

The Bottom Line

NEWS & VIEWS FROM COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS • WINTER 2016

Chancellor's REPORT



Dr. Dianne Van Hook

College of the Canyons lays claim to a diverse array of achievements. From our impressive student completion and transfer rates, to forward-thinking community partnerships, to responsive business training, College of the Canyons has been widely recognized with accolades at the local, state, and national levels.

While diverse, our accomplishments are linked by two common themes: innovation and excellence. These qualities go hand in hand at College of the Canyons. Innovation naturally leads to excellence, and excellence in turn leads to more opportunities for innovation.

See **CHANCELLOR** on Page 2

COC & AMS DELIVER STATE'S FIRST APPRENTICESHIPS IN LOGISTICS

College of the Canyons proudly announced during National Apprenticeship Week its partnership with Advantage Media Services (AMS) Fulfillment to offer 13 apprenticeships in warehousing and shipping, the first partnership of its kind in California.

Starting January 2017, the Canyons Apprenticeship Program (CAP) will give 13 select students the opportunity to earn money while they learn.

"We are grateful to AMS Fulfillment for their commitment to provide opportunities to 13 apprentices, which is a groundbreaking achievement," said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. "This commitment will also enabled College of the Canyons to receive the California Apprenticeship Initiative (CAI) Grant, which will pay for the entire costs of related instruction for all of the apprentices at AMS Fulfillment."

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SETTING THE STANDARD COC TRAINS LOCAL SCIENCE TEACHERS

College of the Canyons recently hosted a four-day outreach training session for William S. Hart Union High School District science teachers in preparation for the implementation of Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS).

As part of that training, members from the college's School of Mathematics, Sciences, and Health Professions offered hands-on activities that will work best to support content standards inside K-12 classrooms, while reinforcing the ongoing training planned by the

See **SCIENCE** on Page 10

ALUMNI SALARY POTENTIAL AMONG THE NATION'S BEST

College of the Canyons has been ranked among the top 15 best community and career colleges by salary potential in PayScale's 2016-2017 College Salary Report.

The list ranks 381 two-year colleges across the nation by post-graduation earnings to help associate degree-seeking students make informed choices when selecting a college to attend. The list also

See **SALARY** on Page 11

Chancellor

FROM PAGE 1

We are in a state of continuous improvement at the college. Together, faculty, staff, administrators, and students are united by a common focus. Whether it's finding new ways to do old things, or doing things we've never done before, College of the Canyons is committed to innovation. We are always growing, expanding, and enhancing our programs and services. The results of which are seen not just on our campuses, but across the community we serve.

This issue of The Bottom Line highlights just a few examples where we have grown ideas into reality. With Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) placing a new emphasis on science education at the K-12 level, we launched a series of training events where our science faculty shared their expertise with colleagues from local school districts.

INNOVATION DRIVES EXCELLENCE

Our students always come first, so our innovative energies are largely directed at improving educational access and outcomes for the more than 20,000 students attending classes at the Valencia Campus, Canyon Country Campus, or online.

One of the most significant barriers to access is the high cost of textbooks. Between 2002 and 2016, the cost of textbooks grew at three times the rate of inflation, with the average student spending more than \$1,200 a year on textbooks and school supplies. Keep in mind that enrollment fees for a full-time student at College of the Canyons are just \$1,104. You read that correctly – the books students need for classes typically cost more than the classes themselves.

So how does innovation apply to textbooks? By using open educational resources (OER) – teaching and learning materials

that have been released in the public domain – we can offer a low- or no-cost alternative to traditional textbooks through online options or soft-cover books we print on campus. Already, we're saving students \$1 million a year by using OER materials instead of commercial textbooks, and we expect that number to grow.

As I said earlier, innovation and excellence go hand in hand. For us, innovation leads directly to excellence. As we make changes to what we do, and how we do it, we make things better, and that leads to recognition and accolades.

In *Washington Monthly* magazine's first-ever ranking of colleges that best address the needs of adult learners (students over the age of 25), they placed College of the Canyons among the top 25 community colleges in the nation. That ranking reflects our commitment to offering flexible programs, like evening, weekend, online, and short-term classes, rather than the traditional semester-length format. And, helpful support services, such as our newly implemented online educational plans, enable students to create a schedule over multiple semesters to ensure they achieve their educational goals as quickly as possible.

EXCELLENCE FUELS INNOVATION

While innovation drives excellence, excellence in turn leads to new opportunities



for innovation. We recently partnered with the University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work to enhance our services to veterans. This partnership, prompted by two of our Foundation Chancellor's Circle members, will bring two USC graduate students to campus each semester to provide counseling and support services to military veterans enrolled at College of the Canyons.

The possibility for such a partnership is rooted in our reputation for excellence. We are a dependable and responsive partner, and based on our record of success, USC was willing to work together, knowing they could count on us to deliver a unique learning opportunity for their own students.

