



# 2017-18 ANNUAL REPORT

COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS

Building for the Future



# Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook

## Chancellor



If you haven't visited the MakerSpace at College of the Canyons, you're missing one of the most inspiring places on campus. Using the array of tools and equipment, and drawing on the expertise of the creative staff, our students, employees, and local community members bring their ideas to reality.

The MakerSpace is a playground for the mind, a place where possibilities are not limited by what has already been created before. Instead, it is somewhere that gives birth to possibilities. By working to figure things out, makers discover new ways of seeing things, find innovative ways to move forward, and often emerge with something even better than what they imagined.

In that sense, the MakerSpace serves as a metaphor for College of the Canyons. Our college is a place of possibilities – one where students can access the tools they need to take their idea of the future and make it reality. They can become what they imagine themselves to be, with hundreds of faculty, staff, and administrators eager to support their efforts.

We serve more than 32,000 different students every year, and each student brings with them their own definition of success. The variations in their imagined futures are as numerous as they are. Each student is on a personal journey to success, and the path taken to reach their varied goals will be different for each, as will their promises to themselves.

Enhancing and expanding those pathways to opportunity has been our focus this year. And looking back at what we accomplished, I feel immense pride in the results we achieved through the collaboration of our team – administrators, classified staff, faculty and those who support us. It is through this collective effort that we make a real impact in the lives of our students.

### **The Power of a Promise**

That is particularly true when it comes to improving

**“Change is the  
end result of all  
true learning”**

- Leo Buscaglia

# By The Numbers

**703%**

Increase in the number of Associate Degrees for Transfer awarded from 2013 to 2017

**\$4 million**

Amount students saved on textbooks in 2017-18 by using open educational resources (OER)

**9%**

Increase in graduates over 2017

**22%**

Increase in degrees awarded over 2017

**Top 3**

Ranked among the top three community colleges in Los Angeles County for the percentage of students who transfer to a four-year university

**No. 2**

Ranked No. 2 in the state for college-prepared students who complete a degree or certificate or are prepared to transfer to four-year universities

**235%**

Increase in earnings by graduates of the Nursing Program

**\$6 million**

Total amount of Employment Training Panel (ETP) grants received for workforce training since 1996 after earning a \$647,584 award in 2017

**\$190,920**

Scholarships awarded to students through the COC Foundation

**Top 50**

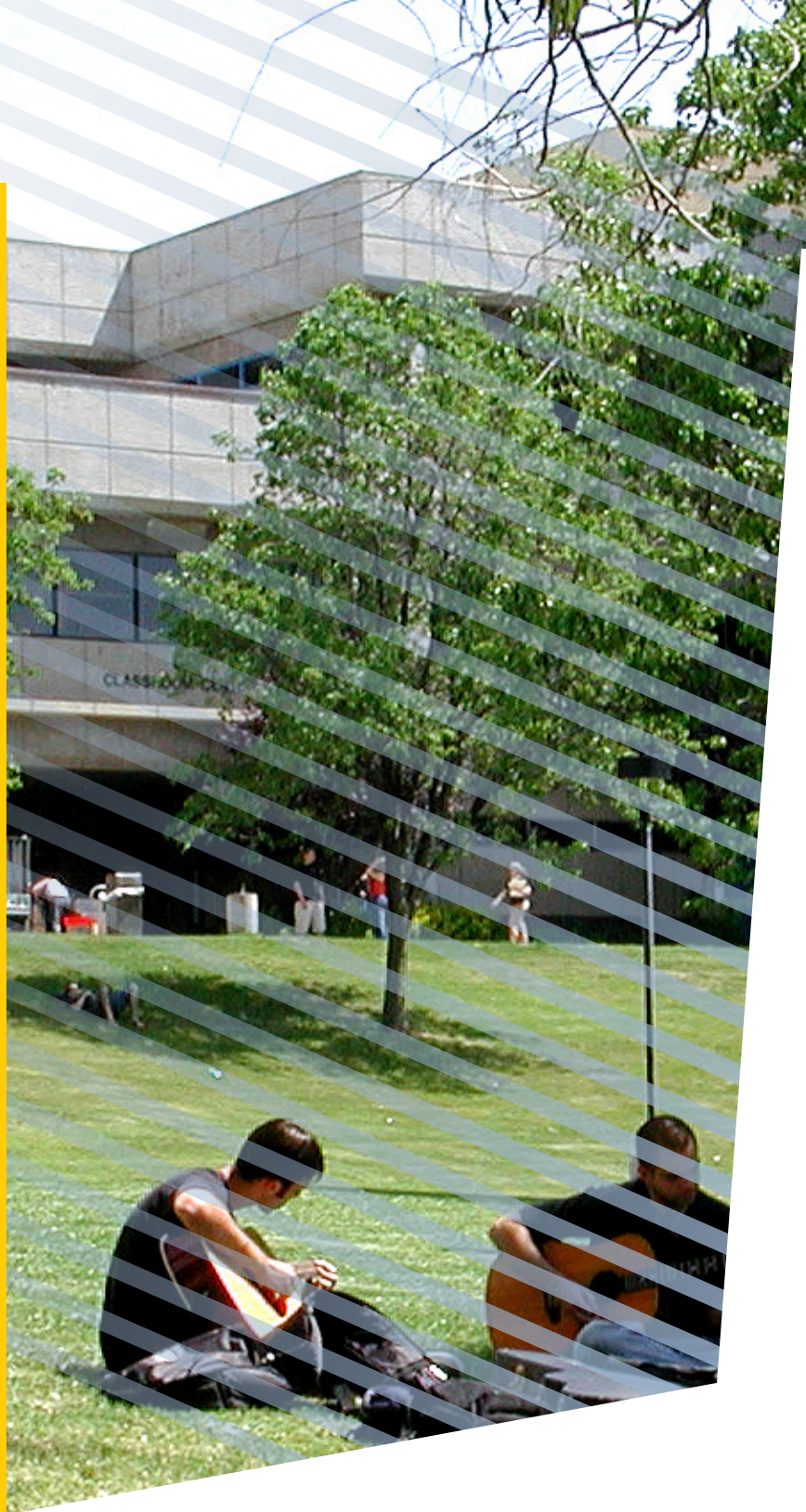
Model UN Team ranked among the Top 50 teams in the nation

