

MiraCosta

Transforming Lives



***Cutting-Edge
Training Helps
Launch Local
Careers***

FRIENDS OF MIRACOSTA COLLEGE:



MiraCosta College was founded in 1934 during the Great Depression, when getting a higher education was too expensive for most. Responding to community need was the founding principle of what was then called Oceanside-Carlsbad Junior College, and it continues to be our guiding force today.

Our community depends on MiraCosta to provide the types of programs industry needs to ensure a trained workforce. From a new bachelor's degree in biomanufacturing to short-term certification programs that train students for high-tech careers, MiraCosta plays a critical role in building the local workforce and preparing students for success.

Our students, meanwhile, depend on MiraCosta to provide superior educational opportunities that will prepare them for transfer to four-year colleges and also for future careers. That's why more than one-third of all district high school graduates attend MiraCosta. Additionally, as the cost of attending state-run, four-year universities continues to rise, more students are starting their education at a community college.

This edition of *Transforming Lives* focuses on the many ways MiraCosta provides educational opportunities and leadership to the communities and students we serve. You will read about four generations of one family who relied on MiraCosta for higher education, an outstanding faculty member and her cutting-edge research, college friends whose generosity helps students on their paths to degrees, and students who have accomplished amazing things. We are also proud to share something new to *Transforming Lives*: our 2015–2016 Marks of Distinction, a summary of our major accomplishments from this past academic year.

MiraCosta College prides itself on its ability to respond to changing community needs—whether in the areas of job training, career education or university transfer. This has made MiraCosta successful for nearly 83 years, and will guide us for years to come.



Dr. Sunny Cooke
Superintendent/President
MiraCosta College

The award-winning *MiraCosta, Transforming Lives* is published by the MiraCosta College Office of Development and Foundation and the Public Information Office. We greatly appreciate the participation of those who allowed us to tell their stories.

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR
Linda Fogerson

MAGAZINE EDITOR
Cheryl Broom

GRAPHIC DESIGNER
Gabe Waite

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
David Ogul
Tori Fishinger

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER
Alex Karvounis

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760.795.6777



On the Cover

Machinist Technology Program graduate Robert Dolan at the college's Technology Career Institute.



Four generations of Vermilyeas (1985) who attended or graduated from MiraCosta College. Left to right: Teri (3rd generation), Joy (2nd generation), baby Scott (4th generation), Veb and Natalie (1st generation).

When her children were grown and she retired from her secretarial job, Stewart went all out in pursuing a degree.

"I always wanted to make my mother proud," Stewart said. "Education meant so much in our family. Education is everything. I had no desire to have a new career. I had already worked for the government for 30 years. But earning that degree was so important to me."

Stewart's mother, Natalie Vermilyea, was the first in the family to attend the college. Vermilyea began attending Oceanside-Carlsbad Junior College while still working with the Carlsbad Police Department (Vermilyea is said to be the first police woman in San Diego County when she was sworn in as a Carlsbad officer in 1953). Vermilyea graduated—at the age of 61—in 1967 with her youngest son, David. Both transferred to



Officer Natalie Vermilyea on the day she retired in 1977, at age 70. She started working in 1927.

Ken & Marie Bertossi Creating a Lasting Legacy at MiraCosta

Ken and Marie Bertossi became long-time friends of MiraCosta College when they retired to Vista from Los Angeles in 1988. Ken, whose education took him from St. Paul, Minnesota to Los Angeles, California, highly values education.

He and Marie are working with the college to leave their legacy. "MiraCosta College has been named as one of the primary beneficiaries in our living trust because of our strong belief that it serves the specific needs of motivated young individuals who cannot otherwise afford a major four-year university," said Ken. "Our strong belief that education is the best path to a good life is well proven by the success of past MiraCosta graduates. We hope that MiraCosta will continue to successfully serve young people for another 80 years."

With their bequest, Ken and Marie are helping to lay the foundation for the continued success of MiraCosta College students.



Marie and Ken Bertossi, scholarship donors, whose thoughtful generosity made the foundation's donor wall possible.

If you would like to learn how you can create a lasting legacy with MiraCosta College, contact Linda Fogerson at 760.795.6775 or lfogerson@miracosta.edu.

Talk about a family tradition. From Natalie Vermilyea to Scott Gerent, four generations of one North County family have attended MiraCosta, a college that means more to them than a higher education.

"MiraCosta College was my salvation," said Joyce Vermilyea Stewart, who graduated in 1985 with an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts just one month before her 51st birthday.

Stewart, now 81 and living in Oregon, was a single mom raising two children while working at Camp Pendleton at a time when single moms and women working outside the home was far from the norm. Nonetheless, Stewart would often take the bus to what was then known as Oceanside-Carlsbad Junior College for a class or two after the kids had been fed their dinner.