While we are proud of the recognition we receive, we are not motivated by awards. We are driven to innovate and excel because the results bring real benefit to our students and the community we serve. The real reward comes from the satisfaction in knowing we have made a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook serves as chancellor of College of the Canyons.

The Bottom Line is published by the College of the Canyons Public Information Office to inform the community of news and events of interest in the Santa Clarita Community College District.

Phone: (661) 259-7800

Internet: <http://www.canyons.edu>

Mailing Address

Santa Clarita
Community College District
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355



**Vice President,
Public Information Advocacy and External Relations**
Eric Harnish

**Managing Director,
District Communications**
John Green

Editorial Team
Jesse Munoz
Stephanie Corral

Layout & Design
Evelyn Cox

USC PARTNERSHIP BENEFITS VETERANS

College of the Canyons has partnered with the University of Southern California (USC) Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, the largest social work school in the world, to provide personal counseling services to COC students in need.

Every semester, at least two second-year USC graduate students working toward a master of science in social work will be assigned to provide counseling and support services to COC students through the college's Veterans Resource Center and Student Health & Wellness Center.

This partnership will provide USC students with internship opportunities needed to develop skills in a clinical setting, along with important practical experience.

USC interns will also have the opportunity to learn from Veterans Resource Center therapists and specialists involved with other COC programs, such as the Domestic Violence Center and the Child and Family Center.

"We are very excited to partner with the USC School of Social Work," said Jerry Buckley, Assistant Superintendent/Vice

President of Academic Affairs at the college. "We hope this mutually beneficial partnership will help provide COC students with additional high-quality counseling services."

In addition, USC interns will engage in case management, provide outreach training and wellness activities, conduct trainings, and participate in a variety of community meetings.

The partnership is made possible thanks to the support of Elliott and Judy Wolfe, members of the COC Foundation's Chancellor's Circle.

The couple became interested in helping the local veteran community after becoming involved with the Gary Sinise Foundation, which provides assistance to veterans in need.

After learning about COC's large veteran population, the couple began working to build a bridge between COC and USC, the Wolfes' alma mater.

Mrs. Wolfe currently serves as a pro bono fieldwork supervisor to the two USC interns providing services to COC veterans.

The COC Student Health and Wellness Center is an integrated health and men-

tal health program that works closely with Veterans Services.

"Mental health and counseling services are essential to the success of veteran students who may be struggling to adjust back to civilian life," said Renard Thomas, Director of the COC Veterans Resource Center. "This partnership will give our veteran students additional valuable resources to help them accomplish their educational goals at COC."

Mr. and Mrs. Wolfe have also organized the Santa Clarita Veteran Services Collaborative, which is a consortium of more than 50 businesses, individuals, and non-profit organizations that help veterans access therapy, counseling, housing, medical, and employment services.

"We are looking for more businesses and organizations who are interested in helping veterans in our community," said Mr. Wolfe.

For more information about the Veteran's Resource Center and the Student Health & Wellness Center, call (661) 362-3469 and (661) 362-3259, respectively.



New State Contract Funds Low-Cost Employee Training for Local Firms

The College of the Canyons Employee Training Institute (ETI) has received a \$548,205 contract from the California Employment Training Panel (ETP), which is the 13th contract of its kind awarded to the college.

Valid for two years, the reimbursement contract will allow COC to provide worker training to client companies in the Santa Clarita Valley who wish to retain an up-skilled workforce.

"This represents over two decades of providing ETP funded training for local employers," said John Milburn, Director of ETI, which has administered more than \$4 million in ETP funds over time.

The ETP contract helps offset the costs charged to employers for training. The savings to employers can be as much as 75 percent off the regular price utilizing ETP funds.

"The ETP is critical to ETI and to the business community, and

ultimately to the economy of California," said John Milburn, ETI director. "Workers are able to get training in high-level training topics such as Lean Six Sigma, project management, manufacturing skills, supply chain management and many other topics."

Unique to California, ETP is a program that is geared toward job creation and job retention through training in an effort to keep California companies competitive and operating within the state.

"Manufacturers are considered a 'priority industry' and we have many manufacturers here in Santa Clarita Valley that benefit from this program every year," said Milburn.

For more information about the College of the Canyons Employee Training Institute, visit <http://www.canyonsecondev.org/eti>.

COC Ranked One of Best U.S. Colleges for Adult Learners

College of the Canyons was ranked among the top 25 best U.S. colleges for adult learners in *Washington Monthly* magazine's first-ever ranking of "Best Two-Year Colleges for Adult Learners."

Citing a lack of college rankings for adult students – defined as students who are over the age of 25 – *Washington Monthly* analyzed data from 1,178 two-year colleges to create its list of the top 100 two-year colleges in the nation.

"True to its mission, College of the Canyons is committed to providing a high-quality education to all, including adult students," said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. "Our flexible programs and numerous resources have helped many adult learners reach their educational goals while juggling full-time jobs and family responsibilities. It is an honor to be included among the top 25 two-year colleges that provide a wide array of services for adult students."