**\$14,367,768**

Grant funds generated to launch new and innovative programs

**514**

New volunteers who donated their time to College of the Canyons



## CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE AWARDS

**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR:**  
Michelle Marcellin

**GLORIA JACKSON CUSTOMER SERVICE AWARD:**  
Cindy Biehahn

**HUMANITARIAN AWARD:**  
Leslie Miller

**PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:**  
Gayle Freund

**CSEA MEMBER OF THE YEAR:**  
Mary Brunty

**CLASSIFIED SENATE SPIRIT AWARD:**  
Chad Estrella



**32,894**

Students served in 2017-18

**Female: 44%**

**Male: 55%**



### Students By Ethnicity

African-American	5.5%
American Indian/Alaskan Native	.44%
Asian	6.3%
Latino/Hispanic	45.43%
Multi-ethnic	2.06%
Filipino/Pacific Islander	4.54%
White Non-Hispanic	32.18%
Unknown	3.46%

### Students By Age

19 or younger	27.83%
20 to 24	28.48%
25 to 29	12.28%
30 to 34	8.08%
35 to 39	6.23%
40 to 49	10.5%
50+	6.57%

**1,916**

Largest ever graduating class

**9%** increase over 2017

**22%**

year-over-year increase in degrees awarded

**1,366**

Associate of Arts/Science (A.A. or A.S.)

**948**

Associate of Arts/Science Transfer (A.A.-T. or A.S.-T.)

**1,776**

Certificates of Achievement & Specialization

**21%**

Median wage increase of students who completed career education courses

### Attendance

**68%** Part-time (0-11 units)

**32%** Full-time (12+ units)

# & RECOGNITIONS

**Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, Chancellor**  
**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

Santa Clarita Valley Business Journal



# Community Connections

College of the Canyons recognizes the power of partnerships. By collaborating with diverse organizations, we create exciting new options for students, and serve as a resource to the wider community.



## Campus Hosts 2017 WORLD POLICE AND FIRE GAMES

Law enforcement personnel and firefighters from around the globe convened at the Valencia campus to compete in a variety of athletic contests. The Games were founded in 1985 and are considered the second largest international sporting event



## HANDS-ON LEARNING

College of the Canyons launched a new internship program with the City of Santa Clarita. The internship focused on building inspection and gave three students the opportunity to shadow municipal building inspectors.

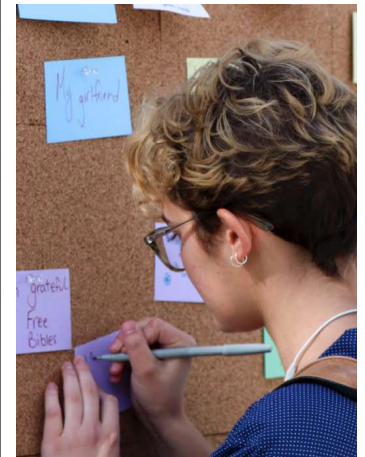


## STUDENTS MEET SENATOR STERN

The college welcomed Senator Henry Stern to the Valencia campus, where he toured the welding, nursing and media entertainment arts departments, and met with Civic Engagement students.

## Love Notes

Sigma Chi-Eta and the Communication Club partnered to create the Wall of Gratitude, where students and staff wrote what they were thankful for and posted it on the board.



# AWARDS & RECOGNITION

**Herve Guillard**  
*Culinary Arts Instructor*

**INNOVATION AWARD – EFFECTIVE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA IN THE CLASSROOM**  
2017 Idaho Potato Commission



**College of the Canyons**  
**EDUCATION PARTNER OF THE YEAR**  
Archdiocesan Youth Employment Services (AYE)





## Fostering Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines

COC hosted the inaugural California Community Colleges Civic Engagement Summit. Keynote speaker Thomas Ehrlich spoke on the gap between civic engagement and political involvement. The conference addressed strategies to increase voter participation, civic knowledge and community volunteerism.

## HELPING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS INTEGRATE NEW SCIENCE STANDARDS

Teachers from Castaic, Saugus and Sulphur Springs school districts attended a three-day training on Next Generation Science Standards with Teresa Ciardi, chair of the Earth, Space & Environmental Sciences Department, and Amy Foote, director of Math Engineering Science Achievement (MESA).