Putting Students to Work

Students who take career technical education courses to maintain or add to their job skills realize a great return on investment and substantial median wage increases.



Robert Dolan didn't know the difference between a mill and a micrometer—until he was laid off from his job as a car salesman and heard about the Machinist Technology Program at MiraCosta College's Technology Career Institute. Today, Dolan is firmly ensconced in his new career as an operator at TE Connectivity in Oceanside, a firm that designs and manufactures components for companies in the aerospace and defense industries.

"I couldn't have done it without MiraCosta College," said Dolan. "The Technology Career Institute is a great program that taught me what I

needed to know to get my foot in the door and succeed in this profession."

Dolan isn't the only one singing the Technology Career Institute's praises. Graduates of the program's core advanced manufacturing and engineering programs have a 92-percent employment rate, and students have been hired at companies ranging from Callaway Golf, IOS Technologies, Southwest Greene International, and ViaSat, to name a few.

"As a community college, a large part of our role is to prepare students for living-wage jobs that enable them to contribute to the economy and

society in general," said Dean of Career & Technical Education Al Taccone.

Mission Accomplished

From a new baccalaureate program in biomanufacturing to long-established allied health and nursing options, MiraCosta College is playing a key role in building the local workforce, preparing students to become business and industry leaders, medical professionals, web designers, personal fitness trainers, and more.

Not all come to MiraCosta to earn a degree. Many are mid-career professionals who attend classes to stay on top of the

latest developments. Others, such as Dolan, are seeking the training needed in their search for a new career.

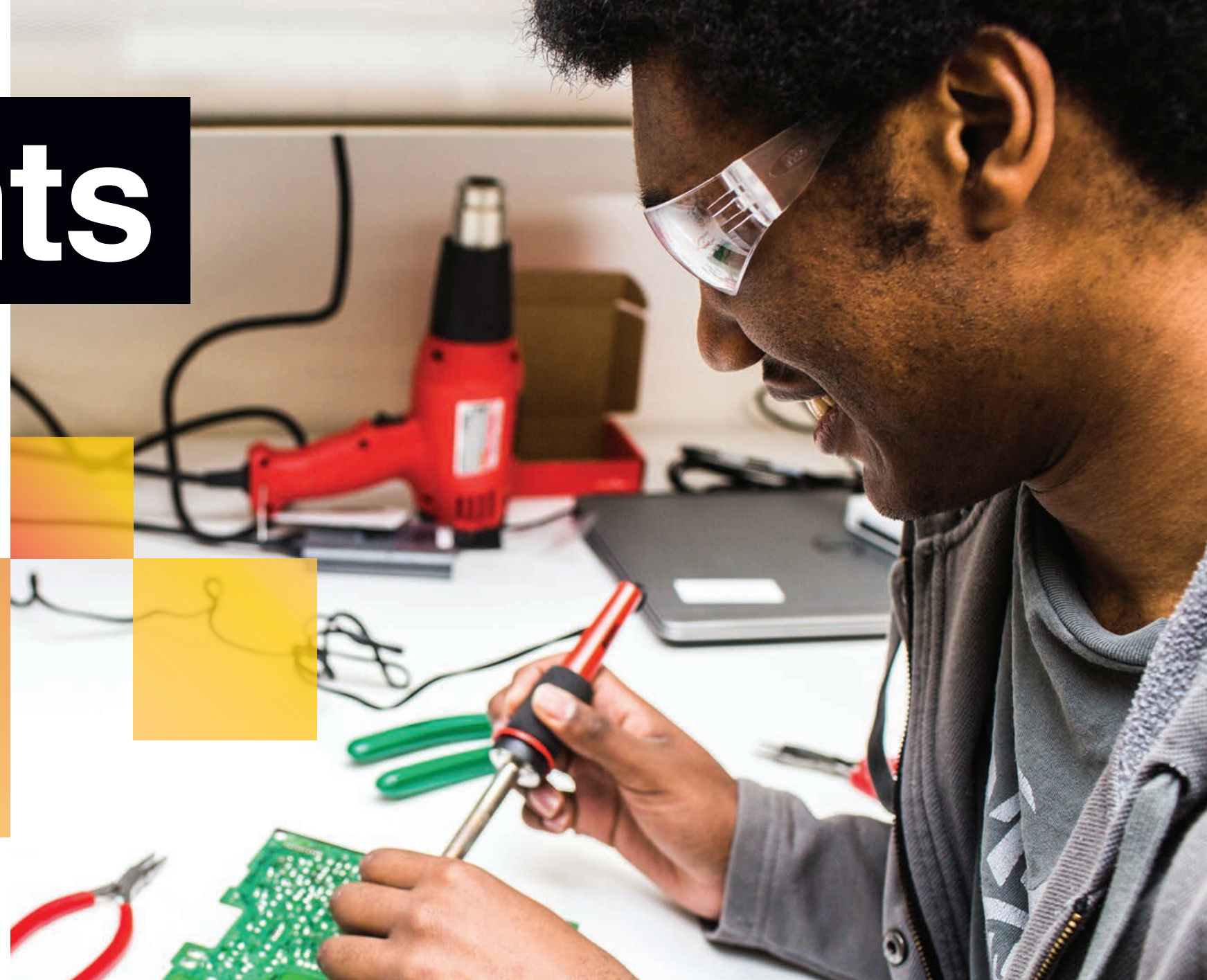
"We have people who come to us for different reasons. We have plenty of students, for example, who only want to take one or two classes with us to brush up on their skills in order to advance their careers," said Taccone.

