member of the Financial
Aid team since 1999, retiring in May 2024. Prior
to that, she served our district since 1991.

Lonnie's passion for financial aid and her
commitment to helping students were evident
in everything she did. She was always willing to
lend a hand and support others, making a
lasting impact on countless students and
colleagues. Her warmth, kindness, and unwavering
dedication will be dearly missed by all who had
the privilege to work alongside her.





Professor **Wayne Sherman**, a recent retiree of Miramar College, passed away in March 2025. Sherman was a valued member of the math faculty since the Fall of 1999 and a longtime member of the Curriculum Committee. He had a passion for teaching and a high level of respect for his students. Having worked for the College for over 25 years, Wayne established many friendships across campus and will be dearly missed by all who had the privilege to work alongside him.

Wayne taught all levels of mathematics, and the occasional economics class, at Miramar for over twenty-five years. He was a passionate teacher who deeply respected his students and gave them his unflinching honesty and perspective with regard to their possibilities in his class and larger life goals. In terms of campus service, he was a mentor to many of us, a strong voice in our department, and a longtime member of the curriculum committee.



### President Lundburg Appears on Good Morning San Diego

Miramar College President Wes Lundburg appeared on Good Morning San Diego August 20th to discuss what is a new at Miramar College. The on-air discussion touched on the new Veterans Resource Center, three new sports, enrollment growth, and even Measure HH. You can view the interview by clicking on the link provided.



youtube.com/watch?v=I4SnyJhZOK8

### CBS 8 Explores California Community College Transfer Data

CBS 8 visited campus on Sept. 26 to explore the findings of a recent audit. That audit found that 1 in 5 California community college students, from 2017-2019, successfully transferred to a 4-year institution. Vice President of Student Services Adrian Gonzales explained what Miramar College is doing to improve on those outcomes. You can view the story at the link provided.



youtube.com/watch?v=IglxXBq4Mgc& feature=youtu.be

### AMR-Miramar College EMT Partnership Featured

Miramar College, in partnership with AMR, launched an "Earn While You Learn" all female EMT academy in the fall of 2024. This first cohort featured 8 young women looking to become certified EMT's. A news conference was held on Sept. 18 to provide a status report on the 8 recruits. Here is a sample of the media coverage from that day.



NBC7: youtube.com/watch?v=OiWBwOnhbqA

KUSI: youtube.com/watch?v=mgXI-c btk0

ABC 10: youtube.com/watch?v=V7OatpiJcDg

Fox 5: youtube.com/watch?v=6L-FI cP6Mg

### 10 News Features Indigenous Peoples Day

10 News was on campus Oct. 15 to cover Miramar College's Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration.



youtube.com/watch?v=5RiJ1u1uRgU

### NBC 7 Visits Campus Polling Center

During each election, Miramar College is a polling location for the San Diego Registrar of Voters. Ballots can be cast or dropped off on campus. The polling place is located in K1-107 on the ground floor of the K1-Student Services Building. On Oct. 26, NBC 7 stopped by campus to interview Associated Student Government Vice President X Ruiz.



youtube.com/watch?v=vne0M87HjHs

### KUSI Coverage of Veterans Resource Center Grand Opening

KUSI-TV was on campus Feb. 24 to cover the grand opening ceremony for the newly expanded Veterans Resource Center.



youtube.com/watch?v=NX18nRw8OaU

### Fox 5 and KUSI Cover Kumeyaay Flag Raising Ceremony

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, Miramar College held a Kumeyaay flag raising ceremony on Nov. 4 in front of the Administration Building. The College hopes to one day add a third flag pole so that the Kumeyaay Flag can fly permanently over campus. The ceremony featured several student speakers, bird singers and members of the local tribe. It was covered by Fox 5 San Diego and KUSI-TV.



KUSI coverage: youtube.com/watch?v=sl1ykO-p09aE&feature=youtu.be

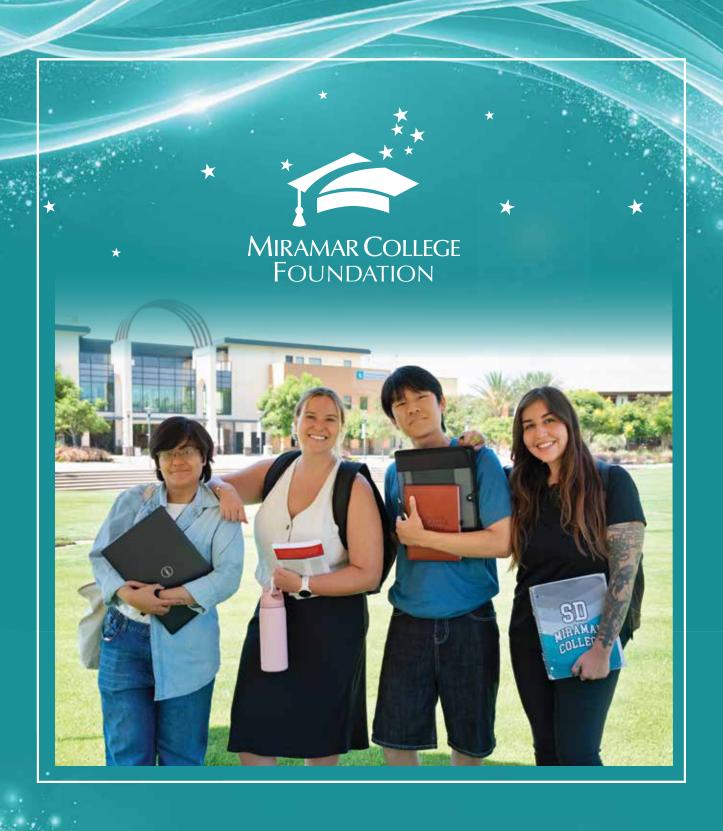
Fox 5 coverage: youtube.com/watch?v=iD-UwkLGH-QQ&feature=youtu.be

## KUSI Covers Grant Funding for Apprenticeship Program

Miramar College was awarded funding through a \$15M Apprenticeship Program from California.



youtube.com/watch?v=6lzh-J1iNSU



### **Invest in the Future**

The Miramar College Foundation collaborates with San Diego Miramar College to empower students to overcome barriers to achieve their educational goals and to thrive in their future lives.