## Learning the FUNdamentals



Hosted by Cougar Athletics and organized by Special Olympics Southern California and the Los Angeles Rams, the FUNdamentals Football Camp and "Punt, Pass, Kick" Challenge brought more than 50 Special Olympics athletes to Cougar Stadium to learn the fundamentals of football from COC football players and L.A. Rams representatives.



## LEGENDS ON CAMPUS

Football Coach Ted Iacenda and several players got to rub shoulders with seven former Heisman Trophy winners, including Marcus Allen, Steve Spurrier, Doug Flutie, Tony Dorsett, Herschel Walker, Desmond Howard, and Eddie George, who were on campus filming a Nissan commercial in Cougar Stadium.



## WOMEN'S CONFERENCE SELLS OUT

The 2018 College of the Canyons Women's Conference was a sold-out affair as keynote speakers from Boston Scientific spoke on the topic of "Making the Most of Your Life."



## College2 Career Day

Approximately 1,000 people learned about the wide variety of career paths and programs offered by College of the Canyons at College2Career Day.

# COGNITIONS

**Wendy Ruiz**  
2018 FOUNDER'S  
FAMILY VISION AWARD  
SCVi Charter School



**Nicole Faudree**  
Department Chair, Paralegal Studies  
2017 PRO BONO AWARD  
L.A. Paralegal Association

# Innovation & Distinction

## Canyons Completes

College of the Canyons was chosen as one of just 20 community colleges out of the 114 in California to participate in a pilot project to implement the new Guided Pathways framework. Designed to provide students with clear course-taking patterns that promote better enrollment decisions and prepare them for success, it also integrates support services in ways that make it easier for students to get the help they need during every step of their college experience. Our local effort is known as Canyons Completes, and over the past year, nearly 200 faculty members, administrators and classified staff have worked collaboratively on re-evaluating current practices to make them more effective, and implementing new initiatives designed to boost student success. Key accomplishments from the past year include:

Implementing My Academic Plan (MAP), an online tool that helps students create a roadmap for taking the courses needed to meet their educational goals.

Developing a series of notifications to congratulate students on academic performance, provide reminders about important deadlines, and highlight available support services.

Working to create "meta-majors," clusters of academic programs with common general education requirements that students can explore before committing to a specific major.

Creating a "peer check-in" program that employs students who help guide other students to support services and campus resources.

Designing an "early alert" program that will create an automated system to provide students experiencing academic difficulty with information on support resources.

Providing professional development for faculty and staff around cultural diversity, equity and student success.

Offering free classes to business and community members through our noncredit program.

Producing a series of videos to help guide students in career exploration.



## SHINING STARS

The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office recognized 18 of the college's career education programs as gold, silver and bronze "Strong Workforce Stars" based on students' earnings gains, living wage attainment, and employment in their field of study.



Nursing



Human Resources Management, Small Business Management, Marketing, Construction Management Technology, and Water Systems Technology



Automotive Technology, Accounting, Child Development (early care and education; and administration and management), Medical Laboratory Technology, Office Technology (office computer applications), Film Production, Computer Networking, Administration of Justice, Fire Technology, Hospitality, and Paralegal.





## Promises Delivered

The cohort of First-Year Promise students who began in fall 2017 achieved outstanding academic results:

- Their success rates in math and English classes outpaced other first-time, full-time students.
- 10 percent finished with a 4.0 GPA.
- More than 25 percent achieved a GPA of 3.5 or better.
- 56 percent finished with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.



## REPRESENTING AT THE MONTEREY NEXT GENERATION JAZZ FESTIVAL

The Music Department's "Just Jazz" and "House Blend" vocal groups were invited to perform at the Next Generation Jazz Festival. Julie Lawson and "Just

Jazz" took home 3rd place. Max Smith won the Outstanding Soloist award for his solo on "Fascinating Rhythm."

## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

Four COC students competed in the Future Business Leaders of America-Phi Beta Lambda (FBLA-PBL) National Conference in Baltimore, Maryland, against more than 2,800 students. The chapter was awarded the Gold Seal Chapter Award of Merit for success in promoting its programs and projects at local, state and national levels.

## Leading the Way in Digital Media Education

More than 250 college faculty, high school teachers and students from across California attended the Digital Media Educators Conference to share best practices in teaching digital media, and equipping students to succeed in the emerging gig economy.



## Students Honor Holocaust Survivor

A collaborative project between departments in the School of Visual and Performing Arts honored the memories of Holocaust survivor Leon Malméd. Advanced animation students created a documentary, *The Promise*, which was mixed by Sound Arts Professor Jon Amador and features a score composed by Music Department Chair Bernardo Feldman.

## Nursing Program First in California to Receive New Accreditation

COC's Nursing Program became the first in California to be accredited by the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation, which awards accreditation to nursing programs offering associate, bachelor's or doctoral degrees.



## COC MODEL UNITED NATIONS RANKED IN TOP 50

"Best Delegate," the definitive website on Model UN, named COC's team one of the top 50 delegations in the country. Other schools that ranked

in the Top 50 include Princeton University, John Hopkins University, Tufts University, UC Davis and UC San Diego.



