



Cultivating Community



Annual Report
2022-2023



GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHANCELLOR

Lynn Ceresino Neault, Ed.D.



The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District is made up of many communities, all interacting and connecting with each other. Both Cuyamaca and Grossmont colleges offer students the chance to find their own community, whether it is on a sports team, in the performing arts, or becoming a member of the many varied clubs and organizations representing a wide range of backgrounds and interests.

In the 2022-2023 academic year, we emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic, the most challenging period in our history. Many of our students returned to the Grossmont and Cuyamaca college campuses, striving to reengage and rebuild a sense of community.

Our colleges continue to proudly serve our community by providing access to as many students as possible, especially those who might otherwise not have pursued a higher education. Grossmont College received grants to increase access to a range of students to help them overcome obstacles to their college education. Cuyamaca College once again was recognized for its innovative programs to assist students struggling in beginning math and English programs. Both colleges were recognized as welcoming institutions for the military, veterans, and their dependents.

We are keenly aware of the important role that the college district plays in our East County community. In addition to our mission to train and educate our students, our colleges offer performances and events that enrich our community. In 2022-2023, both colleges held open houses, held job fairs to connect workers with potential employers, and presented top-notch entertainment. Grossmont College hosted forums to address the persistent issue of homelessness, while Cuyamaca hosted a symposium to encourage more women to pursue jobs in the water industry.

Our District has also strengthened partnerships with a variety of social service and nonprofit organizations that help our most vulnerable East County community members, including refugees, unsheltered residents, and others facing serious life challenges. We are working to help connect people with paths to well-paying jobs with resources and programs that will allow them to succeed.

Our colleges are places of educational and career advancement, but they are also centers of cultural diversity and intellectual engagement. They are places where all are welcome and come to thrive. For example, our support for Latinx students was demonstrated when Grossmont College was listed as one of the top colleges for Hispanics by *Hispanic Outlook on Education* magazine. Cuyamaca College opened the “Together We Rise Student Center,” which serves first generation immigrant Latinx students with information and assistance on immigration, foster care, and other needs.

As you read through the 2022-2023 Annual Report, remember that cultivating *community* is at the heart of everything that the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District does. We are here to serve our East County communities. Our colleges are places where people advance their education and careers, where they open new vistas of achievement, and where they can connect with one another.

