

# College History & Vision

## COLLEGE MISSION STATEMENT

Cuyamaca College serves a broad and diverse community of individuals who seek to benefit from the college's wide range of educational programs and services. The primary mission of Cuyamaca College in order to fulfill its commitment to student learning is to provide:

- Instructional programs that meet student needs for transfer education, vocational and career education, general education, and developmental courses;
- Community education programs and services; and
- Programs that promote economic development.

To facilitate this mission, Cuyamaca College provides a comprehensive range of support services including outreach and access initiatives, academic and learning resources, student development programs, and multicultural and co-curricular activities. In support of its primary mission to promote student learning, Cuyamaca College structures its planning processes and engages the college community to pursue the following areas of focus:

- Academic Excellence and Program Development
- Student Success
- Facilities and the Physical Environment
- Community Relations
- Resource Development

## COLLEGE VISION "LEARNING FOR THE FUTURE"

### PREAMBLE & VALUES

Cuyamaca College is committed to providing opportunities and excellence in higher education to our community. Our vision, "Learning for the Future," is reflected in our six core values listed below. These values help shape the unique experience that is Cuyamaca College.

- Academic Excellence
- Student Access
- The Natural Environment
- Strong Community Relations
- Innovation and Creativity
- Diversity and Social Harmony

### FOCUS AREAS

**Academic Excellence and Program Development** - To provide high quality, learner centered academic programs that enable students to achieve transfer and career/technical education goals.

**Student Success** - To implement systems and services that promote access, equity and opportunities for individual growth and that serve the diverse college student population.

**Facilities and Physical Environment** - To create well designed and appropriate learning environments that facilitate student success.

**Community Relations** - To enhance the college image, academic reputation and prominence in the community in order to become its focal point for postsecondary education.

**Resource Development** - To expand resources and maximize the use of existing resources, including fiscal and human.

## EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

In order to maximize the opportunity for the development of individuals' personal, social and intellectual qualities, the college provides:

An **instructional** program:

- **Transfer** courses equivalent to the lower division curriculum of universities and colleges for students who plan to continue their education at a baccalaureate institution.
- **Career and technical education** courses to provide technical skills and knowledge for beginning employment, retraining and advancement, respond to local business and industry economic development and workforce training directions.
- **General education** courses to broaden knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, to develop analytical ability and critical thinking, and to foster interest in lifelong learning in the educational, scientific and cultural fields essential for effective participation in a complex society.
- **Developmental** courses to assist inadequately prepared students to succeed in college course work.

A **student services** program:

- **Academic, vocational and personal support** services to provide students with sufficient opportunity to achieve educational success.
- **Co-curricular activities** to provide opportunities for personal development and social responsibility.

**Learning resources support** services:

- **Library collection:** A well-rounded collection of print and electronic materials selected to support instructional programs across the curriculum.
- **Information competency:** Instruction designed to teach students how to locate, evaluate and utilize information resources. Preparing students for lifelong learning is the ultimate goal.
- **Research guidance:** One-on-one instruction to assist students with their course-related and individual research needs.

A **community education** program:

- **Continuing education noncredit** courses which are eligible for state support and are designed to provide education and training in areas of local needs.
- **Community services** courses, workshops, seminars, forums and institutes to provide for the special educational, cultural, avocational and recreational needs of the community.

An **economic development** program:

- **Education and training** that contributes to continuous workforce improvement of regional business and industry.

## EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The founders of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District believed that a community college should provide experiences which would greatly broaden the students' educational opportunities and strengthen our society's democratic institutions. The representatives of the community directed the college to provide an education through which students may create rewarding lives, productive for themselves and for society, based on an understanding of the relationship between the past and the challenge of the present and the future.

Cuyamaca College accepts and is committed to these philosophical premises:

- The democratic way of life allows each individual personal freedom and initiative consistent with responsibilities to one another.
- The college recognizes the worth of the individual and the fact that individual needs, interests and capacities vary greatly.
- The maximum development of the personal, social and intellectual qualities of each individual must be encouraged.
- The maximum development and fulfillment of the individual and the development of the general welfare are increasingly interdependent.
- All segments of the college community are encouraged to contribute and participate in the operation of the college.

