

BETTER TOGETHER 2.0

DIVERSITY • GUIDED PATHWAYS • FISCAL STEWARDSHIP • DIVERSITY • GUIDED PATHWAYS • FISCAL STEWARDSHIP



PALOMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
2018-2019 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

A Message From the Superintendent / President



Joi Lin Blake, Ed.D.

As our students continued to pursue their goals—whether it was transferring, embarking on a career or simply taking a few classes—we at Palomar College charged forward to impact the future of education in this region. We advanced the development of our Guided Pathways. We remained intentional to Fiscal Stewardship. We worked to increase the Diversity among our faculty. In doing so, we remain closely connected with our students, faculty and staff. This is Better Together 2.0. — the year of 2018-19.

It is beneficial to look back on what we have accomplished, so that we may forge ahead with more focus and commitment to better serve our students and improve our fiscal health. At the same time, we are extending our reach into this dynamic region. The opening of the education centers in Rancho Bernardo and Fallbrook, an expansion of our distance education offerings, the launch of new programs that support in-demand careers, the receipt of numerous Emmy awards, and awarding more scholarships than ever before—all point to the pursuit of excellence. The **Better Together 2.0** Palomar College has made an impact in so many ways and in the lives of so many students and their families. With continued focus and commitment to our mission and core values, the successes of the previous year pay dividends in new and exciting opportunities for our students.



Palomar College **Vision, Mission & Values**

VISION Learning for Success

MISSION

Our mission is to provide a supportive environment for students with diverse needs, abilities, and backgrounds. At Palomar College, we support students who are pursuing a variety of educational goals, including transfer readiness, workforce preparation, and enrichment. We provide a variety of programs and services to support our students' learning and personal growth. We are committed to providing a safe and inclusive environment for all students, and we are committed to providing a high-quality education that prepares students for success in the 21st century.

VALUES

Palomar College is committed to succeed and cultivating a culture of ongoing planning and self-improvement in our endeavors. We provide cultural experiences that fulfill our mission. In all that we do, we are guided by our core values.

- Excellence in teaching, learning, and service
- Integrity as the foundation for all we do
- Access to our programs and services
- Equity and the fair treatment of all in our policies and procedures
- Diversity in learning environments, philosophies, cultures, beliefs, and people
- Inclusiveness of individual and collective viewpoints in collegial decision-making processes
- Mutual respect and trust through transparency, civility, and open communications
- Creativity and innovation in engaging students, faculty, staff, and administrators
- Physical presence and participation in the community

