





A message from Dr. Jack Kahn, Interim Superintendent President

As the first full academic year under pandemic conditions, 2020-21 will remain a truly unforgettable time in the history of Palomar College. The Palomar community endured, and even thrived, under great pressure and facing historic challenges to our mission of supporting student success. It was my privilege to lead such a stellar team of faculty and staff, serving such brilliant and dedicated students, and it is my hope that this edition of our annual report will serve as a reminder of all the good and innovative work that we accomplished together.

Among other highlights, between July 2020 and June 2021 we enacted a massive, institution-wide antiracism effort; introduced the Palomar Pathways Mapper to help students chart their path to success; launched the Military Leadership program to award academic credit to Marines in training; refunded a large portion of Prop. M bonds to save local taxpayers more than \$21 million; held our first trustee-area Governing Board election; and awarded 3,837 degrees and certificates—hundreds of which changed hands during a unique drive-through commencement ceremony on campus!

Looking back, it was a difficult year for so many of us—but it was also a deeply satisfying year as we worked together to overcome unprecedented challenges. I will always admire the courage and perseverance shown by every member of the Palomar College community during this historic time.

Vision, Mission & Values

VISION

Transforming lives for a better future.

MISSION

Palomar College respects each of our students' experiences and supports them to achieve academic success. As a community college, we encourage our students to embrace the best version of themselves and prepare them to engage with our local and global communities

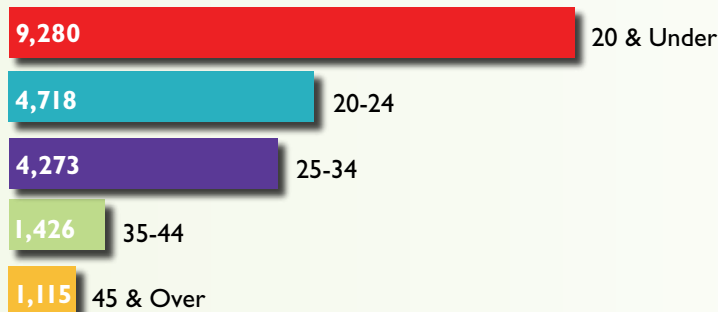
VALUES

In creating the learning and cultural experiences that fulfill our mission, we are committed to serving our community, including historically and currently marginalized and racially minoritized populations. In doing so, we are guided by the core values of:

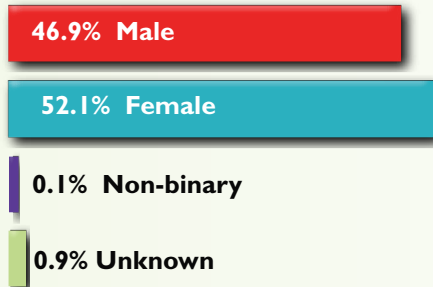
- ★ **Access**
Excellence in teaching, learning, and service
- ★ **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**
We recognize and respect diversity, seek to foster a culture of inclusion and belonging, and strive to address inequities.
- ★ **Academic Excellence**
We provide quality programs and robust course offerings to support students who are pursuing transfer-readiness, general education, career and technical training, aesthetic and cultural enrichment, and lifelong education.
- ★ **Student Focused**
We offer a caring and supportive environment that addresses the holistic and distinct needs of our students.
- ★ **Community**
We are an integral part of our region and strive to foster meaningful relationships within our college and local communities.
- ★ **Transformation**
We inspire learning, improvement, and growth for all.