## By LEEPS and Bounds

College of the Canyons partnered with Lincoln Electric to provide certified robotics training to Lincoln Electric clients, becoming the first official Lincoln Electric Education Partner School (LEEPS) in the nation, and enhancing COC's position as an industry leader in robotic welding.



## Music in the Air

School of Visual and Performing Arts students and faculty teamed up with Patrons of the Arts teamed up to resurrect, repaint, and position four used pianos around campus for students to make and enjoy music between classes.

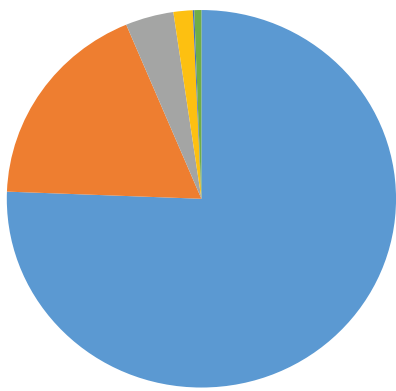
## The Sound of Distinction

College of the Canyons was recognized as an "All-Steinway" School by Steinway & Sons piano makers, as the two pianos used in the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center for student performances in theatre, dance, and music are Steinway grand pianos.

# Resource Management

## Fiscal Resources Expand Services to Students

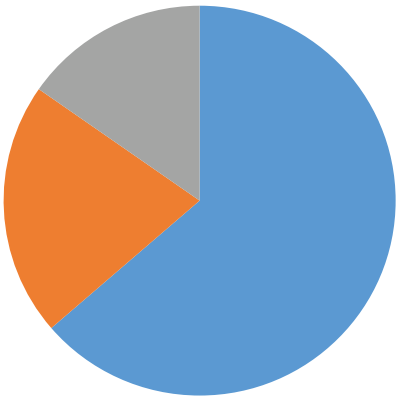
By growing its resources through multiple funding sources, including state, federal and private grants, the college consistently expands and enhances student enrollment, programs and services while building on its record of sound fiscal management. Since 2002, the college has received the highest possible rating on 97 percent of its finance and performance audits that review the district, the foundation and general obligation bonds.



### 2017-18 Revenues (Unrestricted General Fund)

Apportionment, Property Taxes & Enrollment Fees		
Apportionment, Property Taxes & Enrollment Fees	\$81,468,312	75.58%
Other State Sources	\$19,511,673	18.10%
Local Sources	\$4,321,226	4.01%
Facility Use Rentals	\$1,722,650	1.60%
Federal Sources	\$131,262	0.12%
All Other Sources	\$630,886	0.59%

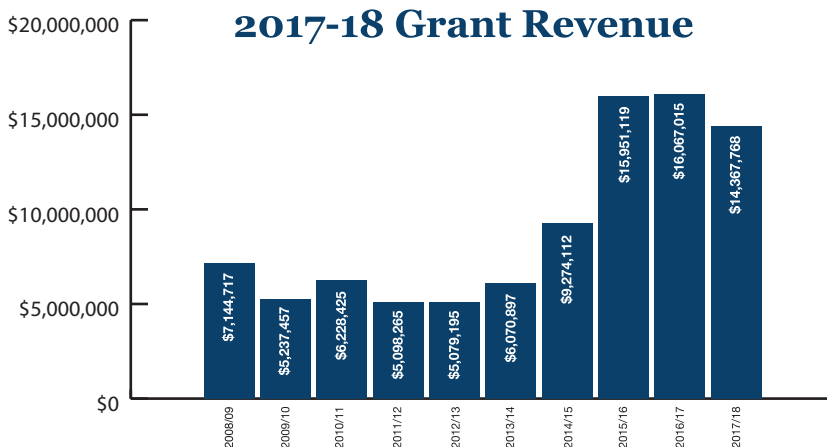
**TOTAL REVENUES \$107,786,009**



### 2017-18 Expenses (Unrestricted General Fund)

Salaries	\$68,468,364	63.66%
Benefits	\$22,622,262	21.03%
All Other Expenses	\$16,466,257	15.31%

**TOTAL EXPENSES \$107,556,883**



## **New & Noteworthy GRANTS**

### **Open Educational Resources**

California Community College  
Chancellor's Office  
**\$150,000**

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program will create open educational resource materials so students can earn a certificate in ECE without buying traditional college textbooks.

### **Nursing**

State of California  
Song Brown Program  
**\$80,000**

The College of the Canyons Nursing program will add more students over the next two years.

### **Pre-Apprenticeships**

California Community Colleges  
Chancellor's Office  
**\$352,046**

College of the Canyons is partnering with Advantage Media Services to offer an eight-week pre-apprenticeship to employees in material coordination within the warehousing/logistics field.

### **Open Educational Resources Technical Assistance Program**

California Community Colleges  
Chancellor's Office  
**\$330,000**

College of the Canyons will provide technical assistance to colleges that were awarded open educational resources (OER) grants to create OER degrees and certificates.

### **CTE Education Pathways**

California Community Colleges  
Chancellor's Office  
**\$260,000**

College of the Canyons will lead a regional effort to create a community of practice focused on helping students become K-12 teachers.