ENROLLMENT

Grossmont: 12,982

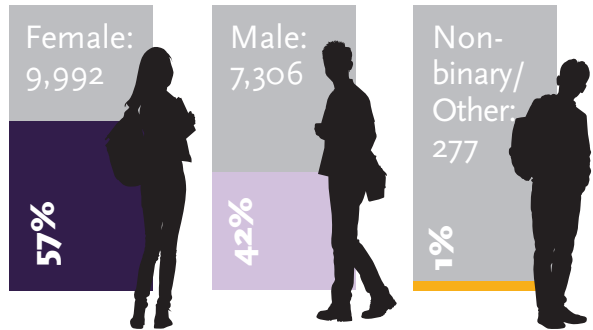
Cuyamaca: 8,051

District: 17,575

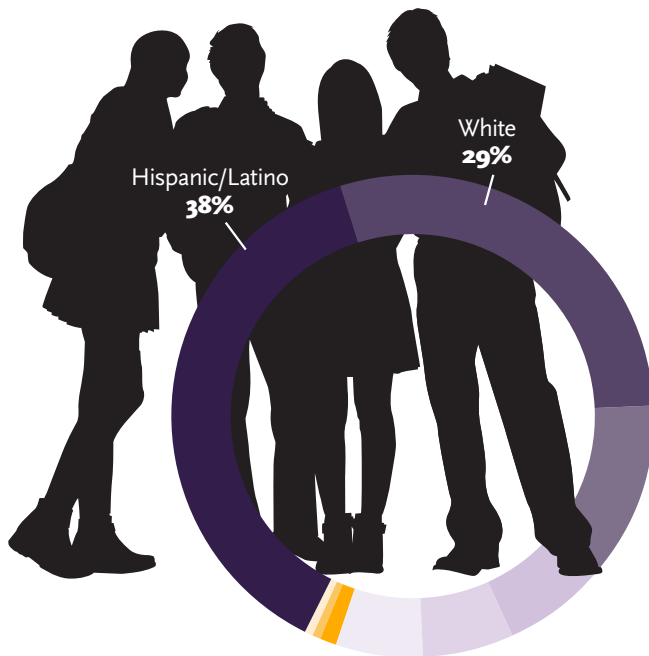


Full-time/Part-time Status based on Attempted Units - Fall 2022

GENDER



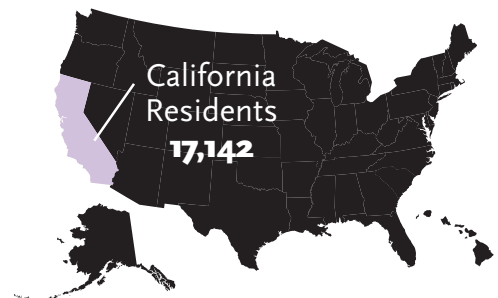
ETHNICITY



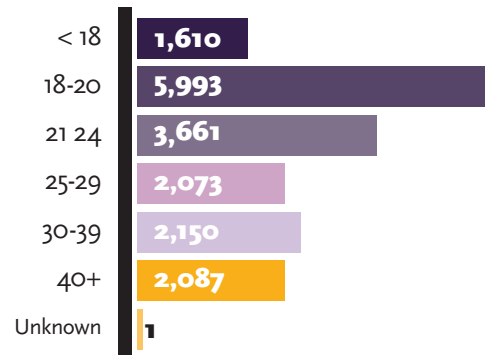
■ Hispanic/Latino 38% ■ White 29% ■ Middle Eastern 12%
 ■ Asian 7% ■ African American/Black 6%
 ■ Two or more 6% ■ Other/Unknown 1%
 ■ American Indian/Alaskan Native .5% ■ Pacific Islander .5%

RESIDENCY

International 179
 Non-residents 254



AGE



DISTRICT BUDGET

19 YEARS OF FISCAL EXCELLENCE

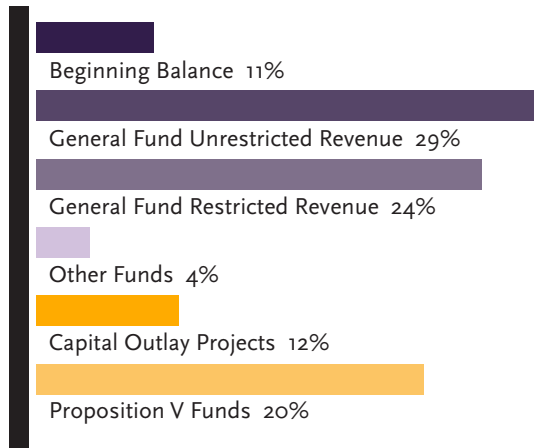
The District received top marks for fiscal prudence for the 19th year in a row.

Independent auditors presented their findings on the District's budget and financials for the fiscal year ending in June 30, 2022. The auditor, San Diego-based CWDL, offered clean, unmodified opinions, which are the best an auditor can issue. The independent reviews also covered the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges' finances and the District's Proposition V in 2012, bond building fund. East County voters approved Proposition V back in 2012, enabling GCCCD to make nearly \$400 million in major upgrades to facilities at the two college campuses.

The District also received a perfect score from the San Diego Taxpayers Educational Foundation for transparency related to the Proposition V bond program. The District was one of only two public education districts in the San Diego region, out of 27 evaluated, to receive a 100 percent on the nonprofit's 2022 SDCTA School Bond Transparency Scorecard.

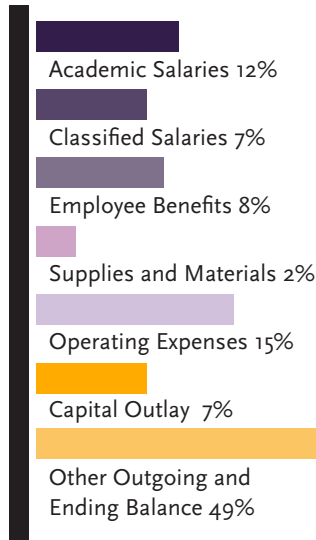
2022-2023 Funds Available:

\$465,034,428



2022-2023 Expenditures:

\$465,034,427



2023 ECONOMIC IMPACT REPORT

A 2023 economic impact report found that the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District had a \$1.3 billion economic impact on San Diego County, enough to support almost 13,500 jobs. The study found the District's economic impact is the equivalent of San Diego hosting the World Series 193 times.