By The Numbers FALL 2020

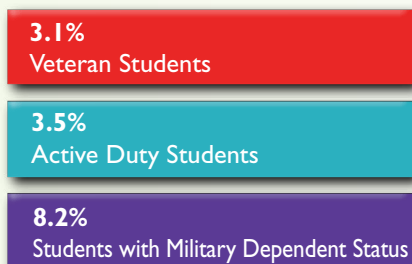
Students by Age Group



Students by Gender



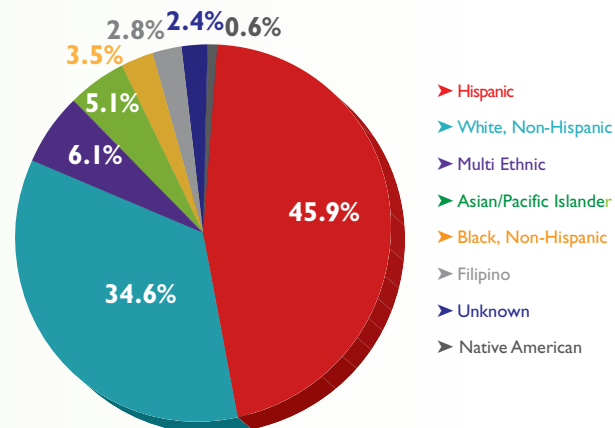
Military Affiliated Students



Top 5 Majors



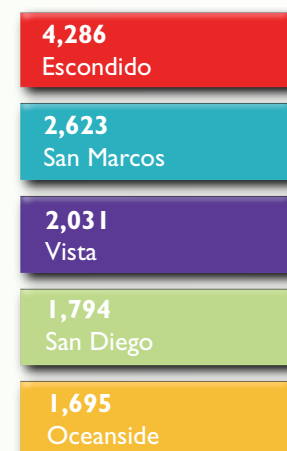
Students by Ethnicity



Top Five Awards at Palomar Major/Course of Study



Top 5 Cities of Enrolled Students



Commencement On Wheels

Graduates Bring Friends, Families Along for the Ride

More than 400 vehicles filled with graduates and their cheering families rolled through the San Marcos campus Friday evening, May 28, 2021, in an upbeat drive-through commencement ceremony.

It was a picture-perfect afternoon as college leaders gathered in Parking Lot 12, at a “finish line” of sorts, to congratulate the graduates and hand off diploma covers. Earlier on the route, more than 100 faculty members and other college staff cheered on arriving graduates along Comet Circle.

The ceremony was streamed live online for those who could not attend, with a pre-recorded program that included several of the traditional commencement addresses. Meanwhile, KKSM, Palomar’s FM radio station, was taking requests and live call-ins throughout the day to honor this year’s graduates.

“I can sense a spirit of tenacity, resilience and desire to succeed within all of you,” said Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Jack Kahn in his recorded address. “The work you have done and the achievements you have gained are inspiring. You did not let this pandemic stop you. Your commitment to achieving your goals is remarkable. Your strength and tenacity are second to none.”



New Tools for New Jobs

Diesel Technology Students Receive Tool Sets to Help Launch Local Careers

A trio of students from Palomar's Diesel Technology program launched their careers in the mechanics industry with new sets of tools valued at \$3,900 apiece, thanks to a partnership between Palomar College and local nonprofit group Project Cornerstone.

In April, 20-year-old Orlando Perez became the first student mechanic to benefit from the partnership, receiving a bright blue tool box filled with Snap-On hand tools during his second day on the job at Marathon General, Inc. in Escondido. (To help facilitate the program, Snap-On Tools contributed by providing the tools at a significant discount to Project Cornerstone.)

Then, in June, Jack Schwinkendorf, 22, and Sayra Martinez, 23, began their apprenticeships with Hanson Aggregates in San Diego, each receiving their own set of tools courtesy of Project Cornerstone.

"This is a huge leg up, in terms of getting a start," said Schwinkendorf. "This is your foundation."

The Diesel Technology program at Palomar prepares students for challenging and rewarding careers in an industry in need of skilled technicians. In addition to cutting-edge training at the San Marcos campus, students in the program have access to a network of industry partners across the San Diego region.

In the field of diesel mechanics, it's customary for workers to own the tools that they use on the job. But for those who are just starting out, the cost can be a serious barrier to entry in the job market.

Meanwhile, companies that need diesel mechanics are struggling to find people to fill positions.

