50 years building on a strong foundation

2011 Annual Report to the Community
Thank you for taking time to review our past year’s accomplishments as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. We’ve come a long way since 1961, and we now have two comprehensive institutions, Grossmont College and Cuyamaca College, which provide a rich array of education and workforce training options.

In 50 years, we’ve never strayed from our core mission: providing outstanding learning opportunities that transform lives. We are advancing this vision through five strategic areas of focus that you will see highlighted in this report: student access; learning and student success; value and support of employees; economic and community development; and fiscal and physical resources.

The year 2011 presented some incredibly tough challenges as we continued to deal with fallout from the fourth year of the California budget crisis, one of the darkest budget periods in our history. With leadership from our extraordinary Board of Trustees, along with our team of committed administrators, staff and faculty, we have weathered those budgetary challenges and continue to excel.

In 2011, we served nearly 30,000 students, maintained a balanced budget, received clean audits, hired a new Cuyamaca College president, and launched a new foundation. We also hosted thousands of visitors to our colleges for dance, theater, art, sports, literature, science, gardening and landscaping, and many other events.

We’re looking forward to many more decades of providing accessible, affordable and acclaimed higher education in East County. We’re proud of all that we’ve achieved and we’re excited about all the possibilities that lie ahead.

Cindy L. Miles

District Executive Leadership
Left to Right:
Sunita V. Cooke, President, Grossmont College
Cindy L. Miles, Chancellor
Mark J. Zacovic, President, Cuyamaca College
Sue Rearic, Vice Chancellor, Business Services
Fifty years ago, students at Grossmont College had their test papers printed on mimeograph machines, and the closest things to computers on campus were the massive keypunch machines in the business complex. Girls had beehive hairdos and vied to be homecoming queen.

How times have changed! Technology is now an integral part of the college district and our diverse student body now represents all ages, backgrounds and hair styles. Students are involved in campus organizations ranging from the Future Broadcasters of America to the Student Veteran Organization.

And what does the future hold for Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges? The college district sought to answer that question in 2011 with an updated Educational Master Plan, which will serve as a blueprint for the planning process for the next 10 to 20 years.

To gather information for the Master Plan, teams of faculty, staff, students and researchers conducted a comprehensive review and analyzed nearly 200 research items on key topics, including education, societal and technological changes, and the economy. The district also held forums with more than 200 community members, students, and employees.

Some key findings from the Master Plan

- Technological advances and increased need for more college graduates in high-demand fields will drive funding priorities.

- Students will be more tech-savvy, seeking more online courses that allow them to be increasingly self-directed.

- New buildings will be constructed with a focus on flexible uses and environmental sustainability.

- Postsecondary education or technical skills will become essential gateways to the middle class.

No one can predict the future. An Educational Master Plan is the best way for the college district to prepare for it.
Population within the college district area is projected to grow 17.3 percent over the next 20 years.

Grossmont and Cuyamaca College students earn nearly 1,600 degrees and certificates per year. More than 2,300 transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

The number of jobs within the East County area served by the college district will grow by 12.9 percent over 20 years.

Nearly 3,000 of our students attend classes at both colleges.

Online classes now make up 12 percent of all those offered to students.

We're here to serve East County
50 fantabulous years
Grossmont College, which first held classes in 1961 at Monte Vista High School in Spring Valley, marked its 50th anniversary in a yearlong celebration. From a “50 and Fantabulous” fundraiser in October 2011 to a two-day Community Open House to be held April 13-14, 2012, the entire college demonstrates its dedication to the college’s vision statement of “Changing Lives through Education.”

Today, Grossmont offers more than 150 degree and certificate programs to prepare students for careers or transfer to a university. Specialized workforce development programs include Nursing, Allied Health, Administration of Justice, Culinary Arts and Child Development.

