

College History and Vision

COLLEGE VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

Vision: Learning for the Future

Mission: The mission of Cuyamaca College is to serve a diverse community of students who seek to benefit from the college's wide range of educational programs and services.

In order to fulfill its commitment to student learning, the college provides:

- Instructional programs that meet student needs for transfer education, career technical education, general education and basic skills courses
- Community education programs and services
- Programs that promote economic, civic and cultural development

To facilitate this mission, Cuyamaca College provides a comprehensive range of support services including: outreach and access initiatives, academic and learning resources, student development programs, and multicultural and co-curricular activities.

In support of its mission, Cuyamaca College structures its planning processes and engages the college community by pursuing the following areas of focus, which form the foundation of the 2010-2016 Strategic Plan:

- Student Access
- Learning and Student Success
- Value and Support of Employees
- Economic and Community Development
- Fiscal and Physical Resources

Values:

- **Equitable Access:** We value equitable access that facilitates participation in academic programs and support services needed to meet students' educational goals.
- **Individual Student Success:** We offer courses and programs leading to degrees, certificates, transfer, employment, personal enhancement, and lifelong learning.
- **Academic Excellence:** We employ a variety of methodologies and technologies responsive to students' needs and conducive to students' varied educational and experiential backgrounds and learning styles.
- **Innovation and Creativity:** We value innovation and creativity in order to encourage our students to question and to expand their thinking.
- **Diversity and Social Harmony:** We value and embrace diversity and create opportunities for our college community to work together to meet the challenges of a complex global society.
- **Environmental Stewardship and Sustainability:** We take pride in our campus and its resources, and we strive to be on the forefront of sustainability and green technology.

- **Strong Community Relations:** We recognize our role in the cultural, educational, technological, and economic/workforce development of the communities we serve.

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

In order to maximize the opportunity for the development of individuals' personal, social and intellectual qualities, the college provides:

An **instructional** program:

- **Transfer** courses equivalent to the lower division curriculum of universities and colleges for students who plan to continue their education at a baccalaureate institution.
- **Career and technical education** courses to provide technical skills and knowledge for beginning employment, retraining and advancement, respond to local business and industry workforce development and workforce training directions.
- **General education** courses to broaden knowledge, skills, attitudes and values, to develop analytical ability and critical thinking, and to foster interest in lifelong learning in the educational, scientific and cultural fields essential for effective participation in a complex society.
- **Developmental** courses to assist inadequately prepared students to succeed in college course work.

A **student services** program:

- **Academic, vocational and personal support** services to provide students with sufficient opportunity to achieve educational success.
- **Co-curricular activities** to provide opportunities for personal development and social responsibility.

Learning resources support services:

- **Library collection:** A well-rounded collection of print and electronic materials selected to support instructional programs across the curriculum.
- **Information competency:** Instruction designed to teach students how to locate, evaluate and utilize information resources. Preparing students for lifelong learning is the ultimate goal.
- **Research guidance:** One-on-one instruction to assist students with their course-related and individual research needs.

A **continuing education** program:

- **Noncredit** courses are state-funded and provide students with lifelong learning, college transfer and career preparation opportunities at low or no cost. For many, Noncredit programs provide an educational gateway into the college system.
- **Community services** courses offer a wide variety of affordable not-for-credit classes, workshops, seminars and excursions for personal and professional enrichment. Community service programs are self-supporting and are open to all members of the community willing to pay a minimal fee.

A **contract education** program:

- **Customized training** delivered under contract that meets the workforce education needs of business, government, and industry.

A **workforce development** program:

- **Education and training** that contributes to continuous workforce improvement of regional business and industry.

EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

The founders of the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District believed that a community college should provide experiences which would greatly broaden the students' educational opportunities and strengthen our society's democratic institutions. The representatives of the community directed the college to provide an education through which students may create rewarding lives, productive for themselves and for society, based on an understanding of the relationship between the past and the challenge of the present and the future.