The study by Lightcast, a leading provider of economic impact and labor market data, also concluded that Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges are a great investment for students, taxpayers and society. The results of the analysis were based on data from the 2021-2022 academic year.

The study found that:

- The economic impact of alumni spending was \$983.6 million, the equivalent of 9,774 jobs.
- The economic impact of District spending for operations was \$190.8 million, the equivalent of 2,707 jobs.
- The economic impact of student spending was \$50.7 million, the equivalent of 701 jobs, for bringing in students from outside the county and retaining students who would otherwise have left the county.
- The economic impact of construction spending was \$26.2 million, the equivalent of 296 jobs.
- For every dollar that students spend on their education, they will receive a return of \$7 in higher future earnings.
- For every dollar spent by society, \$8.40 was gained in social sector savings.

For every \$1...

Students gain in lifetime earnings **\$7.00**
Society gains in added income and social savings **\$8.40**

In total

Taxpayers gain in added tax revenue and public sector savings **\$221.2 million**

Impacts created by GCCCD in FY 2021-2022



Operations spending impact
\$190.8 million



Construction spending impact
\$26.2 million



Student spending impact
\$50.7 million



Alumni impact
\$983.6 million



Total economic impact
\$1.3 billion

OR

Jobs supported
13,477

Students see a high rate of return for their investment in GCCCD

Average annual return for GCCCD students
22.0 %

Stock market 30-year average annual return
9.6%

Interest earned on savings account
(national deposit cap)
0.4%

Source: Forbes' S&P 500, 1992-2021. FDIC.gov, 2-2022.



Transfer schools

for Grossmont and Cuyamaca College
Graduates 2021-2022



470
Cuyamaca
College
Graduates

73 | UC

266 | CSU

43 | California private
universities

88 | Out of
state

136 | UC

678 | CSU

67 | California private
universities

198 | Out of state



1,079
Grossmont
College
Graduates





GROSSMONT

1,608
Graduates

4,043
Degrees and
Certificates

CUYAMACA

641
Graduates

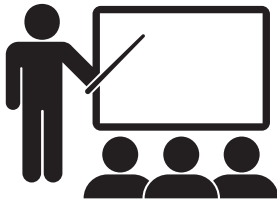
1,103
Degrees and
Certificates

**TOTAL
GRADUATES:**

2,250

STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

Dual enrollment allows high school students to earn college credit by taking Grossmont and Cuyamaca college classes, either at their high school or at the college campuses.



3,354
high school students were enrolled in one or more Grossmont or Cuyamaca college classes in 2022-2023.

Abigail Wojnowski

CUYAMACA COLLEGE - DUAL ENROLLMENT STUDENT

At just 17 years old, Abigail Wojnowski achieved two major milestones in June. She graduated from Mt. Miguel High School with her high school diploma and from Cuyamaca College with an Associate Degree in history.

While attending Mt. Miguel, Wojnowski learned about dual enrollment, which gave her the opportunity to take college classes while still in high school through a program called “Matador Early College.” She was just 14 when she began taking online college classes at Grossmont College and in-person classes at Cuyamaca College in 2019.

In addition to her high school and college classes, Wojnowski was also a student athlete and involved in extracurricular activities. She served as the captain of the girls' varsity tennis team, competed in track and field as a pole vaulter, played powderpuff football, and participated in the academic decathlon at Mt. Miguel. As a self-proclaimed procrastinator, Wojnowski worked hard to stay on track while juggling her full schedule.

Being so young in her college classes, Wojnowski said she felt a little out of place at first. “It was definitely an adjustment,” she said.

She also had to adjust to the greater independence in her college classes compared to the structure of high school. She said Cuyamaca College faculty members provided the support she needed. In her first college class, Marissa Salazar of the Psychology Department served as a guide. She took the time to direct Wojnowski to her classes, figure out her schedule and understand the layout of the Cuyamaca College campus. “She was really understanding and patient with me,” Wojnowski said.

The sense of community and belonging is what Wojnowski said was her favorite part about her time at Cuyamaca College.

“The people you get to meet is the greatest thing,” she said. Wojnowski transferred to UC Berkeley, where she began with the equivalent credits of a junior. She plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in International and Domestic Relations and Communications, and hopes to pursue a master’s degree from the University of Chicago.



