

MiraCosta

Transforming Lives



BREAKING GROUND IN BIOTECHNOLOGY

MiraCosta College to offer
biomanufacturing baccalaureate

HOMELAND SECURITY, HIGH-TECH MANUFACTURING

Among Several Programs
Offered at the New
Technology Career Institute

Q&A

with
Superintendent/President
Dr. Sunny Cooke

FRIENDS OF MIRACOSTA COLLEGE:



It's never been a more exciting time to be at MiraCosta College! As you'll read about in this edition of *Transforming Lives*, the college is making history with innovative programs and services, like the baccalaureate degree we are preparing to offer in biomanufacturing starting in 2017. After a rigorous application process, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors authorized MiraCosta as one of only a dozen community colleges in the state to offer a four-year degree program. We also just opened the Technology Career Institute (TCI) in Carlsbad, which is already providing training for careers in the homeland security, high-tech manufacturing, maritime technology and biotech manufacturing industries.

Removing barriers to higher education is a priority at MiraCosta College. That's why the college's board of trustees recently elected to waive enrollment fees for concurrently enrolled high school students, giving them a chance to earn college credit and get a taste of college life. Meanwhile, MiraCosta College students save thousands on their way to earning four-year degrees and go on to transfer to universities with significantly less student loan debt. Plus, support from individuals like you ensures that our students get the financial support they need to achieve their academic goals.

I joined MiraCosta as its superintendent/president in January 2015. I was drawn to North County in general, and to MiraCosta College in particular, because I am eager to be a part of a community that is so obviously dedicated to higher education and so innovative in its approach to student success. I hope you are able to learn a little about me in my Q&A starting on page 8. Likewise, I want to learn about you! I look forward to making new connections in the community and meeting those of you who are obviously so dedicated to our mission and to our students. Please don't hesitate to contact my office at 760.795.6610 or email me at sunny.cooke@miracosta.edu should you wish to set up a time to meet directly with me or wish to learn more about MiraCosta College.

I'm looking forward to a bright future at MiraCosta College!

Dr. Sunny Cooke
Superintendent/President
MiraCosta College

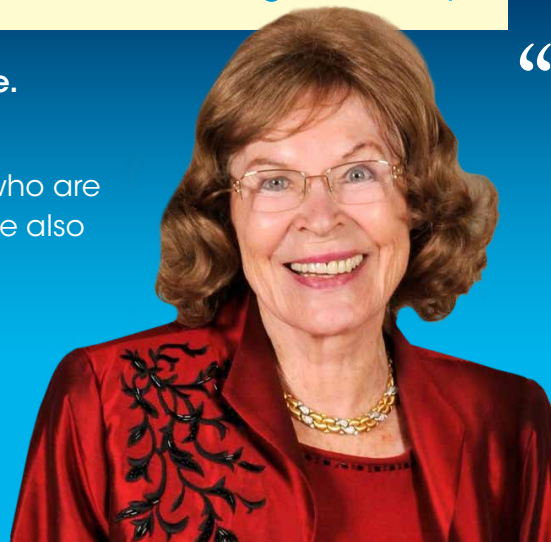
Charitable Gift Annuities:

Have you considered the benefits of a charitable gift annuity?

- + The security of guaranteed income for life.
- + The advantage of significant tax savings.

Join the many friends of MiraCosta College who are benefitting from a charitable gift annuity while also creating a legacy for generations to come.

To find out more, contact
MiraCosta College Foundation
Linda Fogerson, Executive Director
at 760.795.6775 or lfogerson@miracosta.edu.



“I am setting up my third charitable gift annuity

with the MiraCosta College Foundation because I get a good return on my investment, and because I know that when I pass on, the remainder will benefit MiraCosta College and its students.”

—Theresia Heyden

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.

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foundation.miracosta.edu

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760.795.6777



On the Cover

MiraCosta College's baccalaureate degree program will be a combination of process sciences and quality-related course work.

The degree will prepare students for work within the biotechnology industry in the unique environment of biological production.

Pictured: Albert Vu (foreground) and Arsen Golemi.