In Fall 2015, students age 25 and over made up 37 percent of COC's student population.

Washington Monthly analyzed data from the College Board's Annual Survey of Colleges, Department of Education's Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System survey, as well as the department's College Scorecard database to rank colleges using the following seven metrics:

- Ease of transfer/enrollment
- Flexibility of programs

See **RANKINGS** on Page 11

Jack & Doreen Shine selected for Silver Spur Award

When Jack and Doreen Shine first crossed paths in the real estate world back in 1993, little did they know that their union would lead to a continuous commitment to serve community members of the Santa Clarita Valley.

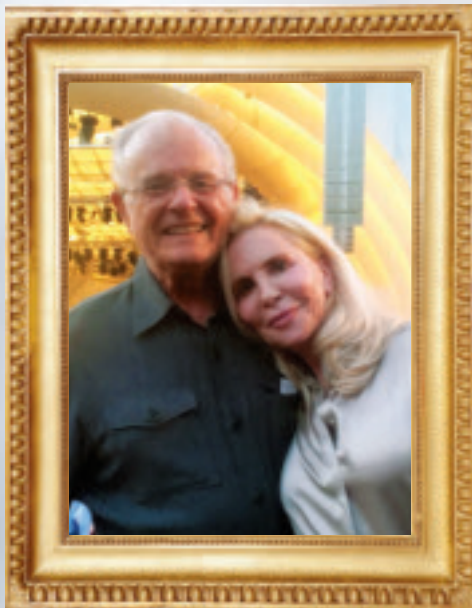
Today, whether they are building homes, contributing to local charities, or advocating on behalf of education and the arts, the Shines continue to work tirelessly to provide their support into making Santa Clarita a better place.

That dedication to the community led the College of the Canyons Foundation to name Jack and Doreen Shine the recipients of the college's "Silver Spur" Community Service Award for 2017.

"Because of their ongoing efforts to give back to others and the significant contributions they have made to this community, we are honored to recognize Jack and Doreen with this award," said College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. "From the arts, to affordable housing, to family wellness, they have set a standard of personal involvement and generosity that serves as an example to us all. Jack and Doreen have shown us that care and commitment can make a lasting difference in shaping the community's growth."

As the founder and president of American Beauty Homes, Jack has played a large role in redefining the Santa Clarita Valley's landscape, particularly Canyon Country, by building trendy and affordable homes for many first-time homebuyers.

Passionate about the arts, Jack has also served as President of the Los Angeles County Music and Performing Arts Commission and as a member of the Santa Clarita Valley Arts Council.



Jack and Doreen Shine

In 1970, Doreen left Ireland and a career in the Department of Social Welfare for a new start in the United States. The Irish expat was a stay-at-home mom, fitness expert, and personal trainer before venturing into real estate. Raising her son in the Santa Clarita Valley allowed her the opportunity to become actively involved with local schools, political campaigns, and other worthy causes.

A member of the Child and Family Center Board, Doreen continues to devote her time and energy to family issues and the arts. She currently serves as Chair of the Patrons of the Arts support group at COC.

Since that fateful meeting a charity fundraiser back in 1993, Jack and Doreen have worked shoulder-to-shoulder on causes and projects they both are passionate about.

As members of the COC Foundation Board of Directors, they have also provided invaluable support to various college programs and initiatives, including the COC institutional scholarship program, the Fine & Performing Arts Division, the COC Athletics department, veteran's affairs, and other student success programs. The Shines are also members of the Santa Clarita Performing Arts Center (PAC) K-12 Educational Outreach Advisory Board.

The 2017 Silver Spur Celebration will take place Saturday, March 18, 2017, at The Sheraton Universal Starview Room in Universal City. The evening will include dinner and a live auction featuring a selection of unique items.

This year's event will be co-chaired by Brian and Lindsay Koegle and Nick and Elise Lentini, members of the COC Foundation Board of Directors.

For more information about the 2017 Silver Spur Award Ceremony, or to purchase tickets or become an event sponsor, please contact the College of the Canyons Foundation at (661) 362-3737.

New Committee Formed to Oversee Bond Funds

The College of the Canyons Board of Trustees approved the formation of a joint bond oversight committee to oversee the expenditure of the college's Measure M and Measure E bonds.

A Measure M oversight committee was formed in 2006, but with the recent passing of Measure E, an additional oversight committee was required under the terms of approval. Rather than forming two separate committees, a single committee will oversee both bonds.

Representing different required categories, the members of the citizen's bond oversight committee include:

- Katherine Martinez
(COC Associated Student Government)
- Don Kimball (Business organization)
- Barbara Cochran

- (Senior citizen's organization)
- Calvin Hedman
(Bona-fide taxpayers' organization)
- Nick Lentini (COC Foundation)
- Kevin Holmes (Community member)
- Michael Hogan (Community member)
- Alan DiFatta (Community member)
- Michael Lebecki (Community member)
- Ruthann Levison (Community member)
- Spencer Leafdale (Community member)

Both measures are subject to strict accountability rules mandated by Proposition 39. The law requires the college to appoint a committee to provide oversight to ensure bond revenues are expended only on those projects specified in the bond measures and that they are not spent on instructor or administrator salaries or operating expenses of the District.