Statewide, students who take career technical education courses to maintain or add to their job skills—and not to earn a degree or certificate or transfer to a four-year institution—will see median wage increases of 13.6 percent, or \$4,300, according to a new student performance measurement developed

by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

"These students come to us seeking to keep their skills current or move ahead in their careers, and after finishing a few courses, reap significant rewards," said now-retired California Community Colleges Chancellor Brice W. Harris. "We finally have a way to measure these successes and demonstrate the tremendous return on investment that these courses provide. A wage gain of \$4,300 for courses that cost \$46 a unit is a phenomenal value for students and the state."

At MiraCosta College, students enrolling in small business and



entrepreneurship programs saw their annual earnings jump a median of more than 68 percent after completing higher-level CTE coursework. Those taking accounting courses saw their annual earnings jump a median of more than 16 percent. And those studying child development and early care saw their earnings jump a median of nearly 23 percent.

But more work is needed. The Task Force on Workforce, Job Creation, and a Strong Economy, co-chaired by MiraCosta College Superintendent/President Sunny Cooke, notes that too many employers in key industries are having difficulty filling job openings because workers with the skills and aptitudes required are in short supply.

“The college is looking out for the best interests of its students, and it was instrumental in setting me up for my new career.”

It is estimated that by 2025, 30 percent of all job openings in California—or a total of 1.9 million jobs—will require some form of postsecondary education short of a four-year degree.

Addressing the Challenge

The MiraCosta College Technology Career Institute’s Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering programs are powerful examples of how the education, industry and the public sectors collaborate to address the challenge. Their roots stretch back to 2010 when representatives from the National Tooling and Machining Association, business groups and various manufacturing companies approached MiraCosta College Community Education and Workforce Development Director



Linda Kurokawa to discuss launching an accelerated machinist program. Program collaborators now include the Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Department of Labor, the San Diego Workforce Partnership, and the cities of Oceanside and Carlsbad.

More than 113 people have completed either the CNC machinist

Growing the Programs

MiraCosta College’s accelerated technician programs are the only ones of their kind in North County and a pair of recent donations from the Gerard Foundation and the San Diego Women’s Foundation totaling nearly \$100,000 will enable an expansion of the Technology Career Institute to include a welding component and offer scholarships to students.

Courses for the first cohort of welding students is expected to commence in October, with job placement beginning in early 2017.

More improvements may be on the way. The new state budget includes \$200 million for community colleges to expand access to career technical education courses and programs. Community colleges would be expected to collaborate regionally with private industry, civic groups and labor leaders in meeting workforce needs.

“I would definitely recommend that people look into what MiraCosta has to offer,” said Dolan. “The college is looking out for the best interests of its students, and it was instrumental in setting me up for my new career. I couldn’t be happier with what I’m doing now.” ■

or engineering technician programs since March of 2013 and many have flourished in their newfound careers.

Dolan learned of the accelerated machinist program through a state Employment Development Department career center while collecting unemployment benefits. A counselor noted that there was a huge demand for, and severe shortage of, qualified machinists in the area. When Dolan learned a state grant would pay for the tuition to cover the three-month, 40-hour-per-week program, he was in.

“The more I thought about it, the more it made sense,” he said.

Classes began in May 2015. “Every day we were being challenged to do a new project and learn everything you could possibly learn about the trade,” Dolan said. “Compared to where I was at, I’ve come a long way.”

PROJECT:	LOCATION:	STATUS:
STEM ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER	OCEANSIDE CAMPUS LIBRARY	✓ APPROVED

UPDATE: STEM ACADEMIC SUPPORT CENTER

With the design and project plan for MiraCosta College’s planned STEM Academic Support Center completed, members of the college’s newly formed Business Roundtable have taken on the challenge of raising \$449,000 to pay for its construction. Already, the group has secured \$150,000 toward that goal.