### **Foundation Vision:**

The Miramar College Foundation envisions being a transformational organization partnering with San Diego Miramar College, individuals, and businesses to remove barriers to student success, empowering students to thrive in their lives.

### René McKee Named Foundation Board President

Longtime Miramar College Foundation Board member René McKee was selected to serve as the next president of the San Diego Miramar College Foundation Board of Directors. In a unanimous vote taken at the Feb. 19, 2025 foundation board meeting, McKee was elected to a 3-year term. She replaces Don Boas who served as interim president of the San Diego Miramar College Foundation Board since 2024.

An experienced marketing, community and public relations executive with forty years of success in the financial industry, McKee has served on the Miramar College Foundation Board since 2014. As Senior Vice President of Community and Public Relations for California Coast Credit Union, McKee was a founding board member of the Cal Coast Cares Foundation. In this role, she developed and oversaw the 501(c)(3) non-profit that provides scholarships for high school seniors, foster students, and college students as well as grants to educators, including to students and teachers at area schools in under resourced communities. Under her leadership, the Cal Coast Cares Foundation awarded over \$1 million in scholarships and grants. McKee retired from California Coast Credit Union in 2024.

Students not only benefit from her professional expertise, but also from her personal generosity. As a San Diego Miramar College Foundation Board member, she developed and funded the McKee Family Scholarship in 2016. This annual scholarship provides funding to Miramar College students who were raised in the Foster Youth system.

"It is my distinct honor to congratulate René McKee on her promotion to Foundation Board President," said Dr. Wesley Lundburg, president of Miramar College. "Over the years, René has worked tirelessly on behalf of the foundation to raise funds that provide financial support to the students at Miramar College. She has come through with countless donations for our fundraising events and helped develop strategies for the long-term success of the foundation."



**René McKee Named Foundation Board President** 

The Miramar College Foundation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, officially created on August 21, 1994 collaborates with San Diego Miramar College to achieve student success by empowering students to overcome barriers, accomplish their educational goals, and thrive in their future lives.

McKee began her term April 1, 2025.





### Paul Johnson Elected to Foundation Board

Paul Johnson, Vice President and Business Relationship Manager for U.S. Bank, has been selected as the newest community board member to serve on the San Diego Miramar College Foundation Board of Directors. In a unanimous vote taken at the Feb. 19, 2025 foundation board meeting, Johnson was elected to a 3-year term.

Paul Johnson is a Vice President and Business Banking Relationship Manager for the Business Banking Group of U.S. Bank. The 27-year resident of San Diego, is responsible for providing financial solutions for businesses. He previously served on the board of 211 of San Diego and is the Board Secretary for San Diego Health Connect, San Diego's regional healthcare information exchange.

With nearly four decades of experience in the financial services industry, Johnson joined Union Bank in 2009 as a Business Development Officer. He started his business career while an undergrad at Harvard University where he had a summer internship at the US Department of Commerce's Office of Minority Business Enterprise in Washington, D.C. He has held successful sales positions at Xerox, Citibank, The Money Store, Bank One, Sovereign Bank, and Wells Fargo. Johnson received MUFG Americas Top Producer's Award nationally in his division in 2019.

Johnson is involved in business diversity, access to capital, and nonprofit organizations in his community. He began his service to his community when he was 10 years old by hosting a Muscular Dystrophy carnival in his back yard. He served on the board of his church where he was a capital campaign manager for a new church campus. Johnson was born in Tachikawa, Japan, grew up in West Berlin, Germany and various cities in the United States.

### Miramar College Awards over \$250,000 in Scholarships

Miramar College awarded deserving students just over \$277,000 at its 31st annual scholarship awards ceremony held April 28 in L-105.

This year, the Miramar College Foundation administered 291 scholarships totaling \$196,390.

In addition, 133 scholarships were administered by external donors totaling \$80,894.

In total, 424 Miramar College students received \$277,284 worth of scholarships.

"This event helps to reward the hard work and dedication our students put forth in their educational journey," said Dr. Wesley Lundburg, president of Miramar College. "I am extremely proud, that through the support of the Miramar College Foundation and the generosity of our community partners, we are able to offer this financial benefit to our deserving students and their families. As a college, we are pleased to help lessen the financial burden through scholarship aid."

The Miramar College Foundation, a California nonprofit public benefit corporation, was officially created on August 21, 1994 and is committed to supporting the diverse population of Miramar College students by raising scholarship funds.

The annual Scholarship Awards Ceremony is organized by the College's Financial Aid and Scholarship Office with the support of the college's Director of Development and Entrepreneurship Lisa Cole-Jones.