On June 7, Santa Clarita Valley voters approved Measure E, which will allocate \$230 million to the Santa Clarita Community College District for construction projects.

Measure E will fund the construction of new buildings at both campuses, 1,000 parking spots, and create more labs for students. Bond funds will also be used to update existing buildings and address urgent facility needs, which includes aged roofing, electrical system upgrades, as well as earthquake and fire safety issues. Upgrades will also be made to stairs, walkways, ramps and parking lots to comply with current requirements for providing access to disabled students.

By law, bond revenues may not be spent on faculty or administrative salaries and expenses.



District Receives High Bond Ratings

The Santa Clarita Community College District has received high bond ratings from FitchRatings and Standard & Poor (S&P) Ratings, marking the final Measure M issuance.

Fitch issued an AAA rating, the highest rating possible, for the district's \$20 million 2016 general obligation bonds, citing a stable outlook.

"College of the Canyons is proud to have earned a 'AAA' rating from Fitch which is largely attributable to the strength of the local economy and the sound fiscal health and management of the college," said Sharlene Coleal, Assistant Superintendent and Vice

President of Business Services at the college.

S&P issued an AA (stable) long-term rating to the district's general bonds from the election of 2006, series 2016, also citing a stable outlook.

"The high ratings garnered by our final issuance of Measure M will allow the college to move forward with our goals for expansion to continue meeting the needs of our growing student population," said COC Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. "It is an exciting time for College of the Canyons and for the Santa Clarita Valley community."

Measure M will begin the funding of the construction of a science building at the

Canyon Country Campus and a 1,000-space parking structure at the Valencia Campus.

Measure M was approved by Santa Clarita Valley voters on November 7, 2006. The \$160 million bond measure helped the college build more classrooms, labs, and improve disabled access. The bond also helped secure millions of dollars in state matching funds that otherwise would have been lost.

Fitch and S&P uses factual information gathered from the district, underwriters, as well as from other credible sources, when issuing ratings. Fitch and S&P obtain verification of the factual information gathered from independent sources.

Chancellor Honored as Communications Pacesetter of Year

College of the Canyons Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook was named as the Pacesetter of the Year for Region 6 by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR). The Pacesetter of the Year award recognizes a president or CEO at a two-year community or technical college who has demonstrated leadership and support in the area of college communications and marketing.

"I am truly honored to accept the Pacesetter of the Year award," said Dr. Van Hook. "The quality of marketing, advertising and communications directly impacts access for our students, the opportunities created for our students and the development of partnerships. Through the efforts and leadership of this essential component of the college, our college district becomes the bridge to opportunity for our community and together we build the foundation for the future." Dr. Van Hook has served as CEO of the Santa Clarita Community College District since 1988 and is currently the longest serving community college CEO in California.

COC was recently named one of the nation's best colleges for adult learners by *Washington Monthly* magazine in its 2016



NCMPR District 6 Director Juan Gutierrez presented Dr. Van Hook with the Pacesetter of the Year Award

college rankings. Students at COC also transfer to universities at the highest rate of any two-year college in Los Angeles County.

Under her leadership, COC has increased facilities square footage five-fold, from 199,000 square feet on one campus to 950,000 on campuses in Valencia and Canyon Country.

The addition of the Dr. Dianne G. Van

Hook University Center, named in her honor, in 2009 and the Institute for Culinary Education in 2015, have aided the career goals of students across the community.

"Dr. Van Hook is certainly deserving of this award for her steadfast contribution to community colleges," said Juan Gutierrez, NCMPR District 6 Director, who presented the award at the district conference in September. "She not only supports and recognizes the role of marketing in the mission of community colleges, but also actively participates in the outreach and messaging of her college and district."

NCMPR is a national organization governed by volunteer community college professionals that exclusively represents marketing and public relations professionals at community and technical colleges. NCMPR has more than 1,550 members from more than 650 colleges.

The Pacesetter Award is presented annually in each of NCMPR's seven districts, and district winners are then considered for the national award.

OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES DEGREE PATHWAY ON TRACK FOR FALL 2017

A college degree that uses free learning materials instead of costly commercial textbooks? What sounds like a student's impossible dream is expected to become reality at College of the Canyons by fall 2017.

In an ongoing effort to make a college education more affordable for all students, College of the Canyons is expected to begin offering an associate degree in sociology in which all the classes use Open Educational Resources (OER).

OERs are teaching and learning materials that have been released in the public domain or under an intellectual property license as a no-cost alternative to traditional textbooks.