STUDENT SUCCESS STORIES

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca College Promise program provides tuition and fees for full-time students at Grossmont and Cuyamaca colleges. The program benefited 3,159 students in 2022-2023, its fifth year, marking a 15% increase in the number of students served from the previous year. New students also received a \$150 basic needs grant.



\$1,046,323

was the amount paid by the Promise for tuition and mandatory fees



90%

of Promise students said the award had influenced their decision to continue their education

Jenna Villanueva

GROSSMONT COLLEGE - PROMISE SCHOLAR

Biology student Jenna Villanueva has been interested in the sea ever since she can remember. Maybe it was a TV documentary she saw as a child. She says she'll never forget that day a few years ago, snorkeling in Mission Bay and seeing an octopus in just a few feet of water.



"It was so amazing," she said. "That was when I was like, OK, this is what I want to do for a living!"

Villanueva, a 19-year-old second-year student at Grossmont College and a Promise scholar, plans to transfer to UC San Diego and study marine biology or oceanography - possibly moving on to Scripps

Institution of Oceanography for graduate school. She's looking forward to a career in environmental science.

She enjoys connecting subject matter she reads about in class to real-world events in the news. Villanueva has been fascinated by the reported decline in 2014 of kelp forests off Central California following the emergence of large numbers of kelp-eating sea urchins. That outbreak followed a decline, due to a disease outbreak, in sea stars - a key predator of sea urchins.

Following those kinds of connections will make for a rewarding scientific career - and Villanueva is eager to embark on this exciting journey.

The San Diego resident, a graduate of Patrick Henry High School, says the Promise scholarship has allowed her to focus completely on her studies, and even take an art class outside of core academics to enrich her overall college experience.

"It's been so nice just to be able to focus on my education and make the most out of it, instead of worrying how I'm going to have to pay for it," she said. "The scholarship has been super helpful."



Cultivating Community

Growing New Connections and Nurturing Relationships



Cuyamaca and Grossmont colleges opened their campuses to the community, and celebrated the diverse range of communities that make up the students and employees at the colleges.

1

Cuyamaca College held a Celebrating Black Excellence event as part of Black History Month in February. The event hosted by the Cuyamaca College Umoja Scholars program and the college's Student Affairs Office featured a performance by Lyrical Groove and a step show performance by the Black fraternities Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma and the Black sorority Delta Sigma Theta. The event also included a discussion by a panel of Black entrepreneurs who spoke about their businesses and how they give back to the Black community.

2

Hundreds of students, families and community members came to Grossmont College for an open house to learn more about campus programs and resources, including tours of the forensic lab, Stagehouse Theatre, demonstrations of the ceramics lab, and more.

3

Cuyamaca College hosted a celebration in honor of Native American Heritage month featuring a display of Kumeyaay artifacts and animal hides on view in the library. A social gathering was held including dancing, singing, and drumming highlighting the cultures, traditions, beliefs, and customs of the Native American people.

4

Grossmont College's celebration of National Arab American Heritage Month included an Arab countries showcase in the Main Quad featuring food, music, a fashion show, and local vendors.

5

Students and employees from throughout the District participated in the parade honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the civil rights icon who was assassinated in 1968. It was the first time the parade had been held since the pandemic.

6

More than 350 people attended an Open House at Cuyamaca College, with nearly 50 campus and community partner booths available.

7

The Grossmont College Symphony Orchestra & Master Chorale hosted the Concert for Kidz/Musical Petting Zoo at the Performing & Visual Arts Center, which featured an orchestra performance of children's favorites and symphony classics. The children got to touch and play the orchestra's instruments as part of the concert's "Musical Petting Zoo." Attendees were able to go on stage during the performance to feel the vibrations of the instruments, and one student was also invited to conduct the orchestra for a special performance.



8

Both colleges raised the Pride Flag on their campuses in honor of Pride Month celebrating LGBTQIA+ Pride.

9

As part of a partnership with Kumeyaay Community College, which focuses on Native curriculum and cultural preservation, 50 traditional tule boats were launched into the ocean by Kumeyaay students, professors and community members. The boats were built on the Kumeyaay Community College campus by tying tule rush reeds into bundles around a willow branch. The tule boat project is part of a joint Kumeyaay Studies associate degree program at Cuyamaca College and Kumeyaay Community College, a school established in 2004 by the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation.