Foundation Finances	July 1, 2024	June 30, 2025		
Total Restricted Fund Balance	\$329,866.89	\$349,580.24		
Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$206,718.73	\$215,097.62		
Unrestricted Reserve for Scholarship	\$391,000	\$391,000		
Total Unrestricted Fund Balance	\$597,718.73	\$606,097.62		
Total	\$927,585.62	\$955,677.86		

**Miramar College Foundation Student Scholarships** 

### **Miramar College Foundation**

2024-2025 Foundation Board of Directors

**Don Boas**, Interim Board President, Community Board Member Sales Manager, Glory Land Enterprise

Sarah Yang, Community Board Member,
Former Board President
Senior Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager,
Bank of America

**Brett Bell**, Miramar College Foundation Treasurer V.P., Administrative Services, San Diego Miramar College

**Roberta C. Baade, Ph.D.,** Community Board Member Vice President of Human Resources, Jenny Craig, Inc. (Ret.)

Lily Cava, Classified Senate, San Diego Miramar College

**Hailey Hua**, President, Associated Student Council San Diego Miramar College

**Mike Johnson**, Community Board Member Vice President, Hawthorne CAT

René McKee, Community Board Member Vice President, Marketing & Community Relations California Coast Credit Union (Ret.)

**Monica Demcho**, Academic Senate Representative San Diego Miramar College

**Ex-Officio Members** 

P. Wesley Lundburg, PhD
President, San Diego Miramar College

**Lisa Cole-Jones** 

Director of Development and Entrepreneurship San Diego Miramar College

**Steve Quis** 

**Public Information Officer, San Diego Miramar College** 

**Honorary Directors** 

**Bob Dingeman\*** 

**Tony Pizarro** 

**Chairman, Integrity Management Enterprises** 

**Martin Hight** 

Past President, Miramar College Foundation; Chief, Emeritus, San Diego Harbor Police

**Tom Hawthorne\*** 

**Chairman, Hawthorne Machinery Company** 

**Howard Schuler** 

Service Director Emeritus, Toyota Carlsbad

**Dave Stall** 

Vice President, Miramar College Foundation; 760 KFMB Host, Car Talk, KUSI & Columnist North County Times

\*In memoriam



# **Administrative Services**

The Administrative Services Department continued to thrive through a period of transition, thanks to the thoughtful leadership and planning of former Vice President of Administrative Services Brett Bell, who retired in July of 2025. In preparation for his departure, Bell ensured the department was well-positioned for continued success. Administrative Services is now guided by a strong leadership team, including Denis Kapitzke, Director of Administrative Services; Daniel Gutowski, Director of College Operations and Facilities; and Kurt Hill, Director of College Technology Services. The department enters its next chapter under the direction of Maria Battisti, who was selected to succeed Brett Bell as Vice President of Administrative Services. Under this leadership, the department remains focused on streamlining business procedures, supporting the advancement of technology infrastructure, and utilizing campus facilities and space more effectively to better serve students and the broader college community.

#### **Administrative Services:**

- The Business Office has implemented SharePoint as a form of communication for auditing payroll and faculty assignments
- The Miramar Business Office has collaborated with the College Police Business Office to implement an improved key/alarm form submission process
- Student Accounting worked with District to replace Touchnet Credit Card processing with Nelnet
- Implemented Nelnet Payment Forms for the ability to process non-student credit/debit card payments
- Clean audit for Miramar College Foundation
- Continue cross training of areas to provide ongoing support to campus.

#### **College Technology Services**

- Expanded interactive display installations on campus; including classrooms conversions from standard projection systems.
- Moving forward with push to ensure USB-C connectivity is available in classrooms.
- Purchased nearly \$300,000 of new instructional technology for classroom installation in 25-26 FY with the goal of ensuring a full digital path for AV content (thus enabling HDCP content to be used in classrooms)
- Began process of full self-installation of classrooms. This
  involved training staff to install & configure the full range
  of commonly deployed Audio/Visual technology. Results
  will include increased level of service Technology Services is
  able to provide internally and reduced costs

- Laptop/Docking station pilot, moving select faculty/staff to a laptop-only model. Benefits include faster in-classroom setup for faculty who will no longer need to manage moving files between office desktops to classroom PC systems.
- Centralized faculty/staff technology checkout/inventory process by utilizing library systems to assign devices to faculty/staff vs. assignments at departmental levels.
- Integrated District standard header to College Website.
- Two major website version upgrades handled in-house vs. outsourced.
- Purchased 200 new laptops to replace the aging supply of laptops available for student checkout, ensuring students have access to current technology.

## Instructional Services

Miramar College Instructional Services continued its transformation into a Student-Ready College during the 2024–2025 academic year. The Instructional Services Division focused on strengthening infrastructure, advancing curriculum, and deepening partnerships to support student success, particularly for disproportionately impacted populations.

Curriculum Advancement and Program Development: Building a Student-Ready Future

- In an effort toward academic innovation and equity, Instructional Services has made significant advancements in curriculum and program development. A major highlight is the launch of a new Zero Textbook Cost (ZTC) degree in History, eliminating financial barriers and making education more accessible. This ZTC degree in History will be added to two others from the most recent past—Communication Studies and Nutrition. This initiative complements the strategic consolidation of textbooks, which will save students in textbook costs.
- The college has also expanded its commitment to inclusive education by hiring a full-time Ethnic Studies faculty member, strengthening the Ethnic Studies program and enriching the cultural and academic landscape. In addition, alignment with workforce needs, a Government/Nonprofit Accounting certificate was developed and approved by the SDCCD Board, offering students another pathway to into public service careers.
- Recognizing the value of prior experience, the institution now awards Military Credit for Prior Learning in another of its programs--Computer Programming, honoring the skills of veteran students and accelerating their academic progress. Career readiness has also been enhanced through the introduction of a smog inspector curriculum and the launch of engineering courses (ENGE 116 & ENGE 200), with plans for further expansion.