By incorporating more OER materials into course curriculum, COC students will soon be able to earn an associate degree by taking only OER-based courses that do not require expensive college textbooks.

"We are very excited to begin offering our students an OER degree pathway to help them reach their educational goals without being deterred by the price tag on college textbooks," said James Glapa-Grossklag, COC's Dean of Educational Technology, Learning Resources and Distance Learning.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported that the cost of textbooks grew at three times the rate of inflation between 2002 and 2016. According to research by the non-profit organization College Board, the average college student is expected to spend more than \$1,200 a year on textbooks and school supplies.

Already, the COC history, geology, mathematics, biology, water technology, and sociology departments regularly use OER materials.

COC students save approximately \$1

million each year by using OER materials instead of commercial textbooks.

The college's Associated Student Government (ASG) recently passed a resolution in favor of the use of OER materials, encouraging "faculty to consider open education resources when academically appropriate." The COC ASG is also urging the California legislature and other state representatives to support OER education as a solution to rising textbook costs.

"We hope that this first OER-only degree program will pave the way for other OER courses at the college," said Glapa-Grossklag, who was recently re-elected as the president of the Open Education Consortium, a worldwide association of higher education institutions committed to advancing OER.

NASA LAUNCHES STUDENT EXPERIMENT



The College of the Canyons Astronomy & Physics Club was hard at work all summer preparing and testing a prototype platform designed to collect cosmic dust particles in the upper stratosphere aboard NASA's High Altitude Student Platform (HASP), a scientific research balloon.

College of the Canyons is the only community college participating in this year's HASP program, and it is one of only four community colleges ever chosen to participate in the program's 10-year history. The program is run by Louisiana State University and the Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility.

Through funding provided by the College of the Canyons Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT), a six-person team traveled to Palestine, TX in July for testing and device integration at NASA's

Columbia Scientific Balloon Facility. The final payload launched in late August from New Mexico.

"We are very thankful to all who have been involved in the process, and to have this opportunity," said Teresa Ciardi, a physical science professor at the college. Ciardi and Greg Poteat, an adjunct manufacturing instructor, have been serving as co-advisors on the project, providing the team with guidance and support.

"To say that the students were super excited would be an understatement," added Ciardi. "It was rewarding to see all of the work our team has done culminate in having our project integrated onto the flight platform."

A camera was attached to the science balloon, which allowed the team to view the

launch and the scene from above during the flight on the NASA HASP webpage.

The project originated from a proposal written in December 2015 by COC student Daniel Tikhomirov to send a payload on the HASP platform. The proposal was accepted in January 2016, which is when the team began to work.

After the science balloon's launch, the NASA HASP recovery team followed the team's specific checklist to retrieve, detach, pack, and send the team the box that was designed to trap Interstellar Dust Particles (IDP's).

I have a contact at Johnson Space Flight Center, Dr. Susan Lederer, who is going to work with us to analyze the particles which may result in a published astrophysics paper," said Ciardi.

Nursing Program Seeks New Accreditation

The College of the Canyons nursing program has reached a significant milestone by receiving Pre-Accreditation Candidacy Status from the National League for Nursing Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation (NLN-CNEA), which is effective for three years.

The college's nursing program, which has been accredited by Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN) since 1996, is now seeking NLN-CNEA accreditation for the curriculum freedom it provides.

"The change in accreditation affords the nursing program the freedom to alter the curriculum, when necessary, to keep up with contemporary nursing practice standards," said Dr. Diane Baker, director of the college's nursing program. "We believe that the mission of the NLN-CNEA more closely aligns with College of the Canyons

nursing program mission and philosophical approach to nursing education."

The decision to seek NLN-CNEA accreditation initiated with the nursing program's faculty who gained the support of the college's administration through their demonstrated commitment and effort to obtaining recognition of accreditation by NLN-CNEA.

ACEN was the only national accreditation agency for nursing programs when COC's program was first accredited. Unlike ACEN, NLN-CNEA is not a Title IV gatekeeper, which limits the total number of units that a nursing program can offer.

The imposed limitation on units nursing programs can offer often limits faculty from altering curriculum in a manner that best prepares nursing students for their ever increasing professional responsibilities.

The accreditation change will not change

the nursing program's curriculum and is not expected to impact students currently completing the Associate Degree Nursing Program during the transition from ACEN to NLN-CNEA. COC nursing graduates will still have access to baccalaureate nursing transfer programs.

"The College of the Canyons Nursing Program has a strong history of producing competent and well-prepared entry level registered nurses that are trusted and highly regarded by local employers," said Micah Young, associate dean of the School of Mathematics, Sciences and Health Professions. "That tradition will continue as we seek recognition by the National League for Nursing-Commission for Nursing Education Accreditation."

The program remains accredited with ACEN through December 31, 2016. The earliest it would receive full NLN-CNEA accreditation recognition is spring 2018.

Soccer Field Ribbon Cutting



Faculty, staff, administrators and athletes celebrated the official opening of the college's newly renovated soccer fields in October, after water-saving artificial turf was installed, along with stadium lights and spectator seating.