MiraCosta Introduces a CUTTING-EDGE BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM

FIRST-GENERATION college student Lauren Dempsey didn't always know where her educational journey would take her.

"I got accepted into Cal State San Luis Obispo out of high school, but I was worried about how I would afford it and find housing and a job. Plus, no one in my family had ever gone to college, let alone gone away to college," said Dempsey. "I chose to stay close to home and attend MiraCosta College because that meant I could continue to work and live with my parents while I was going to school."

Dempsey held down a part-time job while attending classes at the college. At first, she had no idea what to major in and no clue about what type of career she wanted to pursue.

"When I started at MiraCosta College, I was kind of all over the place," said the now 25 year old. "At first I was looking into nutrition, but then I

realized that degree leads to careers that I wasn't really interested in."

Thankfully, a friend who was taking classes in MiraCosta College's Biotechnology Program introduced

Dempsey to the field. Despite never having heard of biotechnology, she enrolled in classes. That was fall 2010.

Two years later, she received a Biotechnology Research and Development Certificate of Achievement. Today, she has a full-time job at Isis Pharmaceuticals, Inc. where she works in the manufacturing division.

In the future, Dempsey plans on earning a bachelor's degree in biotechnology. Now that MiraCosta College can offer a biomanufacturing baccalaureate program, she may be closer to achieving just that.

In January 2015, the California Community Colleges Board of Governors gave MiraCosta, along with 11 other California community colleges, initial approval to host pilot baccalaureate programs.

"This will be the first biomanufacturing baccalaureate degree offered at any public institution of higher education in the state of California," said Mary Benard, vice president of Instructional Services. "This is an exciting time for the students and the local biotech industry."

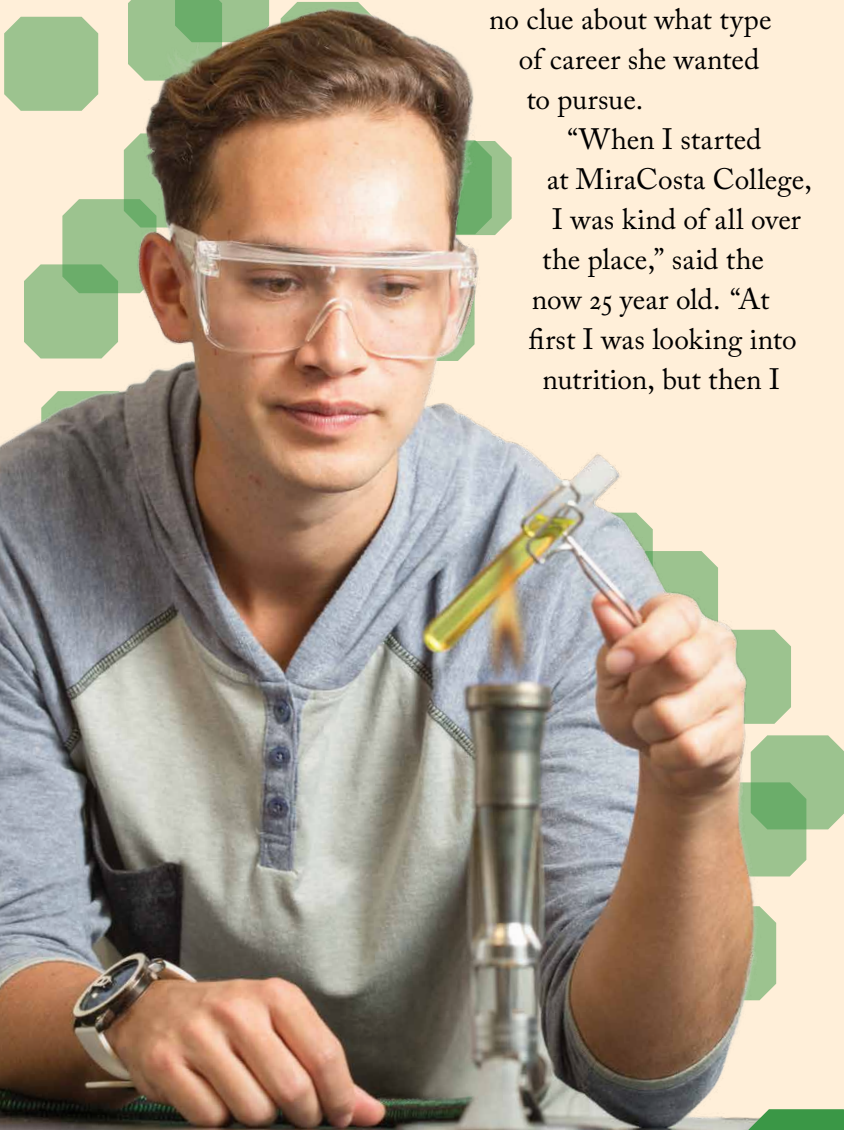
The biomanufacturing baccalaureate degree program will prepare students for employment in the manufacturing sector of the biotechnology industry, which includes biotherapeutics, diagnostics, supplies and services, and industrial products. The degree will also prepare graduates for technical and quality-assurance/control-related positions.