# 2024-2025 Divisional Reports Highlights/Accomplishments

- To support holistic student development, a new Career & Life Design space has been opened — an inviting, studentcentered environment designed to foster exploration and growth. The college also introduced Certificates of Achievement in Nutrition Equity and Sustainability, and Physical Therapy, addressing emerging fields and community health needs.
- Further enriching the student experience, the MESA and HSI Student Ambassador programs have been implemented to build leadership and peer support networks. Finally, the construction of an on-campus courtroom has been completed, providing a dynamic space for experiential learning and mock trials.
- Together, these initiatives reflect a deep commitment to student success, equity, and innovation — hallmarks of a truly student-ready college.
- As part of its mission to become a Student-Ready College, the institution has deepened its community ties and expanded opportunities through impactful partnerships and engagement initiatives. These efforts are not only enhancing student success but also building a stronger, more connected campus ecosystem.
- The Business Club has emerged as a vibrant hub for professional development, hosting guest speakers and events that connect students with real-world insights and industry leaders. In a significant step toward career readiness, five students secured full-time internships in computer-related fields, gaining hands-on experience that bridges classroom learning with workforce demands.
- Entrepreneurial spirit is thriving, thanks to the Miramar College Foundation, which raised over \$20,000 to support student innovators. This financial backing empowers students to pursue their business ideas with confidence and creativity. The program faculty leads are also commended for their efforts. As an example, the program collaborated with Reprographics on campus. Students took the lead in producing marketing materials, gaining valuable experience in design, branding, and communication.
- Generous support from industry partners has further fueled student success. Hawthorne CAT and Caterpillar Inc. contributed \$12,000 in scholarships, while the Conrad Prebys Foundation awarded 18 laptops to MESA (Math Engineering Science Achievement) students, ensuring they have the tools needed to excel in STEM fields.
- At the heart of a Student-Ready College is the success of its students—and this year, their achievements have been nothing short of inspiring. From entrepreneurship to employment, competitions to co-curriculars, students are thriving across every dimension of their academic and professional journeys.
- All eight food vendors featured at Startup San Diego were current or former students of the REC (Regional Entrepreneur Center) program, showcasing the entrepreneurial spirit and real-world readiness cultivated on campus. REC student

- teams also made a powerful impression, earning \$20,000 in prizes and taking home top honors for Best Presentation and Audience Choice.
- Career pathways are flourishing as well. One student's
  internship at California Coast Credit Union led directly to
  full-time employment, while 16 others secured jobs in the
  automotive industry—testament to the college's strong
  industry connections and hands-on training. In the skilled
  trades, three students placed at the prestigious SkillsUSA
  state competition, with one advancing to the national stage.
- The impact of the college's programs is also seen in the return of Aviation Maintenance graduates—now serving as adjunct faculty—who are giving back by mentoring the next generation of technicians. Meanwhile, funded internships in biotechnology companies and Department of Defense laboratories are opening doors to high-impact STEM careers.
- Beyond the classroom, student-athletes are making their mark. Four co-curricular sports teams were crowned conference champions or finalists, demonstrating excellence in teamwork, discipline, and leadership. In addition, Student-Athletes maintain, on average, a 3.5 GPA.
- These accomplishments reflect the college's unwavering commitment to student success, equity, and opportunity hallmarks of a truly Student-Ready institution.
- As Miramar College continues to evolve as a Student-Ready institution, the year ahead is poised to be one of transformation, innovation, and deeper community connection. The college is laying the groundwork to institutionalize key initiatives—embedding the Guided Pathways Framework, the Title III DHSI federal grant, and Equity work at the very core of its operations. This integrated approach ensures that student success, inclusion, and access remain central to every decision and direction.
- Strengthening ties with graduates, Miramar is launching new alumni engagement initiatives to build a vibrant network of support, mentorship, and opportunity. At the same time, the college is embracing sustainability and innovation through the development of a Zero-Emission Vehicle Initiative (ZEVI), preparing students for the green economy and environmentally responsible careers.
- To support long-term transformation, the implementation of a campus-wide Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system is underway — designed to enhance communication, streamline services, and foster a more connected student experience. In parallel, the college is exploring the integration of Artificial Intelligence to further personalize learning and improve operational efficiency.
- A major milestone on the horizon is the launch of Miramar's first Bachelor's Degree cohort in Public Safety Management. With 35 students enrolled, this program marks a significant expansion in academic offerings and a new chapter in the college's ability to meet regional workforce needs.
- Together, these initiatives reflect Miramar College's unwavering commitment to innovation, equity, and student-centered excellence — hallmarks of a truly Student-Ready College.

# **Student Services Division**

As the College continues to settle into the post-COVID era, the Student Services Division focused its efforts on expanding programs and services, increasing student access to available resources, and expanding partnerships both internally and externally. Several highlights from various Student Services departments are shared below.

Of special note, the Student Services Division as a whole was highly involved in a campus-wide collaborative effort to build the structure and admissions processes related to the new BA program in Emergency Management. This year-long effort required multiple offices in both instruction and student services to be involved, some of which included counseling, admissions, financial aid, and outreach services. Through these collaborative efforts, it is anticipated that the first cohort of students who begin the BA program in Fall 2025 will consist of approximately 50 students.

#### **Expansion of Programs & Services**

#### **Basic Needs**

- Developed a pilot program to disburse emergency funds intended to assist students with access to food, housing, transportation, and technology; resulting in 241 students receiving \$151,678 in direct aid.
- Launched a Pantry Pick-up Locker service which enabled 225 students to collect basic needs items from outdoor lockers after normal business hours.