Some Grossmont College’s highlights of 2011:

- Participated in a campuswide interdisciplinary learning experience based on The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, the bestselling book that explored the ethical boundaries of science
- Selected to partner with three other colleges on a U.S. Department of Education Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) grant to demonstrate new approaches to student success

Many notable student achievements, including:

- The Gospel Choir singing at Carnegie Hall
- A cardiovascular technology student studying space medicine at a NASA summer research program
- Nursing students volunteering at East County’s largest free health fair and homeless veterans programs
In July, Mark J. Zacovic, with 26 years of community college experience, became the fifth president of Cuyamaca College. With nearly 9,000 students, the 33-year-old college in Rancho San Diego continues to be on the forefront of innovative programs that promote student success and prepare them for work in their chosen careers or transfer to a university.

Some Cuyamaca College highlights of 2011:

> “Graduation Starts Today” messages are prominent around the campus, encouraging students to succeed through efforts such as a first-year experience program for recent high school graduates, extensive tutoring, and supplemental instruction to accelerate learning in reading, writing, and math.

> With its focus on environmentally-oriented careers, Cuyamaca College hosted the third annual Green Business Symposium to identify and create new jobs in the region’s green industries. More than 300 industry professionals and ornamental horticulture students attended the Sustainable Urban Landscape conference.

> Cuyamaca College’s automotive technology program, which trains students for careers in the automobile service industry, was named a finalist for 2011 School of the Year by Tomorrow’s Technician magazine. Auto tech program coordinator Jim Custeau and auto tech instructor Chris Branton also received industry awards.

> A new degree in sustainable urban landscaping was developed in anticipation of the growing demand for landscape professionals who specialize in green roofs, green walls, gray-water recycling and rainwater collection.

> Continuing its leadership in providing job training, Cuyamaca College was awarded $2.3 million in grants for workforce development.
on the forefront of green technology
District Services includes 117 dedicated individuals who serve our students and employees with an array of essential activities, such as disbursing financial aid, receiving and reconciling revenues, and managing purchasing and payrolls. In addition, District Services provides the administrative technology, facilities planning, human resources, police, and research functions that support the entire district.

All these employees are part of the critical district infrastructure that enables our colleges to be equipped, safe and compliant, and ready to provide great educational services to our students.

Some District Services Highlights in 2011:

- Improved services to students, including automatic registration into course sections from wait lists, new tuition payment plans and credit card options for payments
- Improved communications with enhanced website and access to online information
- Created a grant support system to help employees research, prepare and submit grant applications that will benefit the colleges and their students
- Selected as the only community college to participate in an American Council on Education project promoting internationalization, diversity, and multicultural education
- Maintained financial stewardship ensuring an eighth year of clean audits

District Services departments

- Accounting
- Advancement and Communications
- Budget and Fiscal Services
- Employee and Labor Relations
- Employment and Benefit Services
- Facilities Planning, Development and Maintenance
- Information Systems
- Payroll
- Public Safety and Parking
- Purchasing and Contracts
- Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness
Making the District a Great Place to Work and Learn
A chronic truant in high school with an attitude problem, Cuyamaca College student Breeanne Hinkley barely received her diploma from the county’s Juvenile Court and Community Schools.

“I thought I was queen of the world,” Hinkley said. “I had never intended on going to college. I had a job at Chuck E. Cheese and I had a car – what did I need an education for?”

The day before she turned 21, she had her first baby, an experience she describes as the turning point in her life.

“It stopped being all about me and it made me realize I needed to better myself to provide a better life for my child,” she said.

In 2008, by then a stay-at-home mom of three young children, Hinkley took a math class at Cuyamaca. To her surprise, her second try at school was a far cry from her dreaded high school days.

These days, she carries a full load of classes at Cuyamaca College and works 30 to 40 hours a week as a preschool teacher. With a 3.56 grade-point average, Hinkley is an Osher scholar who was also selected for a scholarship from Cuyamaca College’s Child Development Training Consortium.