"Objectively, this is a remarkably worthy degree program that is industry-responsive and that offers in-demand career paths within an industry segment that is one of the largest in the nation," said Mike Fino, MiraCosta College biological sciences instructor.

The four-year degree program will be up and running by the 2017/18 academic year. ■



LAUREN DEMPSEY



NALU POLANCIC

The biotechnology program has served the local biotech industry since 1990 and has an average of 190 students enrolled each year.





New Technology Career Institute Teaches Students Skills for Today's In-Demand Jobs

On September 11, 2001, while sitting in a high school classroom, Richard Garcia witnessed the attack on and collapse of the World Trade Center in New York City. Later that day, Garcia marched into a recruitment office to join the Marine Corps.

"I was only 17, so my dad didn't want to sign for me at first," said Garcia. "I told him he served in the Marine Corps, so why can't I?" Without further argument, Garcia's dad signed the release and sent his son off to boot camp.

Garcia spent almost a decade in the Marine Corps, including a tour in Afghanistan. In 2011, he left as a sergeant and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

"After I left the corps, I still had the urge to protect and serve," said Garcia, who applied to the Los Angeles Police Academy while volunteering for LAPD's gang unit.



“MiraCosta College’s Homeland Security Program gives veterans a chance to keep living our desire to protect and serve.”

—Richard Garcia



After a year and a half with no word from the academy, Garcia enrolled in a private-protection detail program. When he finished, he waited for job offers, which never came. Garcia then found MiraCosta College’s Homeland Security Program.

“MiraCosta College pretty much saved me from going into debt,” said Garcia. “The program is approved by the US Department of Veterans Affairs so I got to use my GI Bill.”

Garcia is one of 250 other veterans who have graduated from the college’s Homeland Security Program and have found careers working in personal security detail or as armed guards. Three weeks after finishing the program, he received a job offer. Today, he works as a team leader for a private company in Los Angeles.

“Many veterans went into the military originally because they have a strong desire to protect and serve. They come out of the military and still have that desire,” said Linda Kurokawa, director of Community Education and Workforce Development. “Being able to get them into civilian protection positions is really valuable because they get to fulfill this desire while also working in well-paying jobs.”

A New Facility in Carlsbad

In 2013, to help develop and expand MiraCosta programs like Homeland Security, the US Department of Labor awarded the college a \$2.75 million grant.

In 2014, MiraCosta teamed up with the City of Carlsbad to identify a location for a new Technology Career Institute (TCI) where students, including military veterans and the unemployed, will be trained to fill a growing demand for specialized workers in North San Diego County.

“The Technology Career Institute will benefit businesses in both Carlsbad and throughout the region by providing much-needed training and workforce development while offering local residents a convenient option for gaining highly marketable, advanced machining and manufacturing skills,” said City of Carlsbad Mayor Matt Hall. “This kind of partnership is a great example of what can be achieved when organizations collaborate toward common goals.”