#### **DSPS**

- Established a monthly DSPS newsletter to strengthen student engagement, foster belonging, and improve communication across students and campus partners.
- Implemented an on-campus meditation and relaxation service featuring the use of an Egg Chair to support stress reduction through sensory regulation and mindfulness.
- Expanded assistive technology offerings by acquiring a bilingual talking and graphing calculator, along with magnification device, to better support students with visual impairments.

#### **General Counseling**

 Developed a new online "First-Semester Educational Planning Module" in Canvas which will allow students more freedom to develop their own education plan remotely, with the option of submitting the plan to the Counseling office for review by a counselor. Students will also have access to an in-person registration lab for additional assistance as needed. The tool is set to be launched Summer of 2025.

#### **Mental Health Services**

- Introduced "Mindfulness, Meals & Music" series, which combines the use of music therapy with the use of an online wellness app (Headspace) and other resources.
- Increased suicide prevention efforts by offering an online training tool (LivingWorks), resulting in 862 students and employees accessing the training tool.

#### **PRIDE Center**

 Established designated queer-affirming spaces on campus to foster connection and community, drawing in 123 students throughout the year.

#### **Rising Scholars**

- Expanded course offerings at the Naval Consolidated Brig Miramar which enabled incarcerated students to enroll full-time beginning Spring 2025.
- Launched the "Brig Entrepreneurship Demo Day" in Spring 2025, which provided incarcerated students the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to campus leaders and community partners.
- Established the "Rising Scholars Restorative Practices Community Lunch Circle" series, enabling participating students an opportunity to reflect, connect, and dialogue with fellow students who have been impacted by the justice system.

#### **Student Health Services**

- Added a new lactation space near the center of campus by installing a "Mamava Pod" near the library. These pods are small, private booths that allow lactating students and staff to have a comfortable space to breastfeed or pump. Plans are to add another pod in the Student Services building, thereby creating three accessible lactation spaces across campus.
- Distributed Narcan across campus by making it available for free at campus events, in designated offices, and via movable distribution stands. Training was also provided to the campus community on opioid overdose prevention and the proper administration of Narcan.

#### **Student Life**

 Introduced new leadership training for ASG leaders called "Think Before You Color" which consists of four sessions focused on innovation, mentorship, empowerment, and understanding diversity.

#### **Increasing Access to Programs & Services**

#### **Basic Needs**

- Enhanced the "Jet Fuel Resource Center" by installing a new 32-cubic foot freezer and 2 Office Pods. The office pods will allow for confidential spaces for one-on-one meetings with staff and representatives from outside agencies.
- Increased food bank sourcing from 73,641 pounds of food gathered and distributed to 112,823 pounds (a 53% increase).

#### **DSPS**

- Delivered 73 outreach and in-reach presentations to promote awareness and understanding of DSPS services, which contributed to a 9% increase in student participation in the DSPS program. This year we saw a total of 1,120 unduplicated students enrolled in the DSPS program.
- The program provided 1,719 disability-related counseling appointments, 201 Assistive Technology support sessions, and proctored 780 exams throughout the year.

#### **EOPS/CARE/NextUP/CalWORKs**

- Conducted a campaign to encourage students to use their priority enrollment, resulting in a 20% increase in student use of priority registration.
- This year saw the program's largest graduating class with 129 graduates who maintained an average GPA of 3.7 while taking an average of 14.8 units during their final term.

#### **Financial Aid Office**

 Awarded over \$12 million in federal grants to over 3,500 students; \$263,000 in State funded HireUP Stipends and Osher scholarships; and \$114,000 in privately supported scholarships to 163 students.

#### **Mental Health**

- Provided free access to a mental health app called "Headspace". As of May 2025, a total of 591 students and staff have utilized the app.
- Conducted 89 workshops and presentations throughout the year, reaching 3,005 students and staff. Topics included: stress management, coping skills, mindfulness, celebrating your identity, and other mental health related issues.
- Hosted mental health events for students: "Send Silence Packing" (a suicide prevention exhibit attendee by 300 students); "Spring into Wellness Fair" (a resource fair attended by 85 students); "Thriving Together" (a Black Student Success week workshop attended by 35 students)

#### **Outreach and School Relations**

- Expanded on-site office hours at all of our local feeder high schools by offering 19 outreach sessions resulting in approximately 200 student contacts.
- Coordinated and led 17 campus visits, resulting in 588 prospective students accessing the campus.

#### **PRIDE Center**

- Increased campus engagement by hosting 25 PRIDE related events and workshops during the spring semester (a 200% growth in campus visibility).
- Offered a wide range of PRIDE related events and activities, resulting in 483 students contacts throughout the year.

#### **Student Affairs**

- Piloted a mental health assessment tool (MindArch Health MAP) that delivers personalized mental health evaluations for participants and generates a campus-wide view of student mental health needs – over 300 students accessed the tool.
- Secured a \$50,000 grant from the San Diego Foundation to support mental health and leadership among AANHPI students.

#### **Student Health**

- Launched free on-campus Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) testing for students.
- Enhanced the use of the Electronic Health Records (EHR) system, enabling students to complete forms and receive guidance prior to arriving on campus, thereby reducing wait times.

#### **Student Life**

- Launched "Evening Student Pizza Nights" to engage students who are enrolled in evening classes. A total of 489 students were provided with food, coffee, and campus resource information.
- Expanded club participation via 29 active clubs (an increase of 6 from the prior year).

#### **Transfer Center**

 Offered over 50 transfer-related workshops and outreach activities, resulting in approximately 300 student contacts.