CUYAMACA COLLEGE

Highlights 2022-2023



President
Jessica
Robinson



Cuyamaca College saw a transition in leadership with the selection of Dr. Jessica Robinson as the college's seventh president.

Cuyamaca College received recognition for its support of veterans and its innovative programs to help students succeed in their beginning English and Math classes.

- ASG President Seinna Shaba (1) received the Board of Governors Student Leadership Award during the Student Senate for California Community Colleges Spring 2023 General Assembly. The award recognizes community college student leaders who demonstrate the highest level of commitment to leadership.
- Cuyamaca College received grant funding to increase social work programs and pathways, with the goal of developing regional capacity to address growing behavioral health workforce needs.
- A two-day Career Fest was held at Cuyamaca College, including workshops where employers were able to connect with students interested in their industry.

Best Accredited Colleges ranked the Cuyamaca College associate degree in mathematics as number 31 in the nation. The ranking recognizes the work to streamline the time to completion and the support provided to students to ensure the completion of transfer-level math courses.

- The *Military Times* named Cuyamaca College one of the 2022 *Military Times* Best for Vets: Colleges. Cuyamaca was recognized for offering a variety of career education programs that are well-suited to active duty service members about to transition to civilian life.
- The Together We Rise Student Center (2), designed to serve the needs of Latinx students, was opened. The center provides support with services such as peer mentoring, counseling, study areas, and free immigration services in partnership with Higher Education Legal Services (Jewish Family Services).
- In partnership with Cajon Valley Middle School, more than 80 students participated in “College is For Me” (3) over the summer. The program invites middle school students to take courses at Cuyamaca College for college credit so that they will build greater confidence.
- For the second consecutive year, Cuyamaca College was named a “Champion for Excelling in Equitable Course Placement in Campus-wide English Enrollment,” with special acknowledgement for Latinx and Black English enrollment by the Campaign for College Opportunity.
- Cuyamaca College hosted the 6th Annual Women in Water Symposium (4), which encourages women to pursue a career in water and connects them to water agencies.





Grossmont College started innovative new programs to prepare students for the workplace, and worked to increase access for a diverse range of students. It opened its doors to the community to highlight Grossmont College's many offerings and to provide a place for discussions about dealing with major social issues.



- Grossmont College launched a new program in the critically important field of supply chain logistics, partnering with business professionals across the region to develop the 18-unit certificate program.
- A new certificate program is being offered in drone operations (1). Drone operators control drones from the ground for a myriad of jobs ranging from search and rescue missions to Hollywood cinematography.
- Grossmont College secured a five-year \$1.6 million federal grant to increase access for those who are from low-income households, first generation college students, military veterans, and adult learners who are enrolling for the first time. A program specialist is working with a team of peer mentors charged with community outreach, assisting potential students with navigating the college and financial aid application process, and counseling.
- A \$3.3 million grant was awarded to Grossmont College to help students from underrepresented communities find jobs that are aligned with what they are studying and can help them defray the costs of attending college.
- The 44th Annual Career Expo at Grossmont College was attended by more than 500 people and 120 employers from school districts, law enforcement, resorts, health care systems, and more.

Grossmont College landed on the “Top 100 Colleges and Universities for Hispanics” list by *Hispanic Outlook on Education* magazine.



- A public forum on homelessness, led by San Diego County Supervisor Joel Anderson, was held at Grossmont College. The forum addressed the impacts of homelessness and the efforts to address it.

- Assemblymember Chris Ward hosted a meeting of the East County Task Force on Homelessness at Grossmont College to seek solutions to assist the homeless.

- Grossmont College hosted an Open House for the community and prospective students. Visitors saw demonstrations from career education programs, and could attend financial aid presentations and application workshops.

- Grossmont College celebrated Earth Day (2) with a campus clean-up that included students and employees who helped beautify the campus.

- Grossmont College was named a Military Friendly School for the high-quality service it provides to student-veterans and military-affiliated students. Grossmont College received the “silver” designation among large-sized community colleges across the country from the organization Military Friendly.

- For the sixth year in a row, Grossmont College was the number one transfer school to San Diego State University (3).

Commencement Celebrations



A total of 2,250 students received 5,146 degrees and certificates in processions held in front of the Communication Arts Center at Cuyamaca College and the Viejas Arena at San Diego State University. The ceremonies could also be viewed online. Each college selected a stand-out student to address their fellow graduates of their respective colleges.