Cuyamaca College accepts and is committed to these philosophical premises:

- The democratic way of life allows each individual personal freedom and initiative consistent with responsibilities to one another.
- The college recognizes the worth of the individual and the fact that individual needs, interests and capacities vary greatly.
- The maximum development of the personal, social and intellectual qualities of each individual must be encouraged.
- The maximum development and fulfillment of the individual and the development of the general welfare are increasingly interdependent.
- All segments of the college community are encouraged to contribute and participate in the operation of the college.

An educational environment dedicated to these philosophic premises will produce individuals prepared for life and citizenship in a complex, viable society.

GROSSMONT-CUYAMACA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT VISION, MISSION, AND VALUE STATEMENT

Vision: Transforming lives through learning.

Mission: Provide outstanding learning opportunities that prepare students to meet community needs and future challenges of a complex, global society.

The Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District fulfills its mission by providing:

- Outstanding undergraduate education leading to certificates, associate degrees, and transfer;
- Excellent career and technical education programs that prepare students for workforce entry and advancement;
- Comprehensive student development and support services that help students succeed in meeting their educational goals;
- Engaging educational services that meet learners needs in basic skills, English language proficiency, and lifelong learning; and
- Responsive social and economic development programs and community partnerships.

Value Statement: Cultivate a student-centered culture of excellence, trust, stewardship, and service.

HISTORY OF THE COLLEGE

Cuyamaca College is located in the community of Rancho San Diego at 900 Rancho San Diego Parkway in the City of El Cajon on a 165-acre site which was at one time a part of the Old Monte Vista Ranch. Cuyamaca College is one of two colleges serving the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District.

The name for the college was selected by the Board of Trustees as a reflection of the history and heritage of this area of San Diego County. One historian notes that "The very old Indian name 'Cuyamaca' has persisted through Spanish, Mexican and American times," and has, at various times, been "applied to mountains, lakes, valleys and ranches." Writers have interpreted the Indian meaning of the name in various ways, including "above rain," "beyond rain" and "place where the rain comes from heavens."

The building site was acquired by the Board of Trustees in September 1972, and the college officially opened in Fall 1978. Since then, the college has grown steadily, both in size and sophistication. In 1989, the Learning Resource Center opened and in 1993, the privately funded Heritage of the Americas Museum opened on campus.

In Spring 1995, Rancho San Diego Parkway, the Fury Lane entrance road, was completed providing students easier access to the college. In Fall 1995, the college dedicated a new 20.3 acre physical education facility with a fitness center, gym, tennis and volleyball courts, soccer and ball fields, and an Olympic track. In Spring 1999, the Water Conservation Garden was opened through a Joint Powers Agreement between the College and the Otay and Helix Water Districts.

A new Student Services Center opened in Spring 2001 to provide one-stop student services at the Rancho San Diego Parkway entrance. The Child Development Center and Math Learning Center opened in Fall 2001.

In Spring 2005, the Automotive Technology Complex remodel provided significant improvements to the Automotive Technology Program which included the Ford ASSET Program and General Motors ASEP Program.

In Spring 2007, Cuyamaca College opened a new state-of-the-art Science and Technology Center that provides students with access to the most up-to-date technologies in computer, information, natural and physical sciences. In Fall 2007, the college opened a spectacular Student Center, and a one-of-a-kind Communication Arts Center opened in Spring 2008. Finally, in Spring 2010, the Business and Technology building opened, providing state-of-the-art computer and graphic design labs as well as professional business classrooms. Opening of this new building allowed for relocation of mathematics into the first floor of the Science and Mathematics Building and the opening of the STEM Achievement Center in H-103. These new and welcomed additions are complemented by a host of facility renovations and overall campus improvements which together are greatly expanding the range of instructional programs and student support services that our students have come to enjoy and expect.

Cuyamaca College is growing in response to the ever increasing demands of the surrounding community and to meet the educational needs in the Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. The college is designed to provide a comprehensive curriculum of programs and courses of study and, when completed, will accommodate an enrollment of approximately 15,000 students in 2015.