## **Best Possible Rating**

College's annual financial audit receives the highest possible rating.

## **\$14 million**

in revenue generated through grants

# Expanding Facilities



Valencia Campus Parking Structure

Measure E, the \$230 million bond measure approved by local voters in 2016, continues to enhance the college's two campuses. Upgrades and modernization are under way at the Valencia campus, while plans for building out the Canyon Country campus continue to move forward.

## Canyon Country Campus

### Central Plant

Energy-efficient heating and cooling will be supplied to the Science Center and other permanent buildings planned for the campus.

*Scheduled opening: Summer 2019*

### Science Center

This 55,000-square-foot, four-level structure will bring classrooms and laboratories to the heart of the campus, and meet the growing student demand for biology, chemistry and physical sciences courses.

*Scheduled opening: Spring 2020*

### Student Services/Learning Resources Center

Spanning 55,000 square feet, the building will mirror the Science Center, and frame a terraced common area that includes amphitheater-style seating. It will house key student support services, including The Learning Center and a library. Project plans were submitted for state approval this year.



## Valencia Campus

### Distance Learning

An expansion of Distance Learning facilities created five new offices, a green room and a group gathering space for this growing program.

*Completed: September 2018*

### Parking Structure

A three-level structure accommodating 1,659 vehicles will replace Parking Lot 7 at Valencia Boulevard and Rockwell Canyon Road, increasing parking by 1,000 spaces.

*Scheduled opening: Spring 2019*

### ADA Transition Plan and Barrier Removal

After receiving state approval in February 2018, work began across campus to ensure that doors and passageways comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

*Scheduled completion: Summer 2019*

### Boykin Lecture Hall

Plans for structural and aesthetic upgrades to the college's oldest lecture hall call for new seating, updated audio-visual systems, and replacing 1970s-era wood paneling with fabric-wrapped acoustical panels.

*Scheduled completion: Spring 2019*

### West Physical Education Building

With architectural planning completed in 2017, the college's main gym, indoor pool, and locker rooms will undergo extensive modernization since first opening more than 40 years ago. The work will begin following state approval of construction plans.

**Jasmine Foster**  
*Director of  
Community Relations*

**THE NEXT LEVEL 51 –  
EDUCATION**  
The Signal

**Jim Temple**  
*Vice President, Technology*

**THE NEXT LEVEL 51 –  
TECHNOLOGY**  
The Signal

**Cindy Schwanke**  
*Chef, Instructor*

**THE NEXT LEVEL 51 –  
EDUCATION**  
The Signal

# A Foundation of Opportunity

The College of the Canyons Foundation continues to attract community and corporate support that enhances the college's programs and services to students.

**\$190,920**

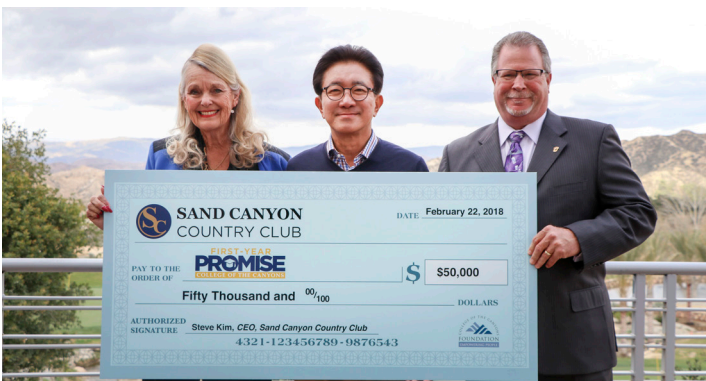
Scholarships awarded to students

## Foundation Highlights

### Keeping a Promise



The Board of Directors, led by Chair Steve Corn, launched a campaign to expand the college's First-Year Promise program. The Foundation adopted the goal to raise \$500,000 over two years for the program. In the first year of fundraising, the Foundation raised over \$400,000—more than 80 percent of its goal.



Philanthropist, entrepreneur and resort developer Steven Y. Kim presented a \$50,000 contribution to the Foundation's First-Year Promise Campaign. This contribution enabled 50 COC students to study at COC tuition and fee-free.



17 mini-grants awarded to faculty to launch new, innovative programs, including participation in the NASA High Altitude Student Platform research program.



2018 Silver Spur Award for Community Service given to U.S. Rep. Howard P. "Buck" McKeon (Ret.).

**12th year of receiving a clear financial audit with no recommendations or findings**

# Growing our Local Economy

## The Uniquely Abled Academy

Students with high-functioning autism receive training through the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies and are placed with local aerospace companies as CNC machinists.

## SWAG Pre-Apprenticeship Program

In partnership with AMS Fulfillment, College of the Canyons launched the first pre-apprenticeship program for Material Coordinator in the State of California. Students from challenging backgrounds receive 10 weeks of training in professional skills, safety, and financial literacy.

The Economic Development Division at College of the Canyons continues to fuel the economic growth of the region through its different units.

The Employee Training Institute delivers training that aligns with the workforce needs of companies like Crissair and Wesco Aircraft.