#### **Expanding Partnerships & Collaborations**

#### **Mental Health**

 Collaborated with several community agencies to provide activities and direct service, some of whom include: LivingWorks, UCSD Center for Mindfulness, Leah's Pantry, San Diego Youth Services, San Diego LGBTQ Center, and County Mental Health.

#### **Outreach and School Relations**

- In partnership with the Admissions & Records office and our local feeder highschools, the college enrolled 4,458 CCAP students (an increase of 900 students from the previous year).
- Collaborated with College of Continuing Education (CE) to assist CE students to transition from CE Automotive to Miramar's Automotive program.
- In partnership with San Diego Unified School District, hosted a leadership breakfast and a counselor professional development event that brought approximately 150 UTK-12 counselors and 40 high school leaders on to campus.

#### **PRIDE Center**

- Partnered with Student Health to host an on-campus mobile van offering free and confidential HIV and STI testing.
- Collaborated with Student Mental Health, the Dreamers Program, Financial Aid, and District leadership to launch "Nurture your PRIDE" mental health series.

#### **Rising Scholars**

- Expanded community engagement efforts by participating in monthly Parole and Community Team (PACT) meetings, Probation Department resource fairs, and collaborating with the Second Chance Job Readiness Training Program.
- Hosted on-campus "Clean Slate Clinic" with The Access Project, an effort to help participating students address past legal challenges.

#### **Student Life**

 In conjunction with the Student Affairs Office, the Student Life Office presented 86 College Hour events which served over 4,000 students. These noontime events included free food, music, campus resource information, cultural recognition activities, and community building between students and staff.

#### **Transfer Center**

- Collaborated with HSI STEM, EOPS, and LEAD Office to take students on a transfer tour to UCSD and SDSU.
- Partnered with the UCLA Latino Alumni Association to create a half-day event for prospective transfer students interested in attending UCLA.

# Office of Institutional Effectiveness

- Accreditation
  - a Completed and submitted ACCJC Annual Report 2025
  - Completed and submitted San Diego Miramar College's Response Letter to ACCJC Standard 2.4. Inquiry 2025
  - Completed and submitted ACCJC Workforce Partnership Survey 2025
  - Attended ACCJC Regional Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project Regional Convening 2025
- Planning
  - Facilitated the Collegewide Planning Summit 2025 Focus was on student persistence and their journey across the college
  - Vetted and Approved the Fall 2021-Spring 2028
     Miramar Education Plan
  - c. Vetted the Annual Planning Calendar 2025-26 (pending constituency approval)
  - d. Implemented the Pathway to Student Equity and Success Model (which ties the college alignment efforts among Strategic Planning, Guided Pathways, Strategic Enrollment Management, and Equity with Vision 2030 Goals). This model was showcased at the Strengthening Student Success Conference 2024
- Research
  - Continued to support the Vision Aligned Reporting (VAR) program leads regarding ongoing data collection efforts
  - b. Led a comprehensive VAR Data Governance Study across all VAR-participating programs.
  - c. Supported the following faculty learning communities:
    - i. Culturally Responsive Educators Academy and Training for Equity (CREATE) Program
    - ii. Counselor Institute
    - iii. Faculty Institute 2.0
  - d. Conducted a collegewide student focus group study to gather feedback on Miramar College website
  - e. Assisted in developing and implementing the Element 451 CRM platform.
  - f. Supported the following program-level accreditation:
    - i. Business Program for the ACBSP Accreditation
    - Medical Laboratory Technician Training Program for the NAACLS Accreditation

# 2024-2025 Divisional Reports Highlights/Accomplishments

- g. Supported the following grants/programs/plans:
  - National Science Foundation for the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) Grant
  - ii. EMS Fire Pilot Pathways Initiative Grant
  - iii. HSI STEM Exito Grant
  - iv. Student Equity Plan
  - v. Student Equity and Achievement (SEA) Program
  - vi. Native American Student Support and Success Program (NASSSP)
  - vii. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islanders Student Achievement Program (AANHPI SAP)
- h. Supported the following Academic Services units:
  - i. Library
  - ii. Academic Success Center
- Participated in the review of five Institutional Review Board (IRB) proposals
- Program Review
  - a. Implemented the Comprehensive 2024-27 Program Review/Outcomes Assessment Functional Plan
  - b. Implemented the 2024-27 Program Review/Outcomes Assessment Process Cycle across the college
  - c. Achieved 100% completion of the Instructional 2024-25 Annual Program Review reports
  - d. Built the President's Office Departments Program Review/Outcomes Assessment workspaces in Nuventive based on college reorganization
  - Revised and narrowed the mapping structure/process in Nuventive to only include the college's Strategic Goals & Directions
  - Revised and vetted the Instructional Program Viability Process across the college (pending constituency approval)
  - g. Worked with Vice President of Administrative Services to revise and implement resource requests process in Nuventive in association with the Program Review Process

#### Outcomes Assessment

- Worked with all divisions to start new 3-year cycle of outcomes assessment (2024-2027)
  - Conducted workshops on Program Learning Outcomes (PLOs)/Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)/Service Unit Outcomes (SUOs)
- Worked with District on the transfer and maintenance of SLOs into Curriqunet-META
- Implemented the Outcomes Assessment 3-year Calendar (2024-2027).