“College has been the start of a whole new life for me,” said Hinkley, who now has aspirations of becoming an elementary school teacher.
Proudly serving nearly 30,000 students

Fall 2011 Enrollment

GC: 20,079
CC: 8,910

Students by Ethnicity

- White: 45%
- Hispanic: 27%
- Black: 7%
- Asian: 6%
- Two or more: 7%
- Other: 8%

Students by Age

- 20 and under: 26%
- 20-24: 37%
- 25-29: 14%
- 30-49: 18%
- 50+: 5%

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“It was a great experience learning from different types of people.”
It was just a few years ago that Joshua White decided to pursue his passion for playing jazz piano, spending hours listening to jazz greats like Herbie Hancock. But when White, 26, placed second in the prestigious Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition in September 2011, it was Hancock who came to him offering praise following White’s performance at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

“He said I inspired him,” White said.

White studied piano for years, but he said his two years at Grossmont College played an important role in his development as a musician. He majored in music theory and played in the Grossmont orchestra and the college’s music ensembles until he transferred to San Diego State University in 2005.

“It’s about the people,” White said of his experience at Grossmont. “It definitely put me in a position to meet individuals who shaped my path. It was a great experience learning from different types of people.”

Steve Baker, Grossmont’s dean of arts, humanities and language/communication, described White as a brilliant piano player.

“He was a fabulous performer,” Baker said. “What he got from us was a higher level of technical training.”

White used that training to submit his entry to the jazz competition, and was one of 12 young artists from around the world who were selected to perform at the Kennedy Center.
With more than 2,500 full- and part-time employees, the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is one of East County’s largest employers. The district is committed to fostering an inclusive, diverse and professional environment where employees are encouraged to reach their potential.

See just a few of our exceptional employees and their noteworthy achievements on these pages.

**Teresa McNeil**
Articulation Officer
Cuyamaca College

McNeil and Johnson won faculty awards for their work with area colleges and universities to ensure community college courses match those offered at four-year schools.

**Janice Johnson**
Articulation Officer
Cuyamaca College

**John Thomas**
Technician, Ornamental Horticulture Department, Cuyamaca College

*Won a Chancellor/Classified Senate Award for his conscientious work and countless hours spent ensuring department events were flawless.*

**Tammy Huston**
Counseling and assessment supervisor
Grossmont College

*Won the President’s Leadership Award for her concern for students and commitment to excellence.*

**Chancellor Cindy L. Miles**

Leads a group of employees on their way to honor a winner of the Chancellor/Classified Senate Award.
Karen McCoy
Multimedia Technician
Grossmont College

Received Chancellor/Classified Senate Award for her extraordinary customer service

Maria Baeza
Secretary, Student Affairs
Grossmont College

Joined by her husband, Mario, received a Chancellor/Classified Senate Award for her dedication to her job

Patty Tuckett
Groundskeeper
Cuyamaca College

Taking one class a semester since 1997, earned her associate in science degree from Cuyamaca College

Maria Gearhart
Senior Multimedia Assistant
Cuyamaca College

Received Chancellor/Classified Senate Award for reupholstering nearly 200 chairs to furnish the expansion of the college’s Learning and Technology Resource Center

Employment
Total 2,520

Academic
Full-time 329
Classified
Part-time 1,001
Classified
Full-time 413

Academic
Part-time ???
The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District provides an economic benefit to its students, the East County area and the San Diego County region. Our students get better-paying jobs with the skills they learn, and the community benefits by reduced unemployment, a lower dependence on government assistance and less crime. The district is a major employer in East County, and its supply and service needs provide millions of dollars in business for companies throughout the region.

On average, the lifetime income of a student at Grossmont or Cuyamaca colleges increases by $6 for every dollar they invest in their education.

Students get a 15.4 percent rate of return on their educational investment, recovering all of their costs within 10 years.

California benefits through improved health and reduced welfare, unemployment and crime, saving the public an estimated $4.5 million each year.

Higher earnings by Grossmont and Cuyamaca college students and increases in state income expand California’s tax base by $87.2 million each year.

East County’s economy receives almost $100 million per year due to the college district’s operations.