By the Numbers

FULL/PART TIME STUDENTS

Full-time
7,708 | 30.8%

Part-time
17,339 | 69.2%

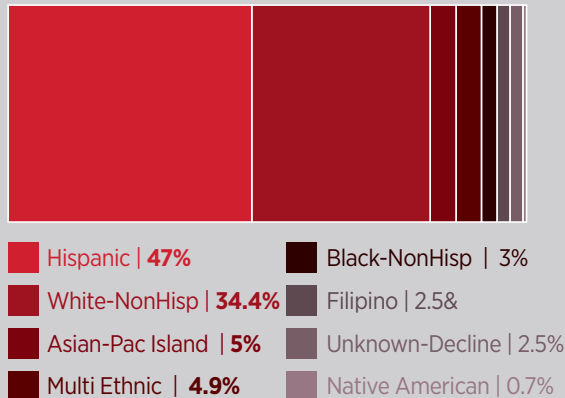
25,047 PALOMAR STUDENTS

51.1%
MALE

0.05%
UNKNOWN

48.4%
FEMALE

STUDENTS BY ETHNICITY



TOP FIVE CITIES WHERE PALOMAR STUDENTS RESIDE

Escondido | **5,513**

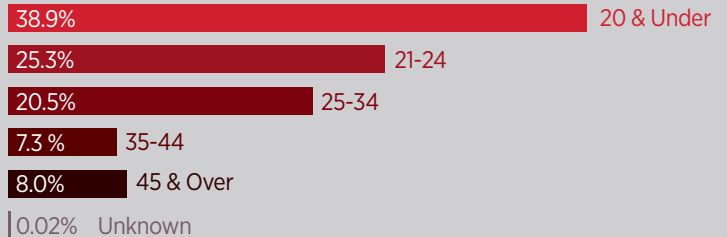
San Marcos | **3,394**

Vista | **2,693**

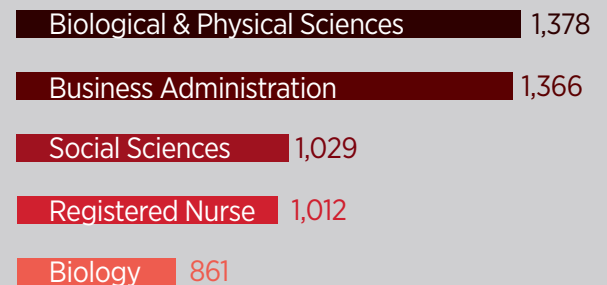
Oceanside | **2,214**

San Diego | **1,752**

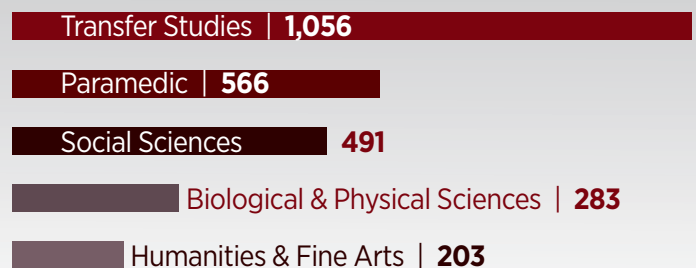
STUDENTS BY AGE GROUP



TOP FIVE MAJORS AT PALOMAR



TOP FIVE AWARDS AT PALOMAR



MILITARY: VETERANS/ACTIVE/DEPENDENT STUDENTS

Veteran
1,124 | 4.5%

Active Duty
1,276 | 5.1%

Military Dependent
1,982 | 7.9%

Data Source: The college MIS submissions to the CCCC. Information reflects data from fall, 2018.

Palomar Makes it Possible



“Palomar made it possible for me to get a job in a male-dominated industry.”

INGRID PUTMAN

With one semester left to earn her Associate of Science degree in Diesel Technology, Putman said that without Palomar, she wouldn't have had access to the opportunities that have recently come her way.

After working as a department assistant at Palomar—her first job in the industry—she landed a position at a local rental-truck company with opportunities to advance as a technician.

Diesel Technology encompasses a range of jobs, from repairing large equipment to maintaining industrial generators to assembling new machines in factories.

“I love it here at Palomar,” said Putman. “It’s a great environment.”

“Palomar made it possible for me to transfer to my dream school.”

KENA HAUN

After growing up on a farm in rural Indiana, Kena Haun came to Palomar in 2017, graduated in May 2019 with a 4.0 grade-point average, and transferred to UC Berkeley.

“After I discovered Palomar, pursuing a degree became something that was definitely possible,” she said.

When it was time to choose a major and send out university applications, she chose Philosophy, and reached for her dream school: Berkeley.

“Palomar made a lot of things possible for me,” said Haun. “Palomar made it possible to have hope in education, which is something I didn’t have before. It just never seemed obtainable.”





An Evening with **Robert Reich**

At a special engagement hosted by Palomar College on November 16, 2018, former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich spoke about economic inequality and the role of education.

As one of the world's leading economists and a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, Reich spoke to approximately 1,200 people at the California Center for the Arts in Escondido as part of the Palomar College Student Equity Speaker Series.

"As a country, we have got to understand that higher

education is not a private investment, it is a public good," said Reich. "Our education is critical."

Reich has authored 15 books, including *The Common Good*, which was distributed to Palomar students, faculty and staff prior to the November event. In his impressive public service career, Reich served or advised Presidents Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama.

Reich was funny and engaging as he touched on globalization, technology and ideology in an intimate keynote address that included one of his trademark white-board illustrations.



Introducing the **Anita and Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center**



After 34 years of operation, the food pantry at Palomar College greatly expanded its capacity to address hunger on campus with the unveiling of the Anita and Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center. The new, larger space includes refrigerators for distributing nutrient-rich produce and dairy, as well as a staging area to accept pallets of food.

“When you’re hungry, academic success is out of reach,” said Sherry Titus, Director of Student Affairs, which oversees the food pantry. “We have students who need help, and we have the ability to mold and shape lives.”

The project was funded by a \$400,000 donation used to convert a former faculty and staff lounge near the Student Union at the college’s main campus.

“We want our college to be an environment where students’ needs are met with dignity and respect,” Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake said during the ceremony. “This facility allows us to expand the program and provide a safe and judgment-free facility where students can get what they need.”

Anita and Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center distributed **40,404** pounds of food to students, faculty and staff, impacting **3,112** households. **4,553** diapers were distributed, and an additional **1,174** pounds of food was donated.





Setting a New Standard in Energy Efficiency

Months before college officials and guests gathered to open the Maintenance & Operations (M&O) building at the San Marcos campus, experts around the U.S. were praising the facility for its energy-efficient design.

M&O is the new home of the Palomar College facilities department. The most efficient building on campus, it incorporates “passive” design features that rely on natural light and ventilation to vastly reduce the energy needed for lighting and air conditioning.

Whereas a common approach to “net-zero” building is to simply offset the energy demand of a standard facility by installing more solar panels, M&O was designed from the

ground up to save power in the first place, according to Dennis Astl, Manager of Construction and Facilities Planning.

“Our philosophy is to reduce the energy consumption first—as much as you can,” Astl said.

The building officially opened with a ceremony on April 12, 2019.