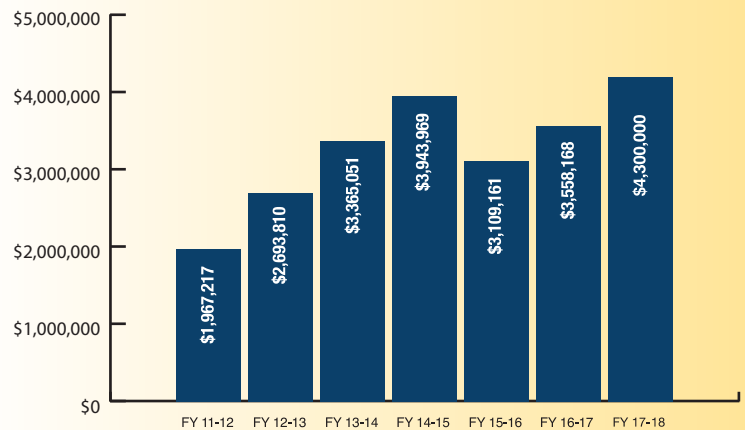
To foster innovation and business creation, the Small Business Development Center collaborates with the City of Santa Clarita and the Santa Clarita Valley Economic Development Corp. to host Start-up Weekend. The event celebrates the accomplishments of local start-ups and provides a venue for new companies to receive mentoring and support from experienced professionals.

The Economic Development Division recently welcomed Justin Wallace to its team. As director of educational partnerships, Wallace links the needs of local companies to the college's educational resources. A contract to provide McDonald's restaurants with training for its front-line employees is the first of its kind in the history of the college.

This year, Jeffrey Forrest, vice president of economic development at College of the Canyons, testified before Congress on "The Benefits of Apprenticeship to America's Small Businesses." Broadcast live on C-SPAN, the session placed College of the Canyons on the national stage in the area of workforce development.



**Economic Development Division**  
Contract Education & Grant Revenue



## BY THE NUMBERS

- \$4.3** million in external raised revenue
- 2,716** employees trained at **991** companies
- 295** national training certificates awarded
- 980** entrepreneurs counseled
- 52** business start-ups assisted
- 488** jobs created
- \$8.1** million in sales achieved by clients
- \$19.1** million of capital raised

# AWARDS & R

COC Chapter of the Student Veterans of America

**2017 BAND OF BROTHERS & SISTERS EXCELLENCE AWARDS**  
Student Veterans of America, COC Foundation



Center for Applied and Competitive Technologies (CACT)

**EMPLOYER & SERVICE PROVIDER FOR 2018**  
SCV Mayor's Committee

This year marked the Canyon Country campus' 10th anniversary of service to students and the community. More than 5,000 classes and 50,000 students have been hosted on this campus in its first decade.

The campus celebrated the groundbreaking of a state-of-the-art Science Center. Construction has moved quickly on the 55,000-square-foot facility, which will welcome students to its new classrooms and labs in spring 2020.

The college's Educational and Facilities Master Plan includes additional plans for programmatic, technological, staffing, and facilities improvements at Canyon Country, including a Student Services and Learning Resources Building, a Fine and Performing Arts Building, a Student Commons/Lecture Building. These facilities will enable the campus to continue building its reputation for providing high-quality instructional programs, supportive student services, and meaningful community partnerships in the eastern Santa Clarita Valley.

# Canyon Country Campus

FUTURE SITE OF THE SCIENCE CENTER

## AT A GLANCE

- Serves 4,000 students per semester.
- Hosts 170 faculty teaching 260 classes in 40 disciplines each semester.
- 18 associate degrees and 13 certificate programs can be completed on-site.



# COGNITION

**Natalie Miller**  
**STUDENT AWARD**  
Open Education Consortium

**Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook**  
*Chancellor*  
**2018 VISION IN EDUCATION**  
SCVi Charter School

**Tim Baber**  
*Welding Technology Department Chair*  
**PLUMMER MEMORIAL EDUCATION AWARD**  
American Welding Society

# Athletics

## A Tradition of Excellence



### Men's Golf Wins Southern California Championship, Finishes Runner-up at State

The California Community College Athletic Association (CCCAA) Southern California Championship was the program's sixth overall and fifth since 2012. The Cougars also finished runner-up at the state championships for the third time in in the last five seasons.

### Women's Volleyball Places Third at State Championship Tourney

Canyons advanced to the CCCAA State Championship tournament for the third time in program history.



### Football Wins 2017 Western State Bowl

The Cougars beat Mt. San Antonio College 28-16 in the 2017 Western State Bowl for the first bowl victory under head coach Ted Iacenda.



