We first broke ground 25 years ago and we’ve been breaking new ground ever since.

We invite you to join us as we celebrate our past with a commitment to building the future. It all started 25 years ago in a special place with an ancient name and a vision for the future. In 1978, Cuyamaca College opened its doors for the first time. The 165-acre site was once the old Monte Vista Ranch. The name of the college – Cuyamaca, is an ancient Indian name that reflects the history and heritage of San Diego County. It connotes mountains, lakes, valleys and ranches. As one historian observed, the word “Cuyamaca” has persisted through Spanish, Mexican and American times. It has been interpreted to mean “beyond rain” and “place of the meeting winds.”

When the college opened in 1978, nine associate degree programs were offered. They were: Architectural Graphics, Computer Technology, Drafting Technology, Electronics Technology, General Major, Industrial Technology, Real Estate, Surveying, and Technical and Scientific Illustration.

The second phase of buildings was completed in 1980 and the Learning Resource Center opened in 1989. In the fall of 1995, the College dedicated a new 20.3-acre physical education facility with fitness center, gym, tennis and volleyball courts, soccer and ball fields and an Olympic track. The One-Stop Student Services Center, the Child Development Center and the Math Learning Lab opened in 2001.

Construction is occurring on an incremental basis to respond to the growing community surrounding the college and to meet the educational needs of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. Enrollment has grown from 1,947 students to over 8,000 and, when completed, the college will accommodate 15,000 students. Once again, Cuyamaca proves it is clearly a college focused on “Learning for the Future.”