“At Palomar College, we’re always looking for ways to make our campus more efficient and sustainable,” said Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake. “The success of this project has proven that a community college can help lead the way.”



ACCOLADES

- National “Best Green Project”—Engineering News-Record Magazine
- “Best Green Project” in Southern California—Engineering News-Record Magazine
- “Citation Award” for Technological Innovation—Design & Philanthropy Awards at the 2018 Southern California Development Forum
- “National Recognition Award”—American Council of Engineering Companies
- “California Honor Award”—American Council of Engineering Companies
- “Energy and Sustainability Best Practice Award”—2019 California Higher Education Sustainability Conference





A Warm Welcome for the **New Library & Learning Resource Center**

After years of planning and construction, Palomar unveiled its new Library/Learning Resource Center (LRC) in a ceremony on February 22, 2019.

The four-story, 85,000 square-foot building was an immediate hit with students, who filled its bright new spaces—from the first-floor computer lab to the fourth-floor study hall with panoramic views of North County.

“The LRC is not only a state-of-the-art facility, but the true heart of our campus,” said Palomar College Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake. “It is a flagship academic library, strategically located to serve students, faculty, staff and the community for generations to come.”

Bigger and Better Headquarters for the Palomar College Police Department

In January, the Palomar College Police Department (PCPD) moved into a larger headquarters outfitted with innovative technology in a central location at the heart of the San Marcos campus.

The grand opening ceremony was held on January 23, 2019, providing guests with a rare glimpse inside the 7,640-square-foot law enforcement facility, which is equipped with a large briefing room that will serve as the Emergency Operations Center, dispatch center, locker rooms, holding cells and vehicle bay.

"The safety of our students, faculty and staff is our number one priority, and our police department fulfills that duty with dignity and honor on behalf of the college," said Palomar College Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake.

"This new facility is designed to provide the department with an efficient and productive environment in order for them to do the very important work necessary to protect and serve this campus."

The facility is a sleek building of brick and brushed metal, and college leaders say the building is well-equipped for the challenges of serving a growing campus community.

"Palomar is like a small city," said Governing Board President Mark Evilsizer. "And like a city we have a professional police department that keeps our property secure and our employees safe, and does a wonderful job interacting with our students."



San Marcos City Councilwoman Reflects on Time at Palomar



María Nuñez grew up in San Marcos, learned English in the city's schools, studied at Palomar College and went on to a career in law. Now she's serving her first term on the San Marcos City Council.

After graduating from San Marcos High School, Nuñez came to Palomar College having spent some time working at the Municipal Court that was then located in San Marcos. She took night classes and decided to pursue law.

In 2004, she earned her Juris Doctor (J.D.) from California Western School of Law in downtown San Diego, passed the bar and opened her own firm, Nuñez Law Corporation.

One of six sisters who came to San Marcos from Mexico in 1981, Nuñez said she had no plans to go into politics, but during the run-up to the 2018 general election, she was repeatedly asked if she would run for the City Council.

The city had recently implemented district-based elections, and she knew her district perhaps better than anyone who would have a shot at winning a city election.

"Our district is so small, and I personally know the district," Nuñez said. "My family knows the district."

In November 2018, she was sworn in to a four-year term representing District I, which includes City Hall and Palomar College. Nuñez will serve at least until November 2022.

"Without Palomar College, my options would have been so limited," said Nuñez. "It's such an important institution for so many of us in this community who otherwise wouldn't have access to higher education."



Pathways to Law School Students, Judges Meet at Courthouse

Gathered in the jury lounge of the San Diego Superior Court, North County Division, 85 students from Palomar College spent the lunch hour on April 12, 2019, meeting with judges in a whirlwind session of mentoring and personal interaction that left many students wanting more.

The event opened with a presentation by Judith McConnell, Administrative Presiding Justice of the Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District, Division One.

“It’s important that (students) get a full perspective of what goes on in the courts, how judges are selected, what our limits are, and so on,” McConnell said.

Peter Deddeh, the Presiding Judge of the San Diego Superior Court, also spoke to students, offering encouragement at

the end of the semester: “Community college is a great way to get to law school, because it’s a lot less expensive, and then you can (transfer) to a state university—that’s the path I took, and I think it’s a great path,” Deddeh said.

Lakshmi Paranthaman, who teaches Legal Studies and Real Estate at Palomar, coordinated the event in collaboration with courthouse staff. She said the feedback from students after the event was enthusiastic.

“I think they were impressed that the judges came from a lot of backgrounds—different paths and motivations for what brought them to law in the first place,” said Paranthaman. “They were also impressed by how warm and welcoming and excited the judges were to spend time with them.”



Transitions Program Bringing Higher Education to the Incarcerated

In a groundbreaking effort to reach inmates at the Vista Detention Facility, Palomar College Sociology professor Mary Ellen Brooks ventured into the jail's Veterans Module to provide much-needed for-credit classes behind bars.