"We have these journeyman mechanics who have been here for 20 or 30 years—they're great employees, they've spent their careers here, but they're all retiring," said Hanson Human Resources Manager Tricia Reedy. "And I can't find anybody to fill their spots. So we need to get these younger people in, get them trained, and then keep it going."



Formerly Incarcerated, Well Educated

A Transitions Student Turns His Life Around Through Education

In early 2019 at the Vista Detention Facility, Edgar Diaz took his first Palomar College class behind bars as part of an incentive-based program for good behavior. As of 2021, he was headed for his associate degree, with his sights set on a career in civil engineering.

“I had a lot of time to think about my mistakes,” Diaz recalled. “More than anything, there was a lot of time to think about what changes I needed to make to be successful and change my life once I got out.”

In addition to providing classes at the Vista Detention Facility, Transitions hosts an annual summer program of classes and group activities, and supports formerly incarcerated and system-impacted students with tutoring, peer advising, check-ins, community support, guest speakers, and a variety of student services.

After learning about courses provided by Palomar College in the Vista jail, Diaz said, “I didn’t think twice—I took every course they offered.”

Nora Kenney, Ph.D, Palomar College’s Transitions Coordinator, said his story underscores the importance of reaching the incarcerated and formerly incarcerated with opportunities to participate in higher education.

“Like many of our Transitions students, Edgar got a serious head-start on his college course work because he was able to earn credits during incarceration,” said Kenney.

Diaz got out of jail in June 2020. All told, he earned 25 credits while incarcerated, with a grade-point average of 3.9.

“I’m so grateful that they actually believed in me and gave me an opportunity to be part of the program,” he said. “Being away from my kids was what hurt the most, and so, more than anything, I’m doing it for them. I want them to be able to say, ‘My dad may have made a mistake when he was younger, but he turned his life around.’”



Drone Program Soars With FAA Initiative

Palomar's Pioneering Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program Hits a New Milestone

Palomar College was among the first higher education institutions in the nation to be accepted into a new Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) training initiative called the Unmanned Aircraft Systems Collegiate Training Initiative (UAS-CTI).

Wing Cheung, Professor of Earth, Space and Environmental Sciences at Palomar, created the college's drone program in 2016 with Mark Bealo, Associate Professor of Graphic Communications.

"Being part of this FAA-led, nationwide program allows the schools with UAS programs to connect and learn from each other," Cheung said. "With this initiative, the FAA is recognizing schools that have well-rounded programs which not only prepare students for their commercial drone pilot exams, but also teach students to fly responsibly and safely."

In order to qualify for the initiative, schools must be accredited two- or four-year institutions offering a degree in drone technology. In addition, the curriculum must include:

- ★ Training on UAS platforms—multirotor and fixed-wing
- ★ Flight systems, radio controllers, components, and characteristics of UAS
- ★ Maintenance, uses, applications, privacy concerns, safety, and insurance
- ★ Hands-on flight practice using UAS and simulator training
- ★ Use of UAS in various industry applications
- ★ Federal policies concerning UAS
- ★ Training related to flying with sensors and the processing data

Cheung said Palomar's program remains one of the leading comprehensive programs in the country, providing not only instruction in drone operation, but also training in drone data analytics that have been vetted by a number of professionals in the field.



Acknowledging Native Lands and Peoples

A Statement Adopted by Palomar's Board Pledges Recognition and Action

In a unanimous vote at its June 1, 2021 meeting, the Palomar College Governing Board adopted a land acknowledgement statement recognizing the ancestral claims of local American Indian tribes and pledging to support Indigenous students.

The statement reads:

The resilient and continued presence of the Payómkawichum/ Luiseño, the Kuméyaay/Ipai/Diegueño, the Kuupangaxwicheh/ Cupeño, and the Ívillyuatem/Cahuilla Nations compels Palomar College to take sustainable, respectful action to engage the land and its First People with justice and compassion as fellow human beings. Palomar College acknowledges it benefits from the unceded ancestral lands of these sovereign Nations and commits to promoting indigenous knowledge systems and practices in its educational mission. Palomar College pledges to foster a successful learning environment that supports Indigenous students and engages the needs and concerns of the Nations who continue to occupy this land.