# **LEAD Office**

- Hosted the 4th Annual Equity Summit: Cultivating Community: Making the Invisible, Visible
  - a. Keynote speaker, Dr. Laura Rendon
- Hosted/co-hosted the following collegewide activities with the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Antiracism (IDEA) Committee:
  - a. Co-hosted Latinx Heritage Month (September/ October)
  - b. Co-hosted LGBTQIA History Month (October)
  - c. Co-hosted Native American Heritage Month & Flag Raising (November)
  - d. Co-hosted Black History Month (February)
  - e. Co-hosted Women's History Month (March)
  - f. Co-hosted Arab American History Month (March)
  - Go-hosted Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (May)
  - h. Co-hosted Juneteenth Flag Raising Event
- Culturally Responsive Pedagogy & Best Practices Grant:
  - a. Launched three CREATE (Culturally Responsive Educators Academy & Training for Equity) cohorts
  - Hosted the CREATE Symposium featuring CREATE faculty presentations and keynote speaker,
     Dr. Laura Rendon
- Native American Student Support & Success Program
  - Hosted Native American Heritage Month events & Flag raising (November)
  - b. California Indian Day (September)
  - c. Indigenous People's Day (October)
  - d. Orange Shirt Day (October)
  - e. Beading Workshops
  - f. NDN Memes
  - g. Pow Wow with SDUSD Indian Education Program
  - h. Participated in GONA(Gathering of Native Americans
  - Sponsored and participated in UNITY (United National Indian Tribal Youth) Conference
  - j. Hosted Native Graduation
- Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Student Achievement Program:
  - a. PEARL (Promoting Educational Achievement, Retention, and Leadership) Program
    - Pilot of paired courses taught from an AAPI perspective
      - Fall 2024 ENGL 101 & PHIL 100
      - Spring 2025 ENGL 205 & MUSI 103
    - ii. Pilot of PEARL Mentoring & Leadership Program
  - b. Attended the APAHE Conference
  - c. Hosted the San Diego Regional AANHPI SAP Program Planning Meeting
- Supported Achievement and Recognition Ceremonies (La Raza; Rite of Passage; Native American Student Success; Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander). ■

# 2024-2025 Divisional Reports Highlights/Accomplishments

# Development and Entrepreneurship

- Launched a strategic planning process with the Miramar College Foundation Board, resulting in updated mission and vision statements which articulate the Foundation's renewed focus on actively soliciting transformational funding in support of Miramar College students. This also led to the adoption of a fundraising strategic plan focused on major gifts and charitable gift planning.
  - a. Mission: The Miramar College Foundation collaborates with San Diego Miramar College to empower students to overcome barriers to achieve their educational goals and to thrive in their future lives.
  - b, Vision: The Miramar College Foundation envisions being a transformational organization partnering with San Diego Miramar College, individuals, and businesses to remove barriers to student success, empowering students to thrive in their lives.
- Updated Foundation logo to better align with updated District and College logos.
- Welcomed new Foundation Board Member Paul Johnson, Vice President and Business Banking Relationships Manager at U.S. Bank.
- Foundation Board elected a new President: René McKee, Retired Senior Vice President of Community and Public Relation at California Coast Credit Union.

- With Foundation Board approval, increased Freshman Scholarship from a single \$500 scholarship to two-year, \$1,000 per year scholarship.
- Submitted charitable grant proposals seeking \$1,762,000 in funds to support student access and success.
- Awarded \$150,000 in grants from the San Diego Workforce Partnership to support EMT and Fire Pathways for underrepresented students in these programs.
- Received \$50,000 grant from San Diego Foundation to support improved mental health outcomes among Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students.
- Increased revenue from our signature fundraising event, Invest in Success, by 51.13%
- Increased overall charitable grants and donations to the foundation by 197% in 2024-2025 over donations in 2023-2024.

# Miramar College Programs Train Students for Flight-Related Careers



Alethia Forsing was working as a Starbucks barista when she caught wind of the Miramar College Aeronautics and Aviation Program that's been training avionic technicians, aviation mechanics, airport personnel, and future pilots for generations. A native of New Hampshire whose dad was a mechanic and who herself was once employed as a mechanic at an amusement park in the Granite State, Forsing said enrolling in the program's Aviation Maintenance Technology division was an easy decision.

"Everyone here has been very supportive," said Forsing, who has learned more about reciprocating engines, fabric doping, the Rockwell hardness test, and rebuilding landing gears than she ever thought possible. "They are motivated by helping us learn."

Indeed, Miramar College's Aeronautics and Aviation Program with its two divisions is the only low-tuition, FAA-approved aviation maintenance (Part 147) and pilot (PART 141) schools in the region. The Aviation Maintenance Technology and the Aviation Operations divisions both play a critical role in meeting a rising demand for drone pilots, airport operations staff, top-flight mechanics, avionics technicians, and more. Forsing, like virtually all

graduates of the programs, will not be wanting for a job when she completes her training.

"There is a historic need for aircraft mechanics," said Miramar College's Aeronautics and Aviation Chair Max Moore who regularly sees postings for airframe and powerplant (A&P) mechanics that pay well into the \$80,000-plus range annually. "Everybody's fleets are growing larger and a lot of the existing mechanic workforce is retiring. Just about every one of our A&P students who wants a job gets a job."

Added Daniel Smith, an assistant professor and director of the Aviation Maintenance Technology division that offers a 78-unit, five-semester curriculum required to take a licensing test for an FAA-required Mechanics Certificate: "Whenever Delta Air Lines has an opening for a mechanic, they'll reach out to me and we'll hook them up."

It's not just at Delta that students trained at Miramar College are working. Duncan Aviation, the largest privately owned business jet provider in the world, also collaborates closely with the program's instructors, and several Miramar College students have progressed to internships and full-time jobs with major airlines.

Others have embarked on solid careers keeping aircraft in top condition at smaller airports.