The planned STEM Academic Support Center, to be located within the Oceanside Campus Library, will provide STEM students with dedicated space where they can benefit from tutoring, peer mentoring, group study and access to individualized supplemental instruction.

“The world we live in is becoming more technically complex each and every year. The STEM Academic Support Center at MiraCosta College will provide students with valuable skills that will enhance their



JOE STOCKUNAS

employment possibilities and allow them to contribute to and take part in an integral part of our economy,” said Vice President, Advanced Technology Systems Joe Stockunas, Nordson Corporation.



INTERESTED IN JOINING THE BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE?

Contact Elaine Dodge, Associate Director of Development for MiraCosta College at 760.795.6652 or at edodge@miracosta.edu.

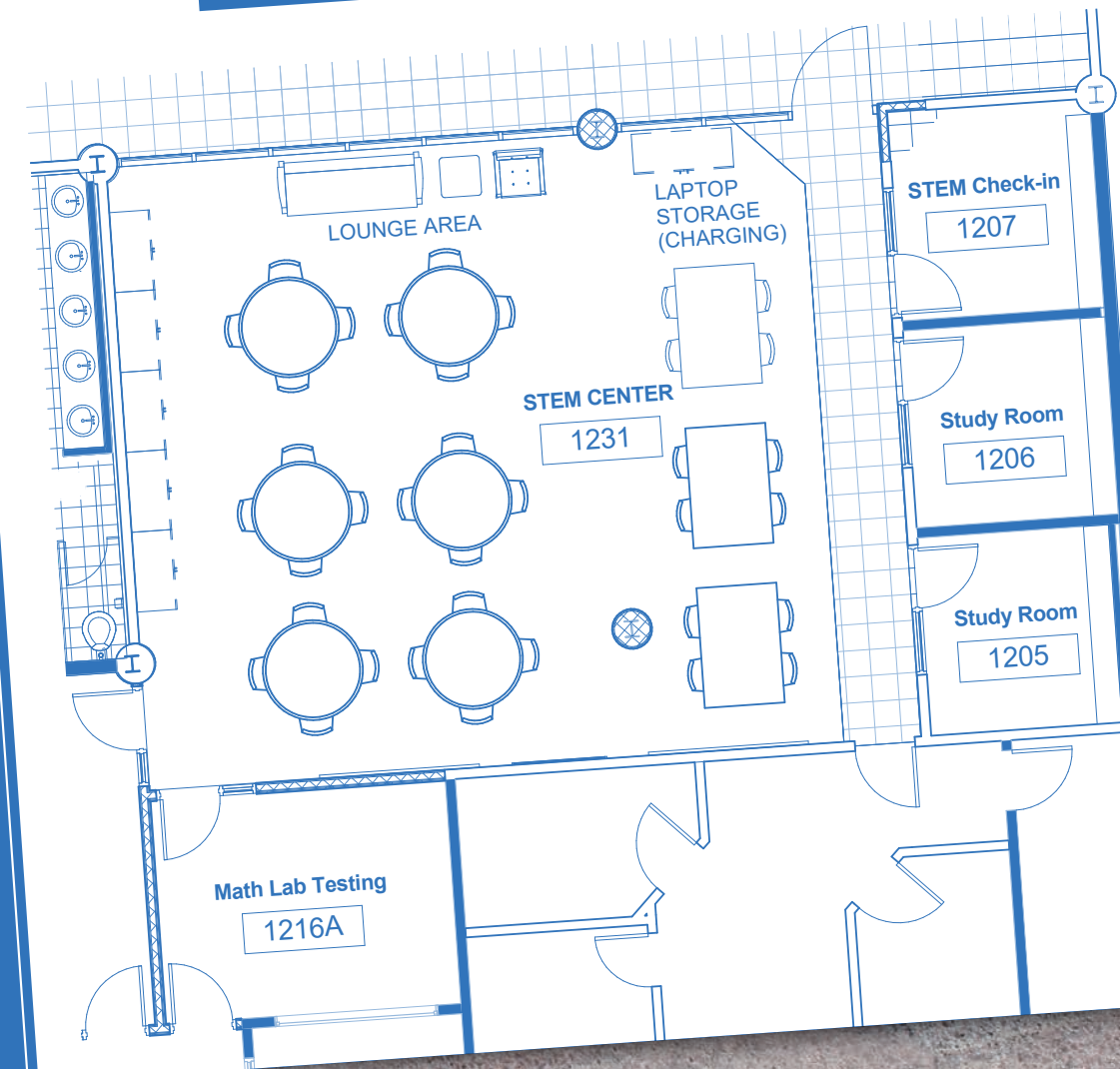
BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