Grossmont-Cuyamaca’s total annual economic impact on East County: $477.5 million.
Amanda Simpson found her calling when she took a floral design class at Cuyamaca College in 2004. She discovered she loved working with flowers and plants, and dropped her plans to go into real estate so she could take classes at the college’s renowned Ornamental Horticulture department.

An internship at the Brickman Group, a commercial landscaping firm, led to a job with the company. Simpson is now Brickman’s crew chief at the world-famous Hotel Del Coronado, supervising three other workers who maintain the landscaping on the 30-acre property.

Taking care of the landscape at the Coronado hotel can be challenging — from the palm trees that were planted when the hotel opened more than 120 years ago to the thriving herb and vegetable garden that supplies seasonings for the hotel restaurants.

Simpson said the education she received at Cuyamaca College has helped immeasurably in her job. “My biggest asset to my company is my horticulture knowledge,” she said. “The classes set me apart from other people who might be working from the bottom up.”

Compared to someone with a high school diploma, associate degree graduates earn $13,000 more per year over the course of a working lifetime.
**District deals with fourth year of budget challenges**

What’s been labeled the worst budget crisis ever to hit the Golden State has led to a prolonged period of funding cuts and tough measures by the college district to survive these fiscally difficult times. Thankfully, the district’s budget leadership — the Governing Board and the District Strategic Planning and Budget Council — had the foresight to prepare for these budget cuts.

In December, California’s already financially hard-hit community colleges were dealt additional midyear budget cuts as a result of state revenues falling below what was anticipated. Because of good planning, the district’s $179 million budget for 2011-2012 included an anticipated $6.3 million cut in state funding, preventing further cuts in the middle of the school year.

The district has been forced to make many painful cuts, including eliminating almost 600 class sections this academic year on top of the 1,000 classes cut in the past two years. The state raised student fees from $26 per credit unit to $36, and will increase another $10 per unit beginning in summer 2012.

The budget difficulties of the past four years have been incredibly challenging for the district, which has instituted many cost-saving measures. They include:

- Slashing spending on supplies, utilities, travel, and other operating expenses
- Cutting the full-time workforce by 88 positions and instituting a process to fill only the most critical jobs
- Raised more than $10 million in grants and contracts
- Remained steadfast in serving the needs of the community—served nearly 30,000 students, providing jobs for more than 2,500 employees, and contributing more than $477 million to the area economy

**2011-12 Budget**

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Building For the Future

The nine-year era of building and renovation under Proposition R has come to a close in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District, overhauling and modernizing the two colleges with bright and energy-efficient new buildings, major remodels of existing facilities, and infrastructure improvements including expanding parking, road improvements, updated utilities, restroom renovations, fire alarm upgrades and energy conservation projects.

In short, the $207 million facilities bond measure approved by local voters in 2002 transformed the two campuses into points of pride for East County.

Proposition R was the key funding source for greatly needed new labs and classrooms, and it enabled the district to leverage $68.1 million in state matching funds for construction of some of the most innovative facilities the region has ever seen.

Thirteen major projects were completed on the two campuses, but old buildings remain and changes in technology and growing demands for college services means the need for new and better facilities will continue.
Beginning in 2012, the five members of the Governing Board will be elected by **trustee areas** instead of at-large in the 1,100-square-mile East San Diego County college district. The change was made to comply with the 2001 California Voting Rights Act. Trustee areas serve the community better by ensuring that all populations are equitably represented at the voting booth and that residents have access to their representatives on the district’s Governing Board.

Almost 465,000 people live in the district that stretches from the cities of El Cajon, La Mesa, Lemon Grove and Santee to the Imperial County line. According to the 2010 census, the district population is 60 percent white, 25 percent Hispanic, 7 percent African-American, 5 percent Asian and 3 percent other.