Grossmont College awarded a total of 4,043 degrees and certificates to 1,608 students ranging in age from 17 to 71, while Cuyamaca College awarded a total of 1,103 degrees and certificates to 641 students ranging in age from 17 to 72.



Cuyamaca College | Benjamin Hart

Benjamin Hart is Cuyamaca's first Career Education student to be the commencement ceremony student speaker. Hart graduated with an associate degree in automotive technology, was a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, and now runs his own automotive shop in East County.

Hart has come a long way since his days as a freshman at Mission Bay High School, when he dropped out of school and was sent to live with his father in Texas. He completed his GED in 2003, scoring exceptionally high on the standardized tests. Instead of going to college, Hart drifted from job to job, eventually moving back to San Diego at 21.

By then, he was drinking and using drugs, and found himself homeless. He remained that way for a decade while working odd jobs driving food trucks, painting, cleaning and making money where he could. "I was comfortable where I was," he said.

He eventually realized that his alcoholism was killing him. In 2012, he checked into a year-long detoxification program and became sober. He got a job at a nonprofit assisting the homeless, but was told he needed a college degree if he wanted to move up in the organization.

Hart got a job at an auto repair business in Normal Heights, but soon realized he wanted more. His boss, an alumnus of the Cuyamaca College Automotive Technology program, recommended that he enroll. Now he wants to share his story with others. "I want to inspire people," he said. "If I can do it, you can do it too."



Grossmont College | ShannaRai Diaz

There was a time when the future of ShannaRai Diaz seemed far from certain. She started at Grossmont College as a nursing student in 2001, but an addiction to methamphetamines resulted in her dropping out of college and jail time. She continued a downward spiral for 20 years, but got a glimpse of life without drugs with the birth of two children and earning a license in phlebotomy.

She had a job as a phlebotomist at Alvarado Hospital Medical Center, but relapsed and ended up in prison. After her release, she stayed clean for two years but relapsed again.

Her turning point came in October 2018, when she was once again headed for imprisonment. "It was while I was incarcerated this time that I knew I needed to change my life," she said. "I needed to find a purpose."

She signed up for classes at Grossmont College through the Pathways to Success program, and made the Dean's List or President's List every semester. Her goal is to work with at-risk youth who have been affected by incarceration.

Diaz graduated from Grossmont College with an associate degree for transfer in Psychology, an associate degree in University Studies Social & Behavioral Science, and a certificate of achievement in University Studies. She is the first Justice Scholar to be selected as a Commencement speaker.

Proposition V

Proposition V, a \$398 million bond approved by East County voters in 2012, continues to deliver for Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.



Grossmont College’s Science, Math and Career Technology complex

The new \$49.3 million Science, Math and Career Technology complex, known as Building 36, is being completed this fall. The 60,000 square foot facility on the northwest side of campus will begin holding classes in the Spring 2024 semester.

Building 36 offers 18 new classrooms, labs, conference rooms, and offices for numerous departments, including Physical Geography and Oceanography, Human Geography and Social Sciences, Math, and Geology. The two-story complex also greatly expands the space devoted to the campus Veterans Resource Center.

The new complex features an airy, central structure that draws visitors from campus parking lots and provides a focal point for entering the campus. Two wings on each side of the center structure house classrooms, offices, and the Veterans Resource Center. The Center offers visitors scenic canyon views and quiet spaces to work, private spaces to meet with counselors, and other areas for informal gatherings.

Leveraging Proposition V funds with matching funds from the state

Both campuses have other high-profile projects that leverage bond money with matching state funds.

At Cuyamaca, Instructional Building F is currently in design and will replace the existing Building F complex on campus. The \$35.6 million project is anticipated to be completed by December 2026.

At Grossmont, a new \$26.6 million Liberal Arts and Business Tech Complex, also known as the Building 51/55 project, will be completed following the Building 52/54 project that is currently in construction. Completion is anticipated in September 2025.



Cuyamaca College's new Student Services Building

The new Student Services Building at Cuyamaca, which opened in Spring 2023, is a gorgeous addition to the college campus. The three-story structure combines all student services into a single building, instead of having those services scattered among the older A buildings on the edge of campus.

This \$38.8 million project, with its prominent glass façade, welcoming curved stairs at its entrance, breezy outdoor stairways and deck, and uplifting architecture, provides students with a central place to meet and socialize, seek counseling and guidance, and make connections. At the center of campus, the 36,000-square-foot center features beautiful outdoor gathering spaces, prominent signage, an elevator, and ADA ramp access to various elevations on campus around the building.