Patti Dixon, a long-time professor in Palomar's American Indian Studies Department, described the statement as "a recognition of the fact that Palomar College is located on the ancestral lands of people who are still here today, and Palomar will take action to respect that land and its peoples in a mutually beneficial way."

Dixon, who is a member of the Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians, led the Palomar College working group that produced the statement. She said the Palomar College Native American advisory council, made up of staff and local tribal leaders, met several times to seek input on the statement.

According to Dixon, not only does the statement acknowledge historical facts and commit to future action—it also draws on a rich tradition among American Indian tribes of honoring one another's ancestral land.

"It's a calling to stewardship, at the same time," she said. "It's not just recognition, but a commitment to honor our ongoing relationship with the land."

Palomar College 2021 Valedictorian

After a Change of Plans, Valedictorian Charted a New Path at Palomar

Ryan Laffin was in culinary school at the age of 19 when he had his first seizure, the onset of a disability that would change all of his plans. At commencement on Friday, May 28, 2021, Laffin earned his Associate for Transfer in English while serving as the Class of 2021 Valedictorian at Palomar College.

The 24-year-old degree candidate, who was homeschooled and lives in Murrieta, came to Palomar and quickly discovered a love of writing and literature. In 2019, he competed in the national finals with Palomar's Speech & Debate team. He spent two years as president of the Palomar Rhetoric Symposium. And Laffin started a writing club with other students from Palomar College, who met on Zoom to share their writing.

"As a kid, I absolutely hated English—I hated writing, I hated every aspect of it," he said. "I got older and started writing bad poetry and reading as much as I could get my hands on. Over time, it has become the best possible escape, the best medicine, and it's really something I'm passionate about."

Laffin plans to continue his education at either UCLA or UC Berkeley. Eventually, he wants to earn his doctorate and become an English professor.

He credits the Palomar College faculty with instilling a love of literature and helping him reimagine his path through higher education.

"Being in this community of students, I've found so many people with the same interests," he said. "A lot of my best experiences are because of my time at Palomar."



COVID-19 and Clinicals

Nursing Program Makes the Most of Challenging Year

As hospitals and clinics across North County adjusted to meet the demands of the COVID-19 pandemic, the usual opportunities for students in Palomar's Nursing Education Department to earn crucial clinical hours dwindled.

In March, dozens of Palomar students assisted with the vaccination effort at an Escondido site run by Palomar Health. Nursing Department Chair Julianne Van Houten said that by the end of the semester all 136 students in the program rotated through the vaccination site.

"They are learning valuable nursing skills, such as coordination of a vaccination event during a pandemic," said Van Houten. "They get to practice giving intramuscular injections, and they get to assess patients for any adverse reactions post-vaccination."

In the past, students typically fulfilled their clinical requirements in hospitals and other patient-care situations. But with the onset of COVID-19, the nursing program went to great lengths to find creative ways for its students to earn the requisite hours, after most hospitals suspended academic access because of the virus.

The nursing program at Palomar College is four semesters long and widely respected within the region's medical community. In March 2020, as all classes were transitioned to a remote learning format, the program was forced to suspend some of its instruction—although state officials agreed to allow students to simulate more of their required clinical hours.

Before the vaccine was rolled out, nursing students helped provide a vital service while earning clinical hours at COVID-19 symptom screening stations, where all visitors were evaluated before entering campus.

"I think everyone knows this is the new norm," said Jennifer Bennett, a fourth-semester nursing student, while serving at one of the screening stations. As students, Bennett added, "We're happy to take anything we can get, and to be able to help."