The TCI houses programs that train students to work in industries such as homeland security, high-tech manufacturing, maritime technology and biotech manufacturing. The institute will

also expand the Machinist Certificate Program and create industry-recognized electronics engineering technician and robotics/automation certification programs.

All this is offered in accelerated 12- to 16-week programs in which students are immersed in hands-on, skills-based environments.

Strengthening the Community

MiraCosta's new location is also a home to the North San Diego Small Business Development Center (SBDC), which MiraCosta College has hosted since 1999. The SBDC provides resources, workshops, and leadership programs for growing and established small businesses—helping to fulfill an important part of the MiraCosta College mission of strengthening the economic well-being of the community.

In 2014, the SBDC, through 150 workshops and 3,182 hours of counseling, helped small businesses obtain \$4.4 million in financing, increase sales by \$14.3 million, win government contracts of \$9.9 million, and create/retain 366 jobs.

“The new location is central, which will allow the SBDC to better serve our clients,” said SBDC Director Sudershan Shaunak.

Skills Training for the Community

For the Community Education and Workforce Development Program, the new location provides a better way to offer its exemplary programs, a service only possible through the support of the community it serves. In fact, since 2008, the program has received more than \$440,000 in donations from local North County businesses, organizations, high schools and community members.

“When industry and philanthropic organizations donate funds to our department, it provides the seed money to develop and implement high-level programs that provide critically needed skills training for both unemployed and incumbent workers,” said Kurokawa. “We are truly grateful that our San Diego community understands and is generous in its giving.” ■



CAUTION: WET PAINT

(That's how new this place is!)

You're invited!

Join us at an open house
for the brand new
Technology Career Institute

May 5
10 a.m.—4 p.m.

MiraCosta College
Technology Career Institute
2075 Las Palmas Drive
Carlsbad, CA 92011





Q&A with Superintendent/President Dr. Sunny Cooke

MiraCosta College's 6th permanent superintendent/president, Dr. Sunny Cooke, started in January 2015, and already is making her mark on the college and the community. Let's get to know the college's new leader.

What intrigued you to apply at MiraCosta College? MiraCosta College is known for its exceptional faculty, staff, and administrators and is also known for its dedication to students and their success. Plus, because of the way the college is funded, we have the ability to grow in a very strategic and planned way to meet our community's needs. This gives us the ability to focus on quality of services to students in addition to the number of students we serve.

What is the one thing that excites or inspires you the most as you begin your presidency?

I would say I'm particularly excited to get to know the people here and learn the culture of the college while contributing my own talents and energies to help us better serve our students and community. I also hope to bring new partnerships and opportunities to MiraCosta and showcase the amazing work that goes on here.

You now have been on campus for a few months.

What are your impressions so far?

I've been able to spend some time with student leaders and ambassadors and have been impressed with their talents, knowledge and enthusiasm. Faculty and staff have also gone out of their way to introduce themselves and share their experiences with me. So far, the vibe that I've picked up reiterates what I had heard about MiraCosta College—that it is a collegial and welcoming place that focuses on students and excellence.

What are your immediate priorities?

Seeing our students succeed is my top priority. I am here to offer support and leadership to our instructional and student services programs, while also assisting our college foundation in raising funds for student scholarships. In addition to the fees associated with being a student, the cost of books and living expenses are significant challenges for some of our students. Many of them need to work to earn enough money to pursue their educational goals or to support families. Scholarships can make the difference between students dropping out or re-enrolling for another semester.

I'm also focused on getting to know the people who work here and the college culture. I want to listen, learn, and figure out where I can best apply my energy and resources to help the organization, students, employees, and community. I've also spent time meeting with departments across the college to get to know their history and accomplishments, which helps me be a better champion for them and the college as a whole.

You hold bachelor's and doctorate degrees in biology. How did you decide on a career in education, specifically at community colleges?