COC LEADS STATE WITH FIVE WOMEN'S SOCCER PLAYERS NAMED TO ACADEMIC TEAM

Five members of the College of the Canyons women's soccer program have been named to the 2016 California Community College Athletic Association (CCCCA) Women's Soccer Academic All-State Team. The five honorees from COC are the most from any community college in the state.

The group of honorees from COC includes:

- Jade Ane – Liberal Studies major
- Amanda Balzer – Automotive Technology major
- Hanna Halstead – Business Accounting major
- Kianna Hemphill – Sociology major
- Isabella Hochner – American Sign Language major

A total of 37 players representing 18 schools were selected for inclusion on this year's CCCCCA Academic All-State Team. Honorees must have played at least one season of soccer and completed at least 24 semester units with a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher.

"This group of hardworking, dedicated student-athletes has embraced the 'student first' mentality that we promote at College of the Canyons," said Albert Loaiza, athletic counselor at the college. "Head coach Justin Lundin has done a tremendous job building a supportive academic environment into his program, which these girls have been able to benefit from."

This group has also made significant contributions on the field. Balzer and Hochner were both All-Western State Conference (WSC) First Team Honorees in 2015. Halstead and Hemphill were both named All-WSC Second Team that same season, with Ane also providing a strong defensive presence on a team that won the 2015 WSC, South Division Championship – the program's fifth consecutive conference title.





**SBDC Director
Catherine Grooms**

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CENTER RECEIVES TOP HONORS

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by College of the Canyons has been named the 2016 Top Performing SBDC within Los Angeles Regional Network, outperforming the region's seven other centers. The award was presented at the California SBDC Professional Development Conference held on Nov. 9, in Irvine.

Under the leadership of SBDC Director Catherine Grooms, the team of expert advisors helped clients in the Antelope, San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys access \$31.6 million in capital, while starting 61 businesses and creating 470 jobs.

"I believe and support my team in their commitment to helping clients create economic impact for the local economies we serve," said Grooms. "This award is reflective of a team effort and commitment to a high level of excellence. Our sponsors support the importance of having the SBDC as a resource."

In addition, four SBDC advisors won the "Top Capital Award" for generating the most capital for clients.

"College of the Canyons is proud of its partnership with the Small Business Administration in advancing economic development and entrepreneurship throughout the region," said Jeffrey Forrest, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development at the college.

The SBDC is the Small Business Administration's (SBA) largest service program and provides high-quality business and economic development assistance to small businesses owners and entrepreneurs.

SBDC locations provide one-on-one professional business consulting at no cost. Training is offered at no cost or low cost to entrepreneurs, and both existing and new businesses.

For more information about the SBDC hosted by College of the Canyons, please visit <http://cocsbdc.org>.

COLLEGE HONORED FOR 100 PERCENT PLACEMENT OF FAST TRACK GRADS

College of Canyons has received an Outstanding Achievement Award from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board for attaining a 100 percent placement rate for graduates of its Fast Track CNC Operator Program.

"Our CNC manufacturing programs were created to provide students with real-world and hands-on experience in order to make them more competitive when entering the workforce," said Michael Bastine, director of the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies (CACT) at the college.

The program is designed for students seeking entry-level jobs in the CNC manufacturing industry. Graduates have gone on to work for companies such as SpaceX, Aerotek, Aerospace Dynamics International, Paragon Precision and RAH Industries.

For information about the program, visit www.canyonsecondev.org.

WELLS FARGO GRANT WILL ASSIST VETERANS

The Small Business Development Center (SBDC) hosted by College of the Canyons received a \$25,000 grant from Wells Fargo Bank to provide entrepreneurial training and one-on-one assistance to military veterans and their family members.

"The program is an opportunity to provide free professional consulting resources and financial/business education through the SBDC to help improve the economic presence of veterans and their family members while leveraging skill/knowledge obtained in the military into a new or existing business," said SBDC Director Catherine Grooms. "One of the SBDC's strategic goals is to reach underserved segments of the population including veterans, to help improve their economic impact through new businesses, job creation, job retention, sales growth, and capital infusion."

"At Wells Fargo, we are dedicated to supporting veterans in obtaining long-lasting, sustainable housing and career transition, as well as providing them with financial education," said Shaun Sarkissian, Vice President / Regional Banking District Manager of Wells Fargo in Santa Clarita. "Through our West Region Military Grants Program, Wells Fargo is proud to support programs like the SBDC that work to empower veterans and their family members in the Santa Clarita, San Fernando and Antelope valleys."

Serving Northern Los Angeles County, the SBDC hosted by College of the Canyons helps potential and existing small business owners start new businesses, address business challenges, and successfully manage and grow their businesses.