Brooks's class was the tip of the spear, fostering a new partnership between Palomar College and the San Diego County Sheriff's Department to help nonviolent inmates further their education. In the only partnership of its kind in North County, the Department pays for the textbooks and classroom materials, and Palomar provides instruction and educational support services.

Until Palomar and the Sheriff's Department forged this relationship, the Vista inmates didn't have access to college courses for credit. Students behind bars can now earn college credit while they serve their sentence—credit that counts toward degrees and, one day, jobs in the community.

"This group was very bright, very engaged, and very eager to learn. We had wonderful discussions," Brooks said. "You bring the street smarts into the classroom and then show how they can see the world through their own lens—they were as enthusiastic as I've ever seen students."

Palomar College 2018-19 at a Glance

- **August 2018:**
Number of Palomar Promise students doubled to more than 1,500.

- **October 2018:**
Anita & Stan Maag Food & Nutrition Center opened.

- **November 2018:**
Iconic clocktower restored with new faces, mechanics and digital tunes.



July August September October November



- **July 2018:**
Second annual sold-out Drone-Con held at Palomar.



- **September 2018:**
U.S. Congressman Scott Peters visited the Rancho Bernardo Education Center.

- **August 2018:**
San Diego County awarded Palomar College Foundation with \$100,000 grant.



- **October 2018:**
Foundation raises nearly \$100,000 for students at "Monster Dash & Bash."

• **December 2018:**
Bob and Marion
Wilson honored at
Palomar's "Community
Showcase."

• **February 2019:**
Palomar named one of "Top
50 Community Colleges for
Hispanics" in U.S.

• **June 2019:**
PCTV and media students
earn nine Emmy Awards.

• **March 2019:**
Arboretum trails
project begun in public
groundbreaking ceremony



December January February March April May June

• **January 2019:**
New Palomar College Police
Department building opened.

• **February 2019:**
Long-awaited new Library/
LRC opened at San Marcos
campus.

• **April 2019:**
Award-winning M&O
building opened.

• **May 2019:**
600 graduates participate
in 2019 commencement.

• **June 2019:**
College launches
"Palomar Makes it
Possible" campaign.



A photograph showing students walking along a paved path on a college campus. In the background, there are trees and a building with a sign that reads "STAFF & FACULTY LOUNGE".

In Rancho Bernardo and Fallbrook: New Education Centers Drive Growth

In an ambitious move to expand access and services in the northern and southern reaches of its district, Palomar College opened not one but two new education centers in the summer of 2018. The new facilities were welcomed with excitement by their respective communities, and hundreds of students flooded into the Rancho Bernardo and Fallbrook centers on the first day of the summer semester.

The immense efforts to launch two new centers simultaneously continued to pay off throughout the 2018-19 school year, as enrollment surged and students who were previously too far away from San Marcos to attend Palomar made their way to the new, closer facilities.

"Just three months after opening, Palomar's two new campuses were extremely successful in drawing new students," said Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake. "With the Rancho Bernardo and Fallbrook locations open, we are better positioned to serve all of the communities within our district, and now more students are choosing Palomar College."

In the fall 2018 semester, enrollment across the district rose 2 percent year-over-year. In Rancho Bernardo, more than 1,200 students were enrolled, while in Fallbrook, the number reached nearly 1,100, with many students arriving from the Temecula Valley. This trend continued into the Fall 2019 semester.

"The first year of operation proved that a Palomar College Education Center in Rancho Bernardo will be a benefit to the communities in the southern portion of our district—and will ultimately engage more students," said Rancho Bernardo Education Center Director Tom Medel.

Likewise, in Fallbrook, students were thrilled about having access to many of Palomar's most in-demand classes 15 miles north of San Marcos.

"I live in Temecula, so it's just more convenient for me to go to the campus in Fallbrook than to drive all the way to San Marcos," said 24-year-old Maria Esquivel. "I feel like because of this campus, I love school."