The COVID-19 Impact: A Year of

Facilities Department introduces COVID-19 innovations, including custom-made brackets to hold containers of sanitizing wipes
JULY 2021



Palomar College Foundation establishes emergency fund to help essential workers with children at the Early Childhood Education Lab School (ECELS or Lab School) on campus
AUGUST 2021



Third annual "Monster Dash & Bash," held virtually, raises more than \$15,000 for the Foundation in support of additional student requests for help during the pandemic
OCTOBER 2021



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FEBRUARY 2021
Using discretionary funding source, the college distributes more than \$315,000 in laptops, printing cards, internet hotspots and webcams to support remote learning



MARCH 2021
North Education Center in Fallbrook hosts "Operation Collaboration" vaccination clinic



MARCH 2021
Nursing students earn clinical hours assisting in regional vaccination effort in partnership with Palomar Health



APRIL 2021
The Speech & Debate Team finishes an unorthodox but successful season, during which all competitions were held virtually

A B E T T E R

Resilience, Innovation and Success

Faculty and Classified Employees Unions partner with the Foundation and the regional labor council to distribute 500 Thanksgiving turkeys
NOVEMBER 2021



English professor Syndee Wood begins food deliveries that will become "Feeding Our Frontline Heroes"
DECEMBER 2021



"Exploring the Possibilities," the Foundation's third annual Community Showcase, held virtually with guests from around the region
JANUARY 2021



Free wireless internet access expanded to the second floor of the parking structure on campus
FEBRUARY 2021



F U T U R E

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MAY 2021

Palomar hosts one of many vaccination clinics in partnership with Neighborhood Healthcare at the Escondido Education Center



MAY 2021

Fashion Merchandising & Design Program hosts its end-of-year MODA fashion show on YouTube



MAY 2021

Drive-through commencement ceremony draws hundreds of participants with friends, families

FUTURE

College Credit for Sergeant School

Palomar Provides Academic Credit to Marine Corps Leaders in Training

A highly-anticipated and innovative effort to grant college credit to Marines enrolled at the U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant School at Camp Pendleton and Twentynine Palms took flight in the fall of 2021. The new program, known as the Military Leadership (MIL) Apprenticeship, has already provided hundreds of credits to Marines in the region.

Thanks to a ground-breaking collaboration between Palomar College and the Marine Corps, plans were laid in May 2019 to launch the program.

MIL Apprenticeship was then formally initiated as a Palomar program through a collaboration between Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Jack Kahn, then serving as the Assistant Superintendent/Vice President for Instruction at Palomar, and Troy Morton, Associate Dean of Academics at the College of Enlisted Military Education, Marine Corps University. Palomar's Associate Dean of Workforce Development and Extended Studies, Nichol Roe, implemented the concept as an apprenticeship program, a key step in the effort to serve active-duty Marines and launch the program in fall 2020.

"Marines take their training seriously, and Palomar College is proud to come alongside these leaders-in-training to make sure they also receive academic credit for their hard work," said Dr. Kahn.

Gunnery Sgt. Ricardo Candelario, Staff NCO In Charge of the U.S. Marine Corps Sergeant School when the MIL program was launched, said he remembers going line by line through the curriculum and realizing what a profound benefit it would be to enlisted Marines to receive college credit for work they were already doing.

"I feel grateful that the college is making this happen," said Candelario, who himself took advantage of the program to earn credit and chart a path to his bachelor's degree. "I was not going to do college—college was not going to be something I pursued. But then I got these 12 credits for prior learning and now I have 24 credits toward an associate degree—that really jump-started me and made me want to do more. Now I want to keep going."





Staying On Course

Trio of “Pathways” Students Are Forging Ahead After Their Time at Palomar

Three students who participated in developing Palomar Pathways during their time at the college have gone on to universities in pursuit of higher degrees—examples of the very success they helped to envision for their peers.

The Pathways initiative was a collaborative effort to define clear plans, or “maps,” for incoming students to reach their goals. Crystal Figueroa, Kory Nokes and Aimee Perez were three of the original Student Ambassadors to the committee, and they represented thousands of current and future Palomar College students who will benefit from a clarified, simplified experience, from enrollment through completion.

“We are so proud of our Student Ambassadors and the work we have done together to improve the student experience at Palomar College,” said Dr. Kahn. “These three individuals are exemplary in their commitment to Palomar College, but more importantly, in the pursuit of their goals through higher education. We wish them all the best, and thank them for their good work.”