Similar stories are echoed in the Aviation Operations Program, which integrates simulator flight training with rigorous academic study for a first-class foundation in mastering the technical fundamentals of flight, airport operations, and safety. Students completing the two-year associate degree program meet qualifications for taking the FAA Airman Knowledge Test that can lead to various pilot certificates and transfer to a flight school. Aviation Operations also offers a growing number of courses in unmanned aerial vehicles, also known as drones, providing a pathway into the burgeoning drone industry.

#### **Decades of Excellence**

Miramar College's aviation roots stretch back further than the college itself — even before the aviation maintenance program began to soar when a hangar was built at the main campus on Black Mountain Road in 1971. In fact, Miramar College sits at the site of a former auxiliary landing field — Hourglass Field — for Naval Air Station Miramar. And it certainly is no coincidence it has developed strong ties to the military; the Aeronautics and Aviation Program employs a full-time liaison attached to Marine Corps Air Station Miramar just a couple miles south. And Moore, who, like Smith, served in the Marines, estimates well more than one-third of students in the A&P program are military veterans.

"We've had students come here from just about every military base in Southern California," he said, adding that program personnel regularly visit bases in the region to discuss the program's benefits with those on the cusp of transitioning to civilian life.

Alex Noack is one such veteran, having served in the Marines for more than five years as an avionics technician on CH-53E Super Stallion heavy-lift helicopters used to transport troops, equipment, and supplies. His goals: secure his A&P certificate and license, earn a bachelor's degree, and work on small planes. He found what he was looking for at Miramar College.

"I honestly do appreciate how it's not overly packed with people, which allows you to connect with your professor," he said. "A lot of the instructors have a military background, and it's easy to build close relationships and develop friendships with the people who are here."

Most important, said Noack: "They all want you to succeed. They are not here to have you fail."

That's what drew Eli Damas who teaches general aviation in the A&P Program. He came to Miramar College in fall 2024 after working as an aircraft maintenance supervisor for UPS at Ontario International Airport in San Bernardino County.

"I'm here for these students who are committed to what they're doing," he said.

### Looking to the Future

Crystal Castaneda embodies the potential for students in Miramar College's Aeronautics and Aviation Program. Before she earned her associate degree from the maintenance program in 2021, the 25-year-old San Diego resident was offered a summer internship with Duncan Aviation in Lincoln, Nebraska, where she assisted in servicing and inspecting aircraft and honed her skills working on various components. During her internship, Castaneda was offered a full-time job. She decided instead to return to San Diego, where she quickly found work maintaining Pipers and Cirrus SR22s, SR22Ts, and Vision Jets. Not bad for someone who never imagined a career in the aviation industry and who had never worked on planes prior to enrolling in the program.

"Miramar prepared me well," she said. "There was a bunch of material given to us from the beginning, a lot of reading, a lot of studying, but the instructors are there for you and the labs are really hands-on. It's a hidden gem."

And it soon promises to become an even more impressive jewel. With San Diego voters approving Measure HH in the November 2024 election, significant upgrades to the aviation program are now on the horizon. Miramar College will soon have the funding for a new hangar at Montgomery-Gibbs Executive Airport in Kearny Mesa to replace an outdated facility, built more than 75 years ago, that is critical to the program, provide additional classroom space, and perhaps purchase a new flight simulator.

"The aviation program is a core part of our college," said Miramar College President P. Wesley Lundburg. "The facilities we currently have at the airport are not adequate for the classes we're currently offering."

Despite the current limitations, approximately 30 students graduate from the A&P program annually. Virtually all pass FAA licensing exams.



It's been a blast, said Alethia Forsing. "I love planes, I love working as a mechanic, I love keeping people safe; it's just a great combination that led me here."

### Flying in Formation

It's all about strength in numbers. That's the idea behind the California Community Colleges Aviation Alliance, which is uniting college aviation programs across the state to stay on top of the latest industry trends, share best practices, and speak with a unified voice in lobbying for state and federal funds — all in the name of securing additional resources for students.

The initiative got off the ground after San Diego Miramar College President P. Wesley Lundburg and Reedley College President Jerry Buckley found themselves in an impromptu discussion about their aviation programs during a 2024 Community College League of California conference. Then came the "aha!" moment.

"We said, 'What if (California community colleges) all got together to leverage our ability to get funds by coordinating our efforts? How do we strengthen what we're doing to benefit our students," Lundburg said. Both began reaching out to other colleges. "It's been taking off faster than we could have hoped for."

The Alliance developed a mission and vision statement and detailed a series of goals and objectives, including promoting diversity and inclusion through scholarships and financial aid programs, as well as enhancing student pathways by expanding internships and industry partnerships.

In a little more than a year, the Alliance has held several workshops, such as an October 2024 event at Miramar College with representatives from 21 community colleges to hear from a trio of FAA officials—a Procurement Services and Grants Management division manager, a Grants Management branch manager, and an Aviation Workforce Development Grants Program coordinator— who detailed effective strategies when writing and applying for federal grants. Miramar College applied for one of the grants discussed, which targets student populations underrepresented in the aviation profession, and is awaiting news about the award.

The Aviation Alliance also is launching a new website and developing a logo to help with marketing and outreach. Meanwhile, cooperation among college programs has never been better. Miramar College's Aeronautics and Aviation Chair Max Moore spent part of last summer at Reedley College 25 miles southeast of Fresno to learn more about Reedley's recent aviation program expansion.

All of which fits into the heart of the Alliance's strategic plan: collaborating effectively to enhance educational quality, increase access to aviation careers, and build a skilled workforce for the future.