Rancho Bernardo Campus



Fallbrook Campus

Palomar's Active-Duty Valedictorian

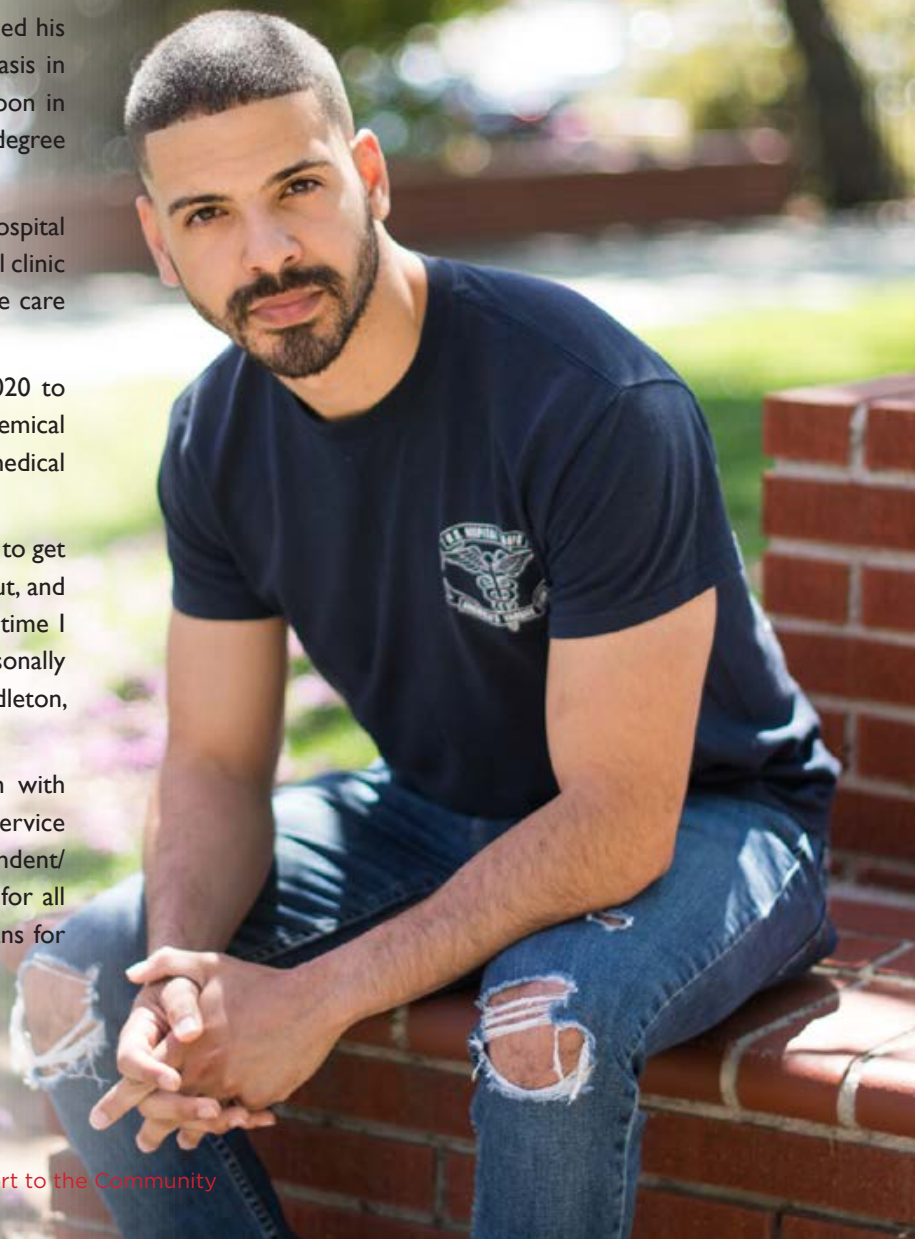
In 2016, Petty Officer 2nd Class Jose Miguel Chevalier walked into the Palomar College Camp Pendleton Center to enroll in his first college classes. In 2018, he finished his Associate of Science (AS) in General Studies: Emphasis in Science and Mathematics. On a sunny Friday afternoon in May 2019, he walked across the stage to receive his degree as the Class of 2019 Valedictorian.

In the Navy, Chevalier was at the time serving as a Hospital Corpsman, Second Class (HM2) and managing a dental clinic at the Las Pulgas Camp on base, providing preventive care to Marines about to deploy.

He said he planned to leave the service in April 2020 to transfer and pursue his undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering—with his sights ultimately set on medical school.

"It's super-important for service members of all kinds to get an education, so they have options when they get out, and can do something they love," said Chevalier. "Every time I speak to fellow service members about school, I personally take them down to the education center at Camp Pendleton, and introduce them to the staff there."

"We are proud to be a military-serving institution with a thriving community of veterans, active-duty service members and military dependents," said Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake. "Congratulations to Jose for all of his hard work, and thank you to all of our veterans for your service."



Comet Kudos



July 2018 - Palomar was one of nine colleges nationwide that was chosen to participate in Rice University's 2018-2019 OpenStax Institutional Partnership Program, furthering the college's efforts to provide students with free to low-cost, peer-reviewed digital textbooks and course resources.



September 2018 - Mikela Garza and Gerardo Perez, both pursuing degrees in Drone Technology at Palomar, were invited to attend the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) summit hosted in October by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) in Washington, D.C.