FOUNDING MEMBERS:

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- AKT, CPAs Advisors, Consultants
- Gafcon
- George E Karetas
- Kitchell
- Nordson
- Premier
- Techfounder

MEMBERS:

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- ARCADIS Design and Consultancy
- Associated Builders and Contractors
- Balfour Beatty
- Blue Coast Consulting
- California Coast Credit Union
- Genentech
- HMC Architects
- Illumnia, Inc.
- Little
- Southwest Green International, Inc.
- Knox Williams



As a public institution of higher learning, MiraCosta College is committed to providing our students with an excellent education; top-tier faculty and support staff; and a diverse, inclusive campus atmosphere. We aim to provide all students with the skills and tools necessary to achieve their goals—whether that is transferring to a four-year university or developing the skills needed for success in today’s competitive job market.

MiraCosta College’s profound role in transforming lives was particularly evident this past academic year. As reflected in the following pages, MiraCosta College and the MiraCosta College Foundation flourished in 2015-2016. The college implemented several new programs, forged new partnerships, celebrated milestones, and made great advances on projects—all in an effort to serve the evolving needs of our students and community.

MIRACOSTA COLLEGE PARTNERS WITH POINT LOMA NAZARENE UNIVERSITY TO OFFER A 4-YEAR NURSING DEGREE

A new partnership between MiraCosta College and **Point Loma Nazarene University** (PLNU) is allowing nursing students who graduate from MiraCosta to earn a bachelor’s degree in nursing from PLNU without leaving the Oceanside Campus. MiraCosta College graduates who enroll in the new program can earn their Bachelor of Science in Nursing within 15 months at a cost of \$16,200, which includes tuition, books and fees.

ADULT EDUCATION MERGER

MiraCosta College is seeing a boost in enrollment for its continuing education classes thanks to a restructuring that merged San Dieguito High School District’s Adult Education Program into MiraCosta’s **Continuing Education Program**. This merger will increase offerings in noncredit classes, such as community workshops, workforce training, noncredit ESL, adult high school and other noncredit academic programs.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAM GEARING UP TO SEND STUDENTS TO COLLEGE

A record number of high school students have taken part in an intensive summer college preparatory program at MiraCosta. **GEAR UP for College** is a four-week program offering college-level courses, tutoring, textbooks and more for participating students at Oceanside’s high schools. GEAR UP is aimed at increasing the number of low-income students who are prepared to enroll at and succeed in college.

NORTH SAN DIEGO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER (SBDC) CELEBRATES 15-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Hosted by MiraCosta College, the **SBDC** opened in 1999 and over the ensuing 15 years has helped nearly 30,000 small businesses increase revenues by \$137 million; counseled 8,717 clients totaling 49,017 hours; hosted 1,750 training events with 22,739 attendees; retained or created 2,583 jobs; raised \$50 million in capital infusion; generated \$40 million in government contracts; and helped in the creation of 331 new businesses.

COLLEGE AWARDS \$370,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS

More than 410 students were awarded grants and scholarships totaling more than \$370,000 at the **2016 Scholarship Award Celebration**, which provided the opportunity for students to meet scholarship donors in a fun, informal atmosphere. Activities at the event included bestowing five of the colleges’ top students with the Medal of Honor award for academic and personal achievement.



GEAR UP for College graduation



Medal of Honor Recipients, left to right, Jose Ramos Mora, Bahador Babaei, Robert Bennett, Keith Knudson, Peter Glatt

★ GOING GREEN A WAY OF LIFE AT MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

MiraCosta College is saving energy and saving money while doing its part to save the planet. During the 2015 annual winter break shutdown, the district exceeded all expectations and consumed 25 percent less energy than in 2014 simply by turning off all chillers, heating and air conditioning systems, and unplugging all computers and office equipment, for a **total savings of approximately \$17,000.**

★ MIRACOSTA COLLEGE RECEIVES \$110,000 FEDERAL GRANT

MiraCosta College has secured more than **\$110,000 in federal grant money** to develop a program aimed at training workers with the increasingly sophisticated manufacturing skills required to fill vacancies at area aerospace companies and other firms doing business with the Department of Defense. The grant will help fill a growing skills gap cited by manufacturing firms and their supply chain vendors.

★ MIRACOSTA COLLEGE ESTABLISHES VETERANS BUSINESS OUTREACH CENTER

MiraCosta has secured a \$250,000 federal grant to establish Southern California's only **Veterans Business Outreach Center**, a center charged with supporting veterans embarking on self-employment or entrepreneurship. The grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Veterans Business Development was one of only six awarded to higher education systems from Hawaii to Georgia.