I come from a long line of those in public service. My grandparents, aunts and uncles, as well as my own parents and siblings, worked as teachers, nurses, doctors or ministers, or led nonprofit organizations. So in many

“Seeing our students succeed is my top priority.”

ways, I was drawn to a path of service. I also had some wonderful teachers in my life who reached out and made a difference when I was at some vulnerable points. All of those experiences helped to draw me into education and I've never regretted making that decision.

As I set off to get my doctorate, I knew that teaching was going to be my focus. When I finished my doctorate and a post-doctoral research training period, I envisioned a career for myself as a professor in a teaching/research university such as Georgetown University. Honestly, I didn't really know that community colleges existed and I had never set foot on one before I interviewed for a job at a brand new college in the Houston area. I accepted that position without really understanding the mission of a community college.

It was within my first year of teaching that I fell in love with the mission. My students came from such diverse paths in life and were all ages. I cherished our weekly time in the lab because that was when I got to know them as individuals. My students taught me so many things about resilience through the challenges they had overcome. My goal became to encourage students to exceed their self-imposed limitations and to overcome any trepidation they had about learning science.

Q
A

So, what inspired you to take on the administrative side of education?

I have always loved every job I have had and have been so consumed by it that I never really wanted to move on. I literally was dragged up the career ladder kicking and screaming by those who saw leadership potential in me that I did not know existed.

I have also been fortunate to have wonderful role models and mentors who have inspired me, believed in me and supported me to try new things. I still consider myself to be a teacher at heart and so I try to help develop the people around me. I continue to teach one course in the summer in the community college leadership doctoral program at SDSU.

What do you think sets MiraCosta College apart from other community colleges?

A warm and welcoming spirit and a unique way of serving our students. I can tell the students and the alumni feel very attached to the college. They frequently come back to visit, to tutor or to help support upcoming students. Also, there are many, many people involved in governance, planning and institutional effectiveness, and that shows people really care about the institution and are willing to invest their time, energy and talent to making the college even better.

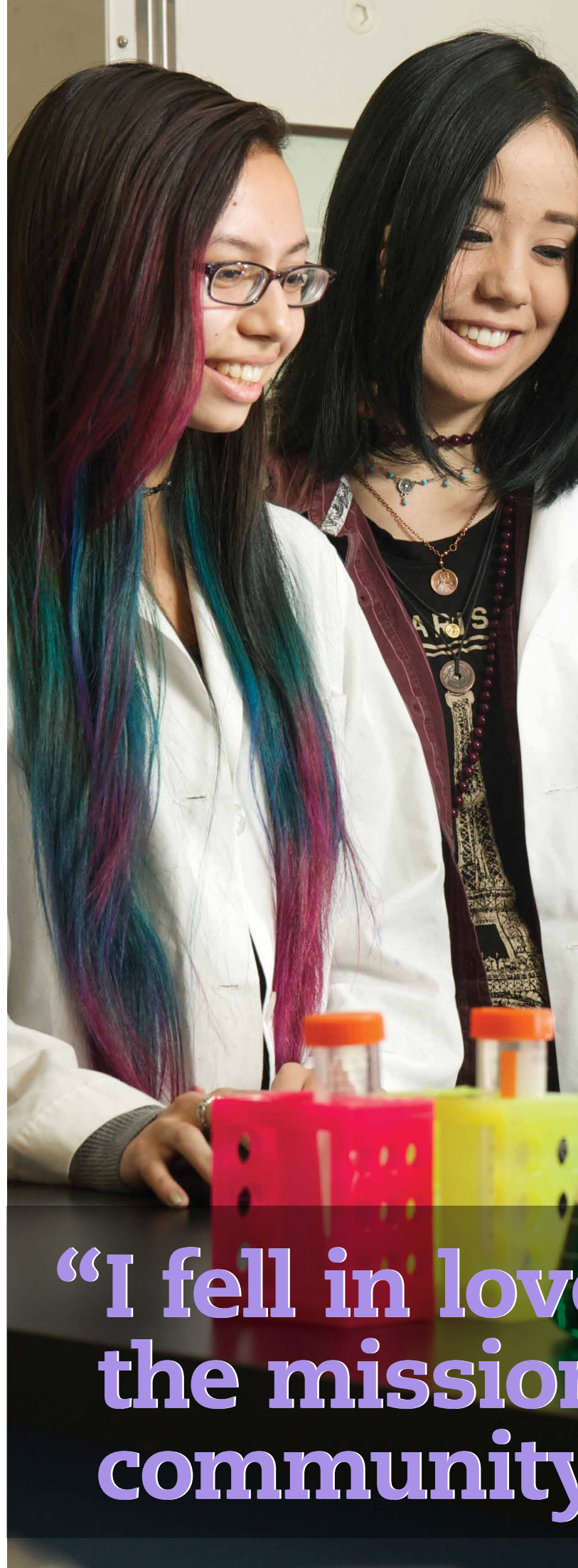
Also, the college is very fortunate to have a strong and accomplished foundation working to promote and garner support for the college, its programs and students. It is clear that this community embraces the college and shares a deep desire to support our students' successes. Having a strong foundation in place gives the college a head start as we build our future.