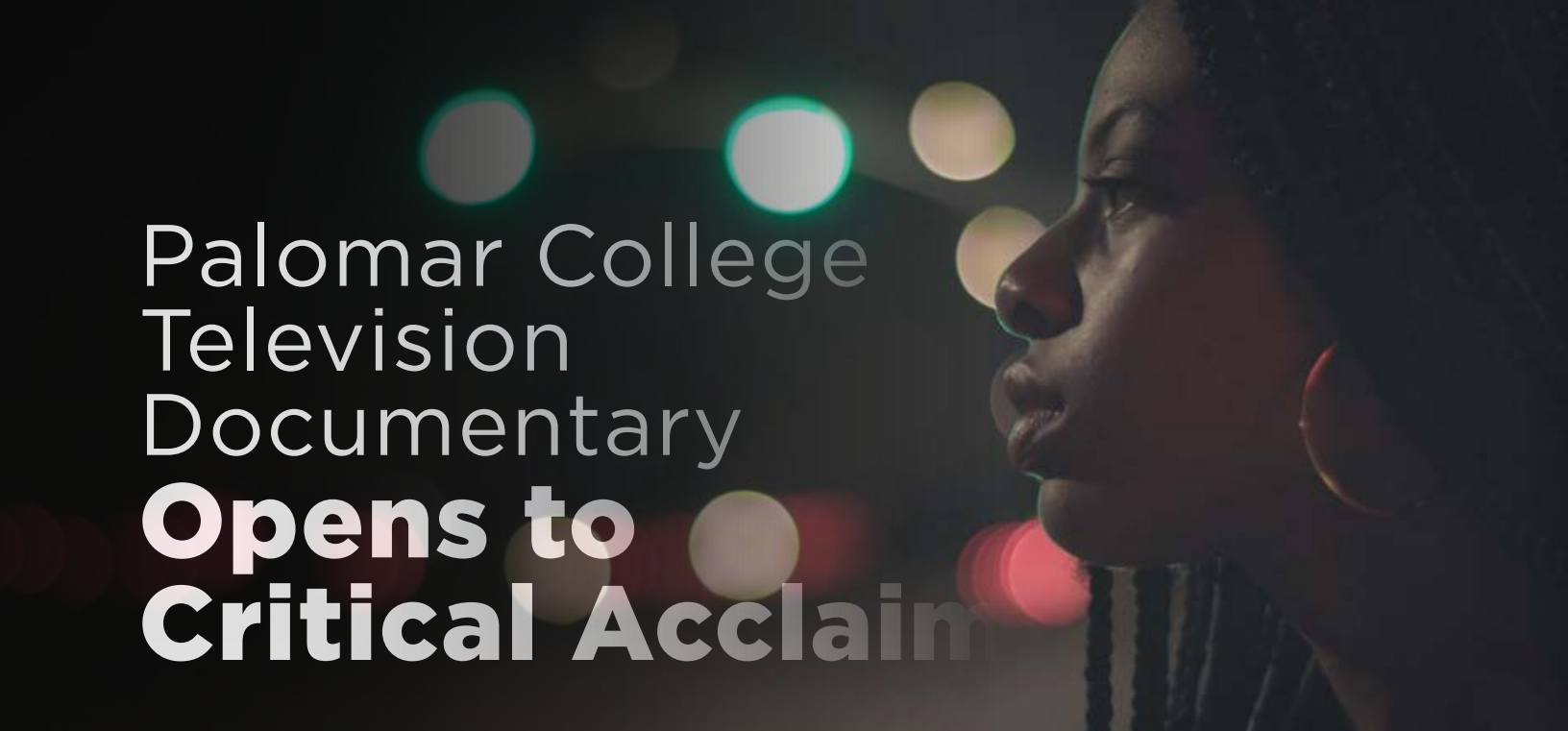
February 2019 Palomar was selected as one of the "Top 50 Colleges for Hispanics" across the country and was featured in the February 11, 2019 edition of The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education.



May 2019 The Palomar Comets softball team capped a stellar season with a trip to the final game of the state championships, finishing the season with a 41-7 record as the CCCAA State Champion Runners Up.



June 2019 In the latest round of Emmy Awards for the college's Media Studies Department and Palomar College Television (PCTV) staff, five students landed top honors and PCTV's documentary, *Shattered Dreams*, won "Best Documentary."



Palomar College Television Documentary **Opens to Critical Acclaim**

It was not an easy story to tell, but in *Shattered Dreams: Sex Trafficking in America*, Palomar's award-winning team of documentary filmmakers wove the true story of three survivors so powerfully that critics and film festivals across the nation took notice.

The film premiered at Palomar's Brubeck Theatre on April 4, 2019, featuring as one of its subjects Jaimee Johnson, who founded Sisters of the Streets.

"One of our biggest challenges was trying to find women who were willing to share their story," the film's director, Bill Wisneski, told KPBS. "That's what made our film. Jamiee

and the two other women who were able to share the insight of what they have been through and the power of turning their lives around and what can happen."

Shattered Dreams was an official selection at more than 40 film festivals around the U.S., including the 2019 Manhattan Film Festival, and had won 26 awards, including four Emmy Awards—for directing, writing, editing and "Best Documentary"—at the Pacific Southwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences on June 15, 2019 in Las Vegas.