### Western State Conference Titles

Women's Volleyball

Women's Soccer

Women's Basketball

Softball

Men's Golf

### SEVEN INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCE TITLES

#### Jennifer Yamauchi

Women's Swim & Dive (100-yard Backstroke)

#### Jennifer Yamauchi

Women's Swim & Dive (200-yard Backstroke)

#### Rowdy Feather

Men's Swim & Dive (400-yard Individual Medley)

#### Takaira Beard

Women's Track & Field (High Jump)

#### Leo Lambert

Men's Track & Field (400 meters)

#### Slade Cavallaro

Men's Track & Field (400 meters)

**Leo Lambert, Slade Cavallaro,  
Blake Beeler, Cael Christian**  
(4x100m relay team)





## COC STUDENT-ATHLETES EXCEL ON THE FIELD

### Western State Conference Players of the Year



**Jacob Lopez**  
Baseball  
East Division  
Pitcher of the Year



**Calvin Estrada**  
Baseball  
East Division  
Player of the Year



**Andrew Brito**  
Football  
Northern League  
Offensive Player of the Year



**Jones Comerford**  
Men's Golf  
WSC Player of the Year



**Aaron Winsick**  
Men's Soccer  
South Division  
Co-Player of the Year



**Angel Quintero**  
Women's Soccer  
East Division  
Player of the Year



**Danielle Chatman**  
Softball  
East Division  
Player of the Year



**Emily Burns**  
Women's Volleyball  
South Division  
Player of the Year

### Coaches of the Year



**John Wissmath**  
Softball



**Justin Lundin**  
Women's soccer



**Gary Peterson**  
Men's Golf

### 97 STUDENT-ATHLETES EARNED AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE OR TRANSFERRED DURING 2017-18

Schools include: Vanderbilt University, University of Michigan, University of Arkansas, Texas Tech University, Florida Atlantic University, Indiana State University, Arkansas State University, USC, UCLA, UC Santa Barbara, UC Riverside, UC Davis, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Long Beach State, San Diego State, San Jose State, San Francisco State, Sonoma State, CSU Fullerton, CSU Northridge, CSU Channel Islands, CSU East Bay, CSU Los Angeles, Cal Lutheran, Lubbock Christian University, Missouri State University, Ottawa University, Portland State University, South Dakota State University, University of Maine, University of San Diego, University of South Alabama, Presentation College, Missouri Valley College, and University of South Alabama

### COC Athletics Launches Women's Tennis Program

COC launched its women's tennis team with the program's inaugural season in 2018. Head coach Patty LaBat led the all-freshman team to a sixth-place finish in the Western State Conference. Canyons concluded the season by sending four student-athletes to the 2018 CCCAA Southern California regional tournament after having two of its doubles teams qualify to compete.

### And in the classroom...

**11 FOOTBALL PLAYERS NAMED TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION ACADEMIC ALL-STATE TEAM**

**4 TRACK & FIELD STUDENT-ATHLETES NAMED ACADEMIC ALL-STATE HONOREES**

**2017 MEN'S GOLF TEAM EARNED CCCAA SCHOLAR TEAM AWARD**

**FORMER BASEBALL PLAYER JUSTIN DEHN NAMED TO 2017 SCHOLAR-ATHLETE HONOR ROLL**



student success by reducing the barriers that most often inhibit our students from reaching their goals. Affordability is at the top of that list, which is why the First-Year Promise program is so important. It not only provides students with a free year of first-time, full-time enrollment, it also equips them with the study tools and support services needed to make the most of this opportunity. The cohort of students who began in Fall 2017 achieved outstanding results:

- Their success rates in math and English classes outpaced other first-time, full-time students.
- Ten percent of the cohort finished the year with a 4.0 grade point average (GPA).
- More than a quarter achieved a GPA of 3.5 or better.
- More than half – 56 percent – finished with a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

As we continue to grow this pathway to opportunity, it will enable more and more students to make the futures they imagine as they commit to the promise of education as a way to achieve their goals.

### **Savings by the Book**

Beyond enrollment fees, textbooks represent one of the most significant cost barriers to students. That's why more and more of our faculty are opting for open educational resources (OER) – teaching and learning materials released in the public domain or under an intellectual property license – instead of relying on traditional, high-cost textbooks. Students access OER for free online, or purchase print editions for a small fee to cover the cost of the copies. Last year, our students saved approximately \$4 million in textbook costs thanks to OER.

### **A Welcome Change**

By changing how new students are placed into math and English classes, our math and English faculty, along with our research and assessment teams, addressed another key barrier that many students encountered on the pathway to opportunity. Rather than relying solely on a standardized test to determine placement, we now review students' high school classes and grades, and use that data to inform placement. As a result, 70 percent of new students place into transfer-level courses in English and Math. This is a remarkable improvement, considering just 15 percent did so under the previous system. Because they bypassed remedial classes, students saved \$1.3 million in books and tuition costs and 97,200 hours of class time.

### **Taking the Next Steps**

For many students, their goal is to transfer to a four-year university, and we demonstrate success in enabling them do so. We rank No. 2 in California, with 79.4 percent of our college-prepared students completing a degree or certificate or are prepared to transfer to four-year universities. In addition to 68 associate of arts and associate of science degrees, College of the Canyons also offers 27 Associate Degrees for Transfer (ADTs). Known as "a degree with a guarantee," ADTs provide students with guaranteed admission to a California State University campus if they complete the degree and meet the CSU minimum eligibility requirements. College of the Canyons ranked third among the state's 114 community colleges

in terms of ADT growth after increasing the number of degrees conferred from 220 in 2015-16 to 729 in 2016-17. In fact, the number of ADTs we awarded to students grew by 703 percent from 2013 to 2017.

Those students seeking well-paying jobs in today's growing industries also find that we can help them get there. This year, the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office recognized 18 of the college's career education programs as "Strong Workforce Stars" based on students' earnings gains, living wage attainment, and employment in their field of study. Students who complete career education courses at College of the Canyons see a 21 percent median wage increase.