In drawing the boundary lines for the five trustee areas, the district sought to make sure each area had an equivalent population. Other factors that were considered in creating the districts included keeping cities within the same trustee area, natural boundaries such as canyons or highways, and creating trustee areas with compact, contiguous territory as much as possible.
A new foundation for Grossmont-Cuyamaca

The adage “In union there is strength” applies to the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, the new organization created to raise funds, strengthen relationships with alumni, and connect with the East County community that the colleges serve.

The foundation carries on the work of the two separate foundations at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges to raise money for scholarships, facilities and college programs. But a stronger, unified foundation serving both of the colleges makes better use of district resources and provides a single point of connection to the community.

“We view ourselves as partners with the colleges and community in providing quality educational opportunities to East County,” said Glenn Kaufhold, foundation CEO.

To develop a closer relationship with alumni, retirees and community members who support the colleges, the foundation has created the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Network. The network, available through the foundation website at foundation.gcccd.edu, is free and offers benefits to members such as discounts and special programs.

As the colleges reel from the hits of state budget cuts, the foundation is establishing the Possibilities Roundtable, made up of dedicated people willing to donate at least $100 per month. The money will be used to help fund programs and services on the two campuses that enhance student learning.

Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges board

Left to right: Chancellor Cindy L. Miles, Robert Nolan, Chuck Hansen, Karol Schoen, Robert Lazarus, Grossmont College President Sunita V. Cooke, Ron Oberndorfer, Mike Hansen, board co-chairs Sharon Ballad and Vicki Whitmire, Yehudi Gaffen, Judy Garrett, Karen Lanning, Cuyamaca College President Mark J. Zacovic, Jim Custeau, Glenn Wilhite, Foundation CEO Glenn Kaufhold
Not pictured: Paul Botte, Brad Dalusio, Guy Gonzalez, Eric Lund, Ken McCormack, Anthony Zambelli
Sam Ciccati says he never would have been president of Cuyamaca College without the start he got at a community college—and he’s given back to Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges to help countless other students transform their lives.

Ciccati, who served as president of Cuyamaca College from 1984 to 1993, funded four scholarships as part of the statewide Osher scholarship challenge that provides $1,000 each year to deserving students. His brother, Daniel Ciccati, who died in December 2010, also funded another scholarship.

“I just really believe that education is the vehicle to change people’s lives,” Ciccati said. “If I can help people to get an education, that would be wonderful.”

Ciccati was working at a National City power plant and had no intention of getting a degree when he started taking community college classes. He realized he was a good student and began going to school full-time, ultimately getting his degree from San Diego State University in 1961.

He started working as a counselor at Grossmont College in 1969 and served as vice president for instruction and student services before he was selected as Cuyamaca’s president. While serving as president, Ciccati laid the groundwork for establishment of the Water Conservation Garden and the Heritage of the Americas Museum at the Cuyamaca College campus.

Ciccati has been contributing to scholarships at Cuyamaca since he retired, but he said he especially liked knowing that the Osher scholarships are perpetual.

“Scholarships can make a huge difference for a student trying to complete their education,” Ciccati said. “The Osher provides an opportunity to do that for a much longer term — forever.”
Because of the generosity of hundreds of donors, $1,000 scholarships will be offered each year to 82 deserving students at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges...FOREVER. The Bernard Osher Foundation gave $50 million to California’s 112 community colleges and challenged them to raise money so that the scholarships will be funded in perpetuity. Each $13,500 raised by the colleges was matched by the foundation to fund an Osher scholarship.

Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges were two of just 31 of the state’s community colleges to realize their fundraising goals. Marking an all-time high in fundraising, the colleges received about $850,000 in donations. With matches from the Osher Foundation, the colleges’ scholarship fund totals more than $1.6 million.

The Osher scholarship drive has ended, but the need for financial assistance for students is greater than ever. To explore creating your own named scholarship fund, contact Ernie Ewin at the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges at ernest.ewin@gcccd.edu or call (619) 644-7109. Thank you to the hundreds of people and organizations who invested in the future of East County!
We have made every effort to include all donors to the Osher scholarship campaign on this list. Please contact the foundation if your donation has not been recognized here.