Housed in the new building are an Outreach Welcome Center, Financial Aid, Admissions and Records, Cashiers, Counseling Services, Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS), Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), and CalWORKs. In addition to housing most of the student service programs, the building also features a variety of outdoor learning and social spaces.

The building was the recipient of the 2023 Community College Facility Coalition Professional Design Award. HMC Architects, the designers behind the construction of the building, were also recognized.



The last major bond project on the books

The last scheduled Proposition V project is Phase 2 of the new Arts and Communications Complex at Grossmont College, which will house the college's Drama and Music departments. The \$55.9 million project, which includes the demolition of three older buildings and the construction of a single multi-story building, is scheduled for completion by early 2028.

RECOGNIZING EMPLOYEE EXCELLENCE

Cuyamaca College

- English Instructor Brianna Brown (1) and Cynthia Luna (2), Lead for Peer Online Course Review, were selected for recognition in March at the League for Innovation in the Community College Conference. The League Excellence Award recognizes those making a significant difference in the lives of students and in the communities they serve.
- Sara Allen (3), program specialist in CalWORKS, received the President's Outstanding Leadership and Service Award.
- Cuyamaca College faculty members Michelle Campuzano and Marissa Salazar were among 46 faculty members recognized across California for their adaptive and equity-focused student support in a report by The Ada Center.



Grossmont College

The Distinguished Faculty Award was given to:

- Tara Venn (4), an adjunct professor, is a certified crime scene investigator and a member of the Grossmont College Forensic Advisory Committee.
- Sharon Sampson (5), an assistant professor, also serves as a campus professional development co-coordinator, a member of the President's Anti-Racism Taskforce, and is co-founder of the Grossmont College Equity Institute.
- Tyrent Lackey (6), who is in the California Community College Athletic Association Hall of Fame, was named the Pacific Coast Athletic Conference's All-Sports Coach of the Year.

The Chancellor/Classified Senate Annual Awards, which recognizes the excellence of classified, or non-professional staff, were awarded to six employees. The winners are:

- Raul Enciso, Program Specialist, Cuyamaca College
- Julia Morales, Administrative Assistant I, Grossmont College
- Johnny Dollar, Warehouse Assistant, Intermediate, District Services

Three other employees were awarded with an honorable mention. They are:

- Taylor Fiehler-Roose, Tutoring Center Specialist, Cuyamaca College
- Daniel Lopez, Specialty Lab Technician IV, Grossmont College
- Jessica Moore, Human Resources Technician, District Services



Raul Enciso,
Cuyamaca College



LEFT TO RIGHT, BACK ROW: Daniel Lopez, Taylor Fiehler-Roose,
Jessica Moore FRONT ROW: Johnny Dollar, Julia Morales

FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Jason Bell / GROSSMONT COLLEGE

Grossmont College Respiratory Therapy student Jason Bell knows that being a father, a small business owner and a full-time student is no easy task, especially when he entered the difficult second year of the Respiratory Therapy program.

“It is definitely challenging,” Bell said. “It is more challenging than I thought it would be, which makes all this feel even more amazing. I feel so accomplished having gotten this far.”

Last spring, Bell was awarded a San Diego Dietschman Fund Scholarship through the Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges. “Being selected to receive a scholarship means that someone sees potential in you,” he said. “Working in the field of allied health, you want to make a difference in people’s lives and in their families’ lives.”



For Bell, the journey to becoming a respiratory therapist wasn’t always clear. After high school, he joined the Army. After his service, he worked odd jobs in restaurants and DJ’d before starting his own business. He attended Grossmont College part-time for six years, chipping away at prerequisites for the Respiratory Therapy program before he was accepted.

“I’m a little older than most students and there are sacrifices you have to make being an adult who goes to school,” Bell said. “There’s a pride you carry with you when something is this difficult and you get this far.”

Bell said he found the help he needed through student support services at Grossmont College, including Veterans Services, UMOJA and A2MEND. UMOJA is a learning community for Black and African American students, while A2MEND (African American Male Education Network & Development) is a mentorship program on campus for men of color. He hopes to pay forward the mentorship he received through A2MEND.

“After I graduate, I hope to continue giving back so that more people who look like me are motivated to go to college,” Bell said.