★ MIRACOSTA CELEBRATES LARGEST GIFT IN COLLEGE HISTORY

Theresa Heyden has bequeathed an estimated \$3 million gift to the college. This will establish the **Theresa M. Heyden Endowed Fund for Excellence in Nursing**. The college will honor Heyden by naming the planned allied health building Theresa M. Heyden Hall. In addition to her monetary gift, the college will receive her art collection and will display the pieces in the new building.

★ BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

MiraCosta College is on track to begin accepting applications for its **new bachelor's degree in biomanufacturing**, which will be offered in fall 2017. MiraCosta is one of only 15 community colleges statewide to offer a pilot bachelor's degree program. The college has expanded its biotech facility and hired new faculty in preparation for the program.



Four-year biomanufacturing degree pilot program



Veterans Business Outreach Center ribbon-cutting ceremony

★ NATIONAL NETWORK TO BOOST STUDENT SUCCESS

Last year, MiraCosta College was selected for a nationwide educational reform network called **Achieving the Dream (AtD)**, which has a long record of boosting graduation and transfer rates at community colleges. AtD assists the college in supporting a deeper level of faculty engagement focusing on services and interventions offered to students who need them. MiraCosta has completed the first year of the program, which included research and planning aimed at developing new strategies to improve student outcomes.

★ MIRACOSTA TECHNOLOGY CAREER INSTITUTE (TCI) CELEBRATES ONE YEAR

MiraCosta College's **TCI** has reached the one-year mark in its mission to train students in the skills needed to fill the growing demand for industrial technicians in North San Diego County. Since it opened in 2015, the center has provided students real-world experience and assisted them in securing local, well-paying jobs. Also housed at the TCI are the college's community education program, the San Diego North Small Business Development Center, as well as the new Veterans Business Outreach Center.



MiraCosta's Homeland Security Program, a Community Education Program housed at the TCI

★ DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED SPRING 2016

At its spring 2016 graduation, MiraCosta conferred approximately **979** associate of arts degrees, **155** associate of science degrees and **940** certificates of achievement.



Spring 2016 graduation

★ STRONG FINANCIAL AUDITS

MiraCosta College received an excellent report from auditors in its **Annual Financial Report** for the year ending June 30, 2015. The MiraCosta College Foundation also received a strong unqualified audit from auditors in its Annual Financial Report for the year ending June 30, 2015. The audits find that the district and the foundation are in compliance with state laws and regulations, their own policies and procedures, and federal grant requirements.

★ BUDGET PRESENTATION AWARD

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States has given MiraCosta the **Distinguished Budget Presentation Award** for its FY 2016 budget document. To receive the award, the college had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines designed to assess how well an entity's budget serves as a policy document, financial plan, operations guide and communications device.

★ ANOTHER RECORD-BREAKING YEAR FOR THE MIRACOSTA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Generous donors set another fundraising record for the MiraCosta College Foundation by entrusting the college with more than **\$1.5 million** in fiscal year 2016.

Dr. Julie Vignato:

Transforming Lives Through Research & Nursing Education

MiraCosta College Nursing Professor Julie Vignato

has spent her adult life in the service of others.

From her nearly 10 years as a Navy nurse at bases around the world to her more than 10 years as an instructor and researcher of the factors contributing to mental illness among women during and after pregnancy, Vignato's selfless dedication has elicited praise from a wide range of admirers.

Students are among her biggest fans.

"She is very passionate about what she teaches, she is very clear in all of the subject matter and she is very committed to helping her students succeed," said Nicole Haggerty, a registered nurse who took a labor and delivery class at MiraCosta College that was taught by Vignato. "She motivated me into wanting to become a labor and delivery nurse."

Vignato was born in the town of Presque Isle, Maine, on the northeastern corner of the United States. She earned an ROTC scholarship to attend the University of Rochester in New York, where she graduated cum laude with a bachelor of science degree before embarking on a career as a Navy nurse. Among her assignments: Naval installations in Portsmouth, VA;

Her dedication and knowledge have assisted many students to succeed in the program. She represents the best of MiraCosta College.

—Sandy Comstock, MiraCosta College's Associate Dean of Nursing



Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico; Naples, Italy (during the 9/11 terrorist attacks); and Camp Pendleton. She earned a litany of military honors along the way, including the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and several Navy and Marine Corps service achievement and commendation medals.

Her interest in perinatal mental health disorders began to crystallize while working at Camp Pendleton and seeing the stresses that women in the military face before and after giving birth.