You are just at the start of your presidency, but looking forward, how would you like to be remembered?

One of my guiding principles has been to leave a place better than when I found it. I have tried to create environments that are very high performing and also humane, which means we get a lot done but we are kind, compassionate, respectful and caring about how we go about that work.

A personal question for you: Who in your life has been your biggest professional or personal inspiration?

There have been many people who have inspired me either directly or through their legendary work. I would say the two who have had the most profound impact on me both culturally and professionally have been Mahatma Gandhi and Mother Teresa. These are two incredibly strong leaders who sacrificed tremendously to be of service to others. ■



**“I fell in love
the mission
community**



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n of the
y college.”

DR. COOKE'S PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

1995–2005

Lone Star College—Montgomery

Professor, Biology & Biotechnology ('95–'05)
Director, Biotechnology Institute ('01–'02)
Dean, Natural Sciences & Health Professions ('02–'05)



2005–2007

Lone Star College System Office

Associate Vice Chancellor,
Workforce Development



2007–2014

Grossmont College—El Cajon

President

GROSSMONT
COLLEGE



January 2, 2015–Present

MiraCosta College

Superintendent/President





1 Barnard Drive
Oceanside, CA 92056

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FOUNDATION

miracosta.edu ■ foundation.miracosta.edu

A special thanks to those individuals who established endowed scholarships with gifts* ranging in size from \$10,000 to \$100,000 as a part of the Opportunity Scholarships Match Campaign.

- 1 **The Colonel Harry D. & Patricia G. L'Heureux Endowed Scholarship**
Connie (pictured) and John Boose
- 2 **The Stephen "Hap" L'Heureux Endowed Dramatic Arts Scholarship**
The Stephen "Hap" L'Heureux Endowed Baccalaureate Scholarship
Hap L'Heureux
- 3 **Fred & Louise Krivoski Endowed Scholarship**
Vicki Krivoski (pictured) and Bonita Andreani
- 4 **Bela Miko Endowed Scholarship**
Stephanie Miko and Family
- 5 **June Williams Endowed Scholarship**
Knox Williams
- 6 **Kenneth & Marie Bertossi Nursing Scholarship**
Ken and Marie Bertossi
- 7 **On & Phat Ha Endowed Scholarship**
Thoa Ha
- 8 **Marilyn & Stuart C. Wilson Endowed Scholarship**
Marilyn Wilson
- 9 **The Clarence M. Jackson Memorial Endowed Scholarship**
Carl Jackson
- 10 **The Fallstrom Math Believer Award Endowment**
Matt Fallstrom



Your financial support will make a difference for generations of MiraCosta College students!

In addition, more than 56 individuals responded to our year-end appeal, collectively contributing* more than \$18,000 to create the Campaign for Opportunity Scholarship Endowed Fund. Thank you.

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Kathleen & Andrew Mauro	Kathy & Steve Perkins	Donna & Tom Golich	Leslie Martin & Keith Spear	Jim Stilwell
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Karen Kohl	Jo Griffith	Leslie Nemour	Jody Lee Johnson	Susan Ruff
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*listed in order from highest donations