“Being selected to receive a scholarship means that someone sees potential in you.”

More than 660 scholarships were distributed in 2023-2023.

Sydney Salgado / CUYAMACA COLLEGE

When Sydney Salgado was deciding where to go to college, her family and friends raved about the instruction and services offered at Cuyamaca College. That, along with the inexpensive cost compared to a four-year university, convinced her to attend.

Now Salgado agrees with the praise she had heard.

“I really like the professors here. I like the personability of it,” she said. “You can take classes online or in a shorter amount of time. It’s close to home. All in all, it’s very convenient for me.”

Salgado, a biology major, was selected to receive the Samuel M. Ciccati Scholarship in Spring 2023. She said the \$500 she received made a big difference for her.

“It paid for my tuition for the next semester,” she said. “Going to school full-time and working part-time, I don’t make a lot of money. Being able to have tuition covered was a huge burden off my shoulders.”

Salgado, a 21-year-old El Cajon resident, plans to graduate in 2024, then earn her bachelor’s and master’s degree at a four-year university so that she can do research or field work in biology. She’s now working as an intern at Cuyamaca College’s Marketing Department, where her assignments include handling the college’s social media accounts. Although the job isn’t directly connected to her field of study, Salgado said she’s learned a lot.

“It’s taught me a lot of skills that are applicable anywhere,” she said. “I’m really grateful for the experience I’ve had.”



“Going to school full-time and working part-time, I don’t make a lot of money. Being able to have tuition covered was a huge burden off my shoulders.”

Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges

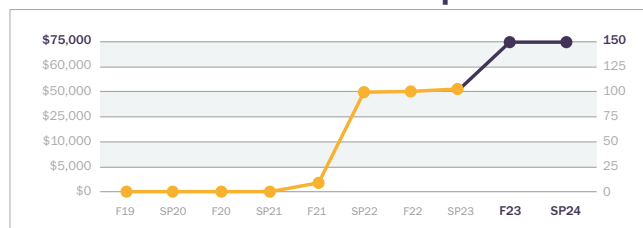


The Foundation for Grossmont & Cuyamaca Colleges distributed more than \$430,000 in scholarships in the 2022-2023 academic year, assisting 661 Grossmont and Cuyamaca College students. That was more than double the previous year, thanks to generous donors in the community who chose to invest in students and their futures.

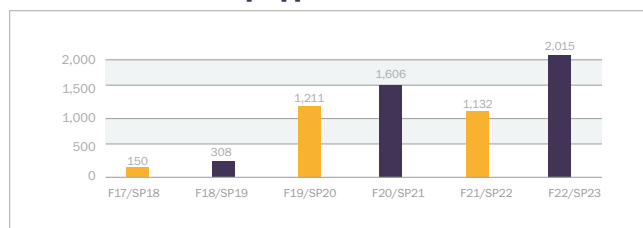
The Foundation established the Promise Plus program five years ago with the goal of creating an endowment that will provide 150 additional scholarships each semester in perpetuity. The Foundation is currently three-fourths of the way toward reaching its \$4 million goal for the endowment.

If you are interested in supporting Grossmont and Cuyamaca College students through scholarships or the Promise Plus program, please contact Dana Rivers at dana.rivers@gcccd.edu.

Promise Plus Scholarships



Scholarship Applications Submitted



The San Diego Indian American Society has supported Grossmont College students for three years.

San Diego Indian American Society

The San Diego Indian American Society was founded in 1984 to contribute to local society and to spread Mahatma Gandhi's values of peace, nonviolence and service to others. One way that the group has demonstrated those values is by offering scholarships to high school and community college students in the region.

For the past three years, the San Diego Indian American Society has been offering \$1,000 scholarships to students in Grossmont College's Allied Health and Nursing program. They initially offered three scholarships and have now expanded to scholarships for 10 students.

In addition to the scholarships, the group provides mentoring to the students to help them on their career path with possible internships and job opportunities.

"It's not just giving out money. It's a partnership," said Latha Sundar, a member of the San Diego Indian American Society's board. "We're trying to build a relationship with these colleges so we can build a platform to help these students."



Legacy Circle Champions

Thank you to our donors!

For a list of the generous donors to the Foundation for Grossmont and Cuyamaca Colleges, please scan this QR code.



Or go to
[foundation.gcccd.edu/
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