"These women are hurting and are afraid to seek proper medical care due to a societal stigma, knowledge deficit, or fear of losing their newborn," she said. "There is a need to provide support and a thorough mental health assessment to women through their pregnancy and postpartum."

Vignato began teaching at MiraCosta College in 2006, simultaneously earning her master's degree in nursing education from St. Joseph's College of Maine. In April of this year, Vignato earned her Ph.D. from the University of San Diego after presenting her dissertation entitled *Perinatal Depression and Risk Factors of Perinatal Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder*.

Vignato completed her dissertation while teaching at MiraCosta College and raising two small children with her husband.

The payoff was worth it. "It really allowed me to grow and expand and change the way I think," she said. "And I am constantly bringing in the latest literature and the most up-to-date information into the classroom."

Vignato's dedication led to her selection as a *Rising Star of Research and Scholarship* by the University of San Diego Hahn School of Nursing's Betty and Bob Beyster Institute for Nursing Research. Vignato will present her research poster entitled *Perinatal Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* during the Rising Stars of Research and Scholarship event at Sigma Theta Tau International's Leadership Connection Conference this September in Indianapolis.

"Julie has been an excellent faculty member in the nursing program at MiraCosta for over 10 years," said MiraCosta College's Associate Dean of Nursing Sandy Comstock. "Her dedication and knowledge have assisted many students to succeed in the program. She represents the best of MiraCosta College."

Vignato is committed to furthering her research in the field.

"One in three women have mental health issues related to the perinatal period, and nurses can provide the best care for their patients given the latest research and screening tools to properly assess for perinatal mental health disorders," Vignato said. ■



Julie Vignato, taking the oath of office from her commanding officer as she was promoted to lieutenant. Photo taken in Puerto Rico, 2002.



Family continued from page 3.

San Diego State University (then San Diego State College), and both earned their bachelor's degrees two years later.

Natalie Vermilyea later endowed a MiraCosta College scholarship in her name for a student who studies

police science at the college for two years.

"She valued education so much," said Vermilyea's granddaughter, Teresa Gerent.

"She wanted to make sure other women would have the same opportunity she did."

Gerent was the third generation in the Vermilyea family to attend MiraCosta College, and she did it twice—first before transferring to National

University for a bachelor's degree in behavioral science, then again nearly a generation later for courses needed

while earning her teaching credential at California State University, San Marcos. Now an AP Government instructor at Mission Vista High School



MiraCosta graduate Teri Canny (3rd generation) at her June 16, 1978 graduation.

with a master's degree in education, Gerent was named Vista Unified School District's Teacher of the Year in 2011.

Her son, Scott Gerent, became the fourth generation of the family to attend MiraCosta College when he enrolled for a semester in 2004.

"It's just sort of what you do in my family; you go to MiraCosta College," said Gerent.

Gerent said she feels fortunate to have experienced MiraCosta College. Going back a second time made her appreciate the school even more.

"I remember standing on a spot up on the hill and I could see the snow in the mountains and the ocean off the coast. It is an absolutely beautiful campus."

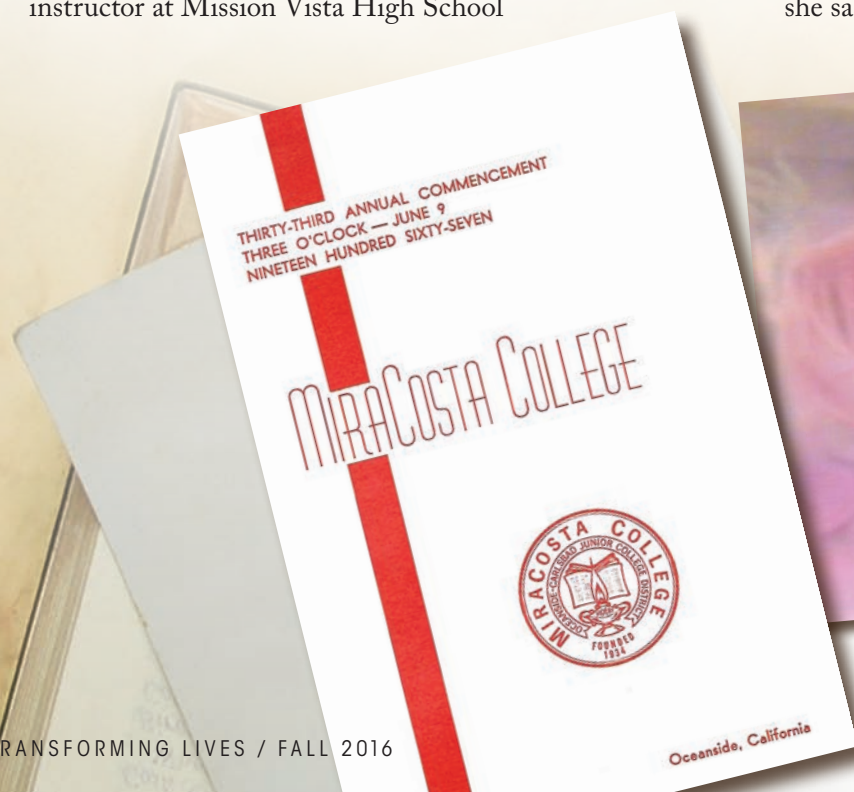
A beautiful campus with dedicated faculty and staff.