I am proud and inspired at what the team at COC has accomplished this year. These achievements began as ideas for better serving students. And, in the tradition of the MakerSpace, our dedicated team of classified staff, faculty, and administrators, worked to bring these ideas from imagination to reality. It wasn't always easy, or straightforward, but we persisted with patience, tenacity, and a steady focus on the benefits that ultimately would be realized for students. We discovered new perspectives, moved forward in unexpected ways, and often emerged with something even better than what we had imagined. The results are amazing, and creating new pathways to opportunity for our students.

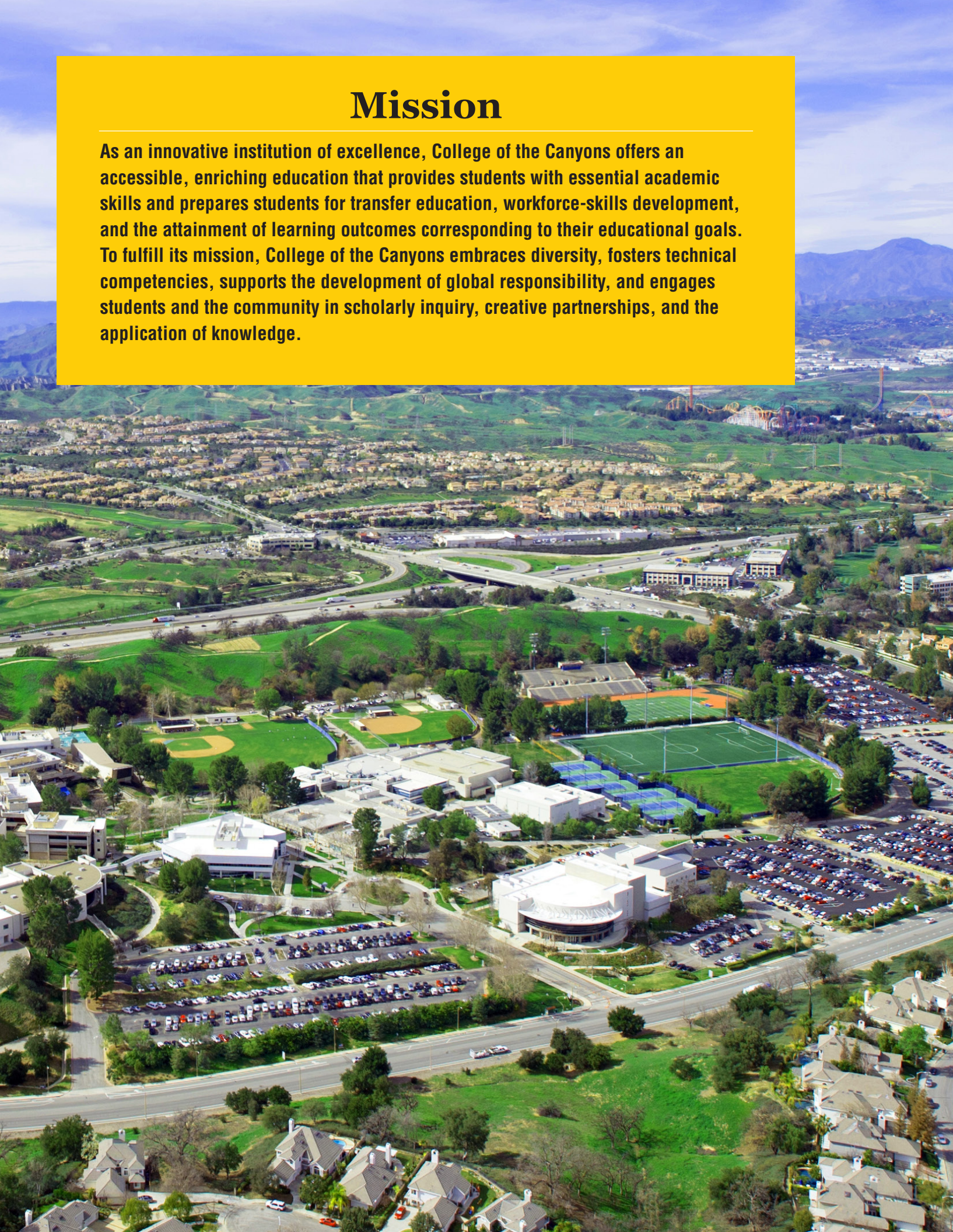


Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook  
Chancellor



# Mission

**As an innovative institution of excellence, College of the Canyons offers an accessible, enriching education that provides students with essential academic skills and prepares students for transfer education, workforce-skills development, and the attainment of learning outcomes corresponding to their educational goals. To fulfill its mission, College of the Canyons embraces diversity, fosters technical competencies, supports the development of global responsibility, and engages students and the community in scholarly inquiry, creative partnerships, and the application of knowledge.**





# SANTA CLARITA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

Dr. Edel Alonso • Mr. Michael D. Berger • Ms. Michele R. Jenkins • Ms. Joan W. MacGregor • Mr. Steven D. Zimmer  
Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook, *Chancellor*