An educational environment dedicated to these philosophic premises will produce individuals prepared for life and citizenship in a complex, viable society.

## GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

**Vision:** Educational Excellence for a Productive Citizenry

**Mission:** The mission of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is to provide leadership for learning opportunities that anticipate, prepare for, and meet the future challenges of a complex democracy and a global society. The District facilitates and supports educational programs and services at Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges to meet student and community needs.

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District provides:

- Centralized leadership for coordination of educational services districtwide
- Institutional research and planning
- Human resource programs and development
- Responsible fiscal and business management
- Administrative support

- External relations that inform, advocate and support the district's vision, mission and values
- Conscientious compliance with federal, state and local laws, policies and regulations

### THE WAY FORWARD

The five elements of *The Way Forward* provide the district's guiding principles—the framework for our values and direction.

- **Academic Excellence**

Commitment to institutions focused on teaching, learning and supportive services that lead to student success.

- **Unity**

Commitment to cooperation in good faith throughout the organization and the community to enable progress beyond that of any individual's capacity.

- **Standardization**

Commitment to standardizing systems and processes to save resources, facilitate operations and remove barriers.

- **Alignment**

Commitment to align curriculum and practices to eliminate obstacles to student success and facilitate seamless transition.

- **Resources**

Commitment to secure, sustain and develop human resources; protect, maintain and enhance the physical environment; and pursue technological and fiscal resources to support educational programs and appropriate facilities.

fitness center, gym, tennis and volleyball courts, soccer and ball fields, and an Olympic track. In Spring 1999, the Water Conservation Garden was opened through a Joint Powers Agreement between the College and the Otay and Helix Water Districts.

A new Student Services Center opened in Spring 2001 to provide one-stop student services at the Rancho San Diego Parkway entrance. The Child Development Center and Math Learning Center opened in Fall 2001.

In Spring 2005, the Automotive Technology Complex remodel provided significant improvements to the Automotive Technology Program which included the Ford ASSET Program and General Motors ASEP Program.

In Spring 2007, Cuyamaca College opened a new state-of-the-art Science and Technology Center that provides students with access to the most up-to-date technologies in computer, information, natural and physical sciences. In Fall 2007, the college opened a spectacular Student Center, and a one-of-a-kind Communication Arts Center opened in Spring 2008. Finally, in Spring 2010, the Business and Technology building opened, providing state-of-the-art computer and graphic design labs as well as professional business classrooms. Opening of this new building allowed for relocation of mathematics into the first floor of the Science and Mathematics Building and the opening of the STEM Achievement Center in H-103. These new and welcomed additions are complemented by a host of facility renovations and overall campus improvements which together are greatly expanding the range of instructional programs and student support services that our students have come to enjoy and expect.

Cuyamaca College is growing in response to the ever increasing demands of the surrounding community and to meet the educational needs in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. The college is designed to provide a comprehensive curriculum of programs and courses of study and, when completed, will accommodate an enrollment of approximately 15,000 students in 2015.

## HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

Cuyamaca College is located in the community of Rancho San Diego at 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway in the City of El Cajon on a 165-acre site which was at one time a part of the Old Monte Vista Ranch. Cuyamaca College is one of two colleges serving the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

The name for the college was selected by the Board of Trustees as a reflection of the history and heritage of this area of San Diego County. One historian notes that "The very old Indian name 'Cuyamaca' has persisted through Spanish, Mexican and American times," and has, at various times, been "applied to mountains, lakes, valleys and ranches." Writers have interpreted the Indian meaning of the name in various ways, including "above rain," "beyond rain" and "place where the rain comes from heavens."

The building site was acquired by the Board of Trustees in September 1972, and the college officially opened in Fall 1978. Since then, the college has grown steadily, both in size and sophistication. In 1989, the Learning Resource Center opened and in 1993, the privately funded Heritage of the Americas Museum opened on campus.

In Spring 1995, Rancho San Diego Parkway, the Fury Lane entrance road, was completed providing students easier access to the college. In Fall 1995, the college dedicated a new 20.3 acre physical education facility with a