U.S. Postal Service Unveils Stamp Series in Palomar's Cactus Garden

Surrounded by thousands of species of cacti and succulents at Palomar College, officials of the United States Postal Service (USPS) unveiled the Forever Cactus Flowers Stamp Series during a ceremony on April 15, 2019.

Held in the Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden, the event highlighted both the new collectible USPS stamps and one of most ecologically diverse sanctuaries of its kind in San Diego County.

Guests included Palomar College administrators, USPS officials, and members of the Palomar Cactus & Succulent Society (PCSS), the oldest such organization in the region.

Established in 1964 by PCSS, the Palomar College Cactus & Succulent Garden exists on two and a half acres located

north of Mission Road and east of Comet Circle in San Marcos. The garden is home to more than 4,000 species, including rare and endangered varieties, and is only open by appointment.

“Palomar is so fortunate to have areas around our campus that serve as sanctuaries for contemplation and respite for our students, faculty, staff and community,” Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake said during the ceremony. “This small garden may be the most unique of its kind in San Diego County. This is an opportunity to further educate the community about the importance of preserving our natural resources.”





Renowned L.A. Artist Man One Paints Student Union Mural

Stretching 106 feet across the wall of Palomar's Student Union in San Marcos, a new mural by world-renowned street artist Man One is a visually stunning tribute to the college's diverse student body and rich cultural heritage.

"It was great working at Palomar—everyone was really open and easy to work with," said Man One, who spent a year planning the piece before painting it, finishing on April 13, 2019. "All around, there were really good vibes the whole time I was painting—the students were behind the project, they identified with what I was doing."

The mural occupies more than 1,500 square feet of wall space—"The bigger the canvas, the better," said Man One—and overlooks a courtyard at the Student Union.

Officials and guests of Palomar College gathered on May 14, 2019, for the dedication ceremony, where Superintendent/President Dr. Joi Lin Blake said, "This vibrant piece of art has been a long time coming. It captures the spirit of diversity that Palomar College embraces, and we are proud to honor our students, faculty and staff with such a beautiful piece of artwork."





Emmy-Winning Media Student **Takes Her Story to Palomar**

Angy Moran came to Palomar College without much of a plan, but once she was here, she learned quickly that she wanted to tell stories. And she wanted to do it with a camera.

Since then, she has won four Emmy Awards.

In her storytelling, Moran shared about overcoming depression and learning the tools of her trade at Palomar.

“To be honest, I didn’t think I’d live long enough to go to college,” she said. “I went through severe depression during high school, to the point where I wondered if I would really make it past 20. I didn’t have a plan after that.”

Pat Hahn, a Digital Broadcast Arts professor at Palomar, remembered meeting Moran for the first time, describing her as “the quiet student sitting in the front of my class.”

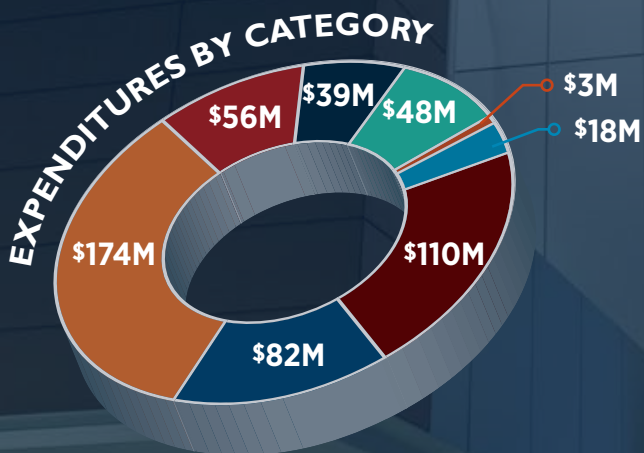
“Witnessing a student find themselves is one of a teacher’s greatest moments, and I’ll never forget Angy’s transformation,” said Hahn. “She hasn’t stopped smiling.”

In 2018, Moran wrote, produced and directed a short film called *We Will Listen*, which she designed as a public service announcement to reach teens struggling with depression. Her message: Your loved ones, your friends, want to help. It was her most personal project yet—and it earned her an Emmy for “Best Student Programming, Public Service Announcements (PSAs).”

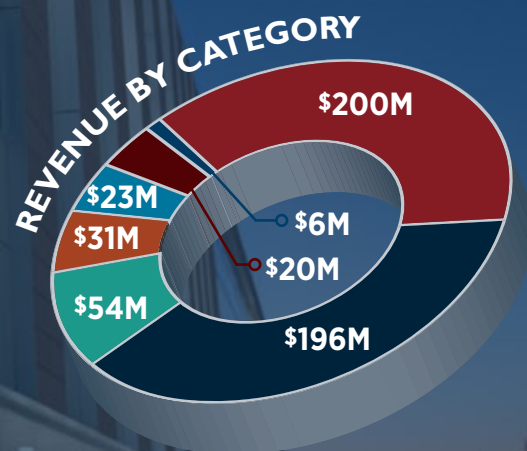
“Palomar has been great,” said Moran. “I came with nothing, and I’m going to leave with so much. I’ve met some of the kindest, wisest people here, and I’ve had a great support system, from my friends to the faculty and mentors—they’ve gone above and beyond to ensure that I can succeed.”

