

General Information |



Section I General Information

History of the College

The history of Palomar College is rich in tradition and educational achievements. On January 15, 1946, registered voters in the Vista Unified School District, the Fallbrook Union School District, and the Escondido Union High School District voted 714 to 417 in favor of establishing a "junior college" in the North San Diego County area. Under state law, the San Diego County Superintendent of Schools appointed five persons as members of the first Governing Board for the new college. The Governing Board hired the first college president in 1946, Dr. Daniel C. McNaughton, supported by a director, a dean of students, and nine faculty members. Located on the Vista High School campus, Palomar College opened its classroom doors on September 23, 1946, with exactly 100 persons enrolled in classes in science, mathematics, music, art, social sciences, commerce, English, physical education, and foreign languages.

Today, Palomar College is a public, two-year community college in San Diego County with its San Marcos campus located approximately 30 miles north of San Diego at 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069. The 200-acre campus, the education center in Escondido, and five sites serve a district covering 2,555 square miles in North San Diego County. The five education sites are located in Camp Pendleton, Fallbrook, Mt. Carmel, Pauma Valley, and Ramona. The Escondido Center is located on eight acres owned by the District, and the proposed North Education Center in Fallbrook will be located on a newly acquired 82 acre property. Palomar College constitutes a single-college district, and it is the largest community college in San Diego County.

Palomar College borders seven other community college districts: South Orange County, Mount San Jacinto, Desert, Imperial Valley, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, San Diego, and MiraCosta. However, only Mount San Jacinto, Grossmont-Cuyamaca, San Diego, and MiraCosta have significant service overlap with the Palomar Community College District. The others adjoin the most lightly populated areas of the district, and their campuses are distant from any of the Palomar permanent facilities.

Palomar College has five academic divisions: (1) Arts, Media, Business, and Computing Systems; (2) Career, Technical, and Extended Education; (3) Languages and Literature; (4) Mathematics and the Natural and Health Sciences; and (5) Social and Behavioral Sciences. The College offers more than 300 credit degree and certificate programs within those five divisions and non-credit courses.

In the November 2006 General Election, voters approved an educational facilities improvement measure (Proposition M), which provides the majority of the funding for the College's \$1 billion construction and remodel plan. The first major step in the implementation of this plan was realized with the completion of the Natural Sciences Building, which opened for the Fall 2007 semester. This is an exciting time for students, faculty, staff, and administration at Palomar College. The vision in the Master Plan 2022 has moved to reality as the planning, design, and construction of several instructional and support facilities take shape. Master Plan 2022 is transitioning Palomar College into its next generation as an outstanding institution in higher education committed to the learning success of its students and responsive to the changing needs of its diverse community.

Vision

Learning for Success

Mission

Palomar College is an educational leader committed to quality learning. We provide our community the knowledge, information, skills, and aesthetic appreciation necessary to live responsibly, effectively, and creatively in an interdependent and changing world.

Values

Palomar College is a learning community dedicated to achieving student success and cultivating a love of learning. We strive to improve performance and outcomes based on evidence. To provide the highest quality learning and cultural experiences, we are guided by our core values of

- Achieving excellence in teaching, learning, and service;
- Fostering integrity as the foundation for all we do;
- Providing access to our programs and services;
- Celebrating diversity in people, philosophies, cultures, beliefs, programs, and learning environments;
- Supporting inclusiveness of individual and community viewpoints in collaborative decision-making processes;
- Promoting mutual respect and trust through open communication and actions;
- Supporting innovation to enhance and enrich learning environments and services.

Educational Philosophy

The educational philosophy of Palomar College is based upon belief in the value of the individual and belief in the individual's potential for intellectual, ethical, personal, and social growth. Only through growth in these areas can a citizen come to understand personal rights.

The fundamental assumption of the democratic way of life is the intrinsic worth of the individual. This assumption thus becomes the main principle of public education.

In order to become an effective member of a democratic society, an individual should participate in a free exchange of ideas. Only within a democracy is the individual assured the freedom for such an exchange and for self-realization consistent with the freedoms and opportunities of others.

By providing equal opportunities for all, the community college helps its students to realize their potential. Thus their talents become more readily available to the community, and their participation in society becomes more effective.

Governing Board and District Policy

In accordance with its designated function as a policy-making body, the Governing Board of the Palomar Community College District creates the policies by which the district operates, subject to the Education Code of the State of California, all rules prescribed by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and all federal statutes. Board policy may be changed, subject to the Education Code of the State of California, only by action of the Governing Board through a majority vote of its members. The Governing Board schedules its regular open meetings in the Board Room on campus at 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public.

Palomar College Foundation

Since the 1950s, the Palomar College Foundation has helped provide supplement public funding for college programs and activities. Over the years, the Foundation has provided funding for the swimming pool, a harpsichord for the Performing Arts Department, a trailer for tutorial groups, facilities for the Child Development Center, furniture for the Student Center, renovation for the Library, curtains for the Theatre, and many, many scholarships for deserving students.

With the support and generosity of the community, the Palomar College Foundation has secured over \$15 million in designated and undesignated funds which are support student learning, educational programs, scholarships and capital equipment. Yet, every year as state budgets shrink, the needs of our community grow.

Won't you consider making a contribution? We welcome the support of individuals, families, and businesses who want to help fulfill the mission of Palomar College, the vision of our community and the hopes of thousands of students and families who need our help. For more information or to be added to our newsletter mailing list, please call the Advancement Office, (760) 744-1150, ext. 2733.

Policy on Diversity

Palomar College recognizes and appreciates the benefits of a diverse campus community and values the individual distinctions of its staff and students. In support of its goal to encourage students to examine their own and other heritages through multicultural and interdisciplinary programs, Palomar College seeks to provide positive role models for all students and recognizes that diversity in the academic and vocational environment fosters cultural awareness, mutual understanding and respect, harmony and creativity.

Palomar College offers equal educational and employment opportunities regardless of group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability. It is the policy of the College that, unless exempted by statute, every course offered and maintained by the District shall be fully open to enrollment and participation by any person who has been admitted to the College and who meets the stated prerequisites for the course.

The District's policy of non-discrimination covers admission, outreach, educational programs and activities, facilities, access to course offerings, counseling, financial assistance, employment assistance to students, health and insurance benefits and services, athletics, textbooks and curricular material, and employment.

Limited English speaking students who are otherwise eligible will not be excluded from any vocational education program.

Spanish Translation

Los estudiantes elegibles para entrar en el programa de educacion vocacional no pueden ser excluidos debido a su ingles limitado.

Vietnamese Translation

Nhung hoc-sinh neu hoi du cac dieu-kien phu-hop vao nhung chuong-trinh giao-duc huan-nghe se khong bi tu khuoc boi ly do trinh-do Anh-van kem.

Designation of Responsible Employee as Title IX Coordinator

The Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Human Resource Services, Administrative Services Building, room A-1, (760) 744-1150, ext. 2531.