"We are deeply gratified for our partnership with Wells Fargo Bank," said Murray Wood, Chief Development Officer of the college's Foundation. "Over the last 20 years, the Wells Fargo Foundation has become a major funder of the college's many important initiatives, such as the construction of the Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook University Center, Institute for Culinary Education and support of the Small Business Development Center."

The SBDC is the Small Business Administration's (SBA) largest service program and provides high-quality economic development assistance to small businesses owners and entrepreneurs. Training is offered at no cost or low cost to entrepreneurs, and both existing and new businesses.

For more information about the SBDC hosted by College of the Canyons please visit <http://cocsbdc.org>.

Apprenticeships

FROM PAGE 1

Under the partnership, apprentices will be full-time employees who are expected to take COC course work that is related to their jobs.

“Apprenticeships enable students to apply the knowledge they have gained from classroom instruction to a real world experience,” said Jeffrey Forrest, Vice President of Economic and Workforce Development at the college. “The business community benefits by creating a pipeline of talent to meet their workforce needs. Also, when a business invests in the training of its staff, it leads to higher productivity, less turnover and lower costs.”

After the 12-month apprenticeship is complete, apprentices will receive a certificate or credential. The apprentice may also be eligible for a pay increase and/or promotion with their employer.

“We think that this program will help take introductory jobs and turn them into career opportunities in our industry,” said Ken Wiseman, CEO and managing partner of AMS Fulfillment. “Because of the program’s aspects, such as job shadowing and hand selection, we will employ individuals who see this as more than just a job.”

AMS Fulfillment is the first company in the Santa Clarita Valley to partner with a

community college to create an apprenticeship program. In doing so, AMS Fulfillment is the first company in California to offer an apprenticeship program specializing in warehousing and shipping and the first in the country to apply for a registered apprenticeship with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) in the area of warehousing and shipping.

Located in Santa Clarita, AMS Fulfillment is a full-service order fulfillment company that provides third-party warehouse management, fulfillment services, and order management resources.

Science

FROM PAGE 1

Hart district science teachers and local elementary school teachers.

Participating COC faculty members included professor Mary Bates (geography), Dr. Consuelo Beecher (chemistry), professor Teresa Ciardi (astronomy/physical science), Dr. Vince Devlahovich (geology), professor David Michaels (physics/engineering), professor Ricardo Rosales (biological sciences) and Dr. Eric Lara, Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program director.

“We are excited to assist our Hart district science colleagues with identifying the most effective hands-on activities to engage high school and middle school students,” said Omar Torres, Dean of the college’s School of Mathematics, Sciences, and Health Professions.

Offered through the college’s Educational Outreach Alliance with local Santa Clarita

Valley school districts, the NGSS training covered content in disciplines such as chemistry, earth sciences, biology, physics and engineering.

The implementation of NGSS is meant to improve science education in schools through a three-dimensional approach: science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and crosscutting concepts. When combined, each dimension provides a cohesive understanding for students by teaching them to make connections between biology, chemistry, earth science, physics and engineering. These research-based standards also give teachers more flexibility when creating learning experiences for students.

The transition to NGSS in the Hart district will occur over the next several years, starting with the rollout of a pilot program at junior high schools that began this fall, said

Dave LeBarron, Director of Curriculum and Assessment for the Hart district.

“Next year we will work with our high schools to come to agreement on a plan for rolling it out at the high school level,” added LeBarron. Pilot programs for high schools are expected to start during the 2017-18 academic year.

Similar outreach training for elementary school science teachers in the Castaic, Newhall, Sulphur Springs, and Saugus Union school districts were also held at the college.

“The college’s mission to provide a high-quality education to students also applies to the next generation of scholars and scientists in our very own community,” said Torres. “We are confident that these new standards will increase scientific literacy in schools and foster a lifelong passion for science in students.”



College science faculty led a series of training workshops for local K-12 teachers in chemistry, earth sciences, biology, physics and engineering.

Salary

FROM PAGE 1

allows students to compare the salaries of workers who graduated from other schools and graduated with an associate or bachelor's degree.

"College of the Canyons is committed to preparing our students to enter the workforce with the education and skills they will need, and providing additional educational opportunities to remain competitive," said Dr. Jerry Buckley, Assistant Superintendent and Vice President of Instruction at the college. "It is an honor to be included among the top 15 two-year colleges who produce graduates that enter high-earning jobs."

According to the report, COC graduates were shown to earn \$38,100 in early career pay and \$64,600 in mid-career pay.