Fiscal Update

For the sixth consecutive year the Palomar Community College District received an unmodified opinion on the 2017-18 fiscal year financial audit, indicating that the District's financial reporting is in order. The District also received a topmost audit opinion on the 2017-18 financial and performance audit of the community approved Measure M, the \$694 million Construction Bond Program approved by voters in 2006. In addition, the San Diego Taxpayers Association Education Foundation scored Palomar College with 92% on their 2018 School Bond Transparency Report Card, rating the transparency and accountability of the District leveraging taxpayer dollars. In September 2018, the Governing Board unanimously adopted the 2018-19 Budget for the District totaling \$530 million.



- Academic Salaries
- Classified Salaries
- Employee Benefits
- Supplies & Materials
- Other Operating Expenses
- Capital Outlay
- Transfers & Other Outgo
- Total Reserves



- Measure M Bond
- General Fund
- Bond Interest & Redemption
- Other Post Employment
- Capital Outlay Funds
- Student Financial Aid
- Other Funds



Legoland Costume Virtuoso **Recalls Time at Palomar**

Children love them. Adults sometimes try to disguise their love for them. Theme park directors are particularly crazy about them. They are hand-made costumes that bring some of Lego's most beloved mini-figures to life, and they all come from one place: Yoli Bennett's workshop.

Tucked inside an industrial park near McClellan-Palomar Airport, the shop turns out works of art that performers between 5'2" and 5'6" climb into as they slip into character for Legoland's guests at a growing portfolio of parks around the world.

It's an impressive operation that Bennett, an alumna of Palomar College's Fashion Merchandising and Design program, has spent the last 18 years building.

Bennett designs and produces costumes for Legoland parks across the globe. When she was already an established master of her craft, she sought out Palomar's fashion program and remains one of its biggest fans.

Bennett is nearing retirement, but she is still passionate about her work. It was this same passion, she says, which motivated her to enroll in a fashion class at Palomar College in 2003.

"I was looking for people who had the same interests," she recalled. "I thought, where do I find that? I'll go to Palomar. They have fashion, they have pattern-making—I could always tune up my skills a little more.

"It was a community thing," she said. "That's what Palomar is."



Beloved Palomar Counselor Lives on in Bequest



April Woods, who taught and counseled at Palomar College for 25 years, lost her battle with cancer in 2017. Now there is a travel scholarship in her name, thanks to a \$100,000 bequest to the Palomar College Foundation.

For two and a half decades, Woods was a steadfast student advocate at Palomar College, a counselor and educator who dedicated herself to helping others pursue their goals, leaving her mark on many lives and forging countless friendships at Palomar.

As of 2019, her legacy will also live on in the form of the April Christine Woods Memorial Scholarship, a \$100,000 endowment to support students who want to travel as part of their educational journey.

In 2016, Woods was diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer. Four months after her diagnosis, in March 2017, Woods

passed away at the age of 51.

“She could help a student know what to do, from the moment they walked into Palomar until they were ready to transfer,” said Melissa Grant, one of Woods’ closest friends and an employee at the college. “She didn’t just give students a quick run-through, she told them what they could expect, from start to finish.”

On February 12, 2019, the Palomar College Governing Board honored Woods, as Stacy Rungaitis, Executive Director of the Palomar College Foundation, accepted a \$100,000 check to establish the scholarship in Woods’ name.

Grant said the scholarship will award up to \$10,000 per year, up to \$1,000 per student, and can be divided in smaller amounts among as many students as necessary.



Palomar College Foundation

The mission of the Palomar College Foundation is to inspire philanthropy in order to remove financial barriers to ensure student success. The key funding priorities are scholarships, textbook assistance and emergency grants for students. In addition to many important campus priorities, the Foundation supported the Palomar Promise, Comets Affordable Learning Materials (CALM) initiative, veterans and military affiliated students, the Anita & Stan Maag Food and Nutrition Center, faculty innovation, the Disability Resource Center, the First Responder and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.

In the past year, the Foundation generated its highest annual revenue in Foundation history, awarded over \$600,000 in scholarships and textbook assistance, and launched a new and more beneficial fundraising event strategy that introduced two new events, the Monster Dash & Bash 5K walk/run and the Community Showcase.

The Foundation is an integral part of the Palomar Community College District. Through its focus on building strong partnerships both internally and externally and developing new revenue sources, it continues to impact the lives of thousands of students each year.



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Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Instructional Services

Aiden Ely
Acting Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Student Services

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Acting Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services

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PALOMAR COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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