"I tell my students that I've had some wonderful professors at every school I've been to, but the best professors I've ever had were at MiraCosta College," she said. ■

"It's just sort of what you do in my family when you have the chance; you go to MiraCosta College"



Scott Gerent (4th generation), who attended MiraCosta College spring semester 2004.



Left: Program from MiraCosta's 1967 graduation. Above: MiraCosta College graduates David Lee Vermilyea (age 20, 2nd generation) and Natalie Vermilyea (age 61, 1st generation) from the June 9, 1967 graduation.

Alumni Profile:

Rosie McDonnell-Horita

Rosie McDonnell-Horita is fighting for the underdog. An advocate for the disabled since she was a high school junior, McDonnell-Horita earned her bachelor's degree in sociology from UC San Diego in 2015 and now works with the San Diego County Office of Education on behalf of visually impaired students.

"It's incredibly rewarding work," said McDonnell-Horita, who graduated from MiraCosta in 2013. "Seeing a student make progress and grasp a lesson, then turn around and help someone else understand is an absolutely amazing experience."

McDonnell-Horita lives with osteogenesis imperfecta, more commonly known as brittle bone disease, a condition that has led her to use a wheelchair and undergo multiple surgeries. Yet she has never let her disability get in her way and is an effective ambassador in showing others that a disability can be a strength, not a weakness.

Her life of advocacy began when she signed up with the California Youth Leadership Forum, and, along with several dozen youths with a range of disabilities from around the state, visited Sacramento to lobby.

"I saw that people with disabilities could do anything if they were organized," Rosie recalled. "It really motivated me to become more involved."

She later was chosen as one of just 30 interns from around the country to spend 10 weeks in Washington, D.C., to take part in a program sponsored by the American Association of People with Disabilities.

"No matter what I do in the future, I not only want to make a difference, but I want to change people's way of thinking when it comes to disabilities and the disabled."

At MiraCosta College, McDonnell-Horita was an active member of the Phi Theta Kappa honors society and her dedication was rewarded with a scholarship.

"I am very thankful for what MiraCosta and the MiraCosta College Foundation scholarship gave me," she said.

What she is accomplishing now is inspiring others. As an instructional aide for the visually impaired, she works one-on-one with students with Individualized Education Plans to ensure they are getting the instruction to which they are entitled. McDonnell-Horita is hoping to return to school in the not-too-distant future and perhaps earn a doctoral degree.





1 Barnard Drive
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INSPIRED BY

EXCELLENCE

Students in New Bachelor's Degree Program will Benefit from Generous Donation

Stephen "Hap" L'Heureux comes from a tradition of service. His father, Harry D. L'Heureux, was an Air Force fighter pilot who later worked in the nation's space program. His sister, Connie Boose, has donated generously to a number of causes. And L'Heureux himself has become somewhat of a local legend for his ceaseless volunteer efforts and dedication to philanthropy.

His most recent gift: a \$75,000 endowed scholarship fund for students in the new biomanufacturing baccalaureate program at MiraCosta College. That follows a \$25,000 gift for the Stephen "Hap" L'Heureux Dramatic Arts Endowed Scholarship Fund, and more than \$40,000 to the MiraCosta College Foundation's Campaign for Opportunity Scholarships.

"I've been fortunate enough to have a lot of opportunities in my life and it just seems right to do what I can to help others share in the same kind of opportunities," said L'Heureux, a Navy veteran and Carlsbad-based estate attorney. He is also president of the MiraCosta College Foundation board, is a founding member of the Carlsbad Charitable Foundation and was once named Citizen of the Year by the City of Carlsbad.

L'Heureux said supporting the new biomanufacturing baccalaureate program, which is aimed at preparing students to work in the thriving manufacturing sector of the biotechnology industry, made sense.

"Biomanufacturing is important to our economy and to our region, and I'm proud to be able to support the MiraCosta College bachelor's degree program," he said. "Being able to provide our local residents with a wonderful educational opportunity without having to move away is important to me."



For more information about the college's new bachelor's degree in biomanufacturing, visit miracosta.edu/bachelorsdegree.