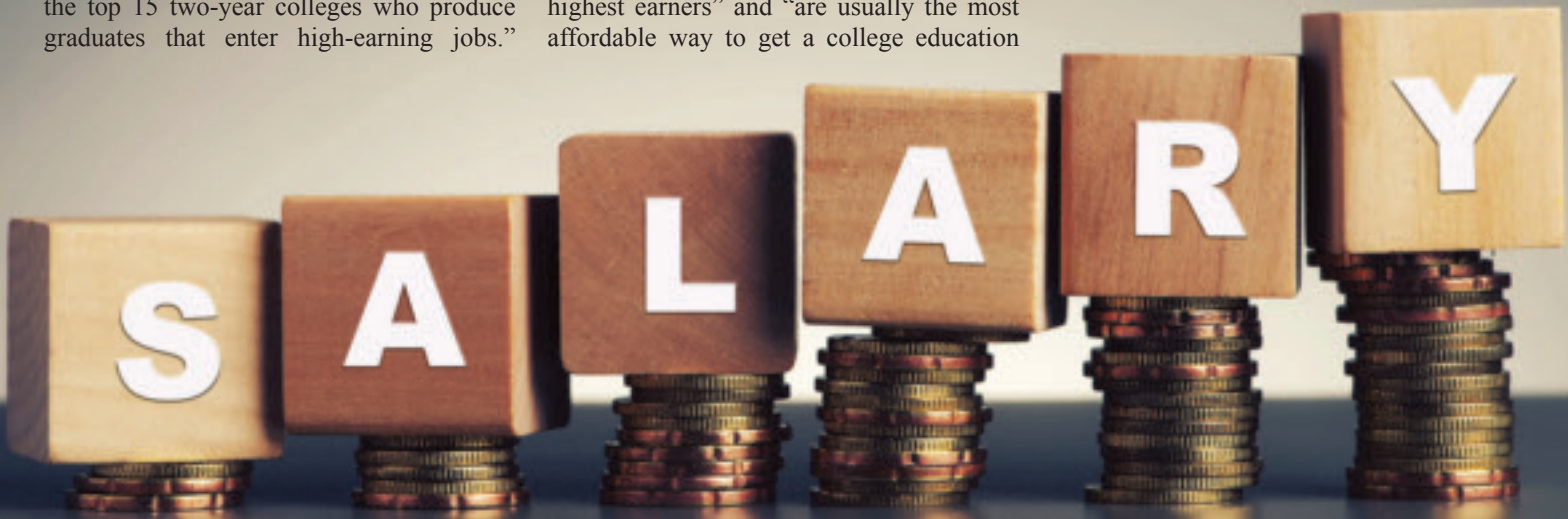
The rankings were created from data submitted by employees who completed PayScale's employee survey online for compensation. PayScale provides survey participants with a detailed compensation report regarding their value in the labor market.

The accompanying article mentioned that "public community colleges produce the highest earners" and "are usually the most affordable way to get a college education

whether you want an AA or want to transfer to a 4-year school."

PayScale is an online company that gathers salary information by allowing employees to submit salary and job data.

COC provides current and former students with numerous employment-related resources, such as student internships through the Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE) program and access to on-campus job fairs with a wide range of employers.



Rankings

FROM PAGE 4

- Services available for adult students
- The percentage of adult students at the college
- Mean earnings of adult students 10 years after entering college
- Loan repayment rates of adult students five years after entering repayment
- Tuition and fees for in-district students.

On a scale of 19 possible points, COC scored 17 points – 4 out of 4 for ease of transfer, 7 out of 9 for flexibility of programs, and 6 out of 6 for adult student services – to place at No. 21 on the list.

The article accompanying the rankings stated that although "more than 40 percent of the 20.2 million students attending American colleges and universities are adults," many of the nation's elite colleges,

which top *U.S. News's* rankings, "aren't in the business of educating adults." However, many four-year schools and two-year colleges, such as COC, provide affordable and flexible educational options to working adult students, such as short-term classes for students who wish to enroll in accelerated courses.

At COC, adult students benefit from the Weekend College program, which allows students to earn college credits in an accelerated learning community. It's an ideal program for working adults and returning students who need to complete general education coursework and students who simply prefer to take classes during the weekend as opposed to a traditional schedule.

Weekend College consists of either

in-person, online only and hybrid courses in English, psychology, political science, anthropology, counseling and math.

Another valuable resource for adult learners is the college's Adult Reentry program, which helps new, returning, and continuing adult students who are 25 years of age and older. Reentering students can benefit from information sessions, support groups, continuous advisement, as well as campus and community referrals.

For students returning from military service, accessing the GI Bill to reach their educational goals is made easier with the help of the college's Veteran's Center. During the 2015-16 academic year, the college's Veterans Resource Center served 1,253 veterans and veteran dependents.



Santa Clarita Community College District
26455 Rockwell Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91355

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ZONTA HONORS CHANCELLOR FOR UNPRECEDENTED SECOND TIME



Students, faculty, friends and community leaders gathered for the Zonta Tribute to Women honoring Chancellor Dr. Dianne G. Van Hook. (Clockwise from top left). Los Angeles County Fifth District Supervisor Kathryn Barger (left); Jack and Doreen Shine; Student leaders congratulate Dr. Van Hook; Roger Van Hook; Dr. Van Hook with Bruce Fortine; Dr. Van Hook with college staff; Dr. Van Hook with counselor Julie Visner and Chuck Lyon, COC's athletics dean.