Figueroa, who lives in San Marcos, came to Palomar from Mission Hills High School. She said she discovered her love of computer science at Palomar and is now studying at UC Merced, where she will earn her Computer Science & Engineering degree.

Nokes came to Palomar College as a member of Transitions, the “Corrections to College” program, and soon discovered his love of mathematics. He now works in Palomar’s Counseling Department while studying at Cal State San Marcos, with plans to pursue his PhD.

Originally from Vista, Perez moved to Riverside County as a teenager to attend John F. Kennedy Middle College High School. She returned to North County to attend Palomar—and now plans to finish her bachelor’s at UC San Diego before doing clinical psychology work and then pursuing her doctorate.

PALOMAR PATHWAYS MAPPER

Rolled out in July 2020, the Mapper is a new feature of the Palomar College website designed to help students chart a course to their degree or certificate—an especially timely innovation during the COVID-19 health crisis that led to the suspension of face-to-face counseling.

The new Pathways Mapper lays out a student’s entire path from entering Palomar College to earning their degree or certificate. It also gives potential students, high school counselors and parents a better feel for what lies ahead.



A History of

Through the Years, Palomar Has Worked

From student protests in the 1970s to a pivotal Black Lives Matter Forum and Vigil in June 2020, the effort to dismantle systemic racism at Palomar College has unfolded across academic departments and student movements, in classrooms and conference rooms, for nearly 50 years.

“The history of this work at Palomar is rich with stories of courage and tenacity, as educators and students together pursued a better version of the college,” said Dr. Jack Kahn, Interim Superintendent/President. “It is our time to carry the torch, following in their footsteps, always looking ahead to what Palomar College can be for all students.”

Following the nationwide protests ignited by the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police in late May 2020, Palomar College adopted a bold agenda to dismantle systemic racism with the support of students, staff, faculty, and administration.

The term “antiracism” is relatively new, having risen to national prominence in large part because of Dr. Ibram X. Kendi’s 2019 bestseller, *How To Be An Antiracist*.

But Dr. Kahn emphasized that the effort to resist and reverse injustice at Palomar is not itself new. Instead, it is a rich history involving thousands of students, staff, and faculty that has recently been intensified and given new focus by developments around the U.S.

Note: The timeline that follows is distilled from a series of articles available on Palomar News.

1960s & ‘70s: Activism & Early Change

In the late 1960s, a surge of student activism at Palomar College brought the first wave of reforms that may now be understood as antiracist, challenging a system that had not acknowledged or dignified non-white people in any of its curriculum.

Among the significant early changes at Palomar was the formation of a pioneering Multicultural Studies Department, in 1971, which included three distinct areas: Africana Studies (AS), Chicano Studies (CS) and American Indian Studies (AIS). The latter would become its own department by the end of the decade.

“Our story of antiracism begins, appropriately, with institutional changes that meant Black, Indigenous, and People of Color would be represented directly within the academic disciplines for the first time at Palomar College,” said Dr. Kahn.

Next Steps: ESL Expansion & Better Services

But the campus was still inaccessible to many within the Palomar Community College District who didn’t speak English, or whose ethnic identity left them feeling isolated from higher education.

The next steps in Palomar’s progress would include the expansion of English as a Second Language (ESL) and a number of other programs and initiatives that brought inclusion and diversity to the forefront of campus life.

“For decades, many people here at Palomar College worked together to realize their shared vision of a campus that is truly inclusive and welcoming of all people,” said Dr. Kahn. “We do well to remember how much time and effort it took to open the doors of this institution to the whole community in a meaningful way.”

With each step, from ESL classes to the Pride Center, to a series of campus events known as Tarde de Familia, Palomar opened its doors wider to those who had previously been marginalized.

Antiracism

Toward a More Equitable Campus



Recent Progress in Academics

In the years leading up to the turmoil of 2020, momentum was building within an antiracist movement that encompassed a variety of programs, coalitions and departments at Palomar College.

The moving parts have not always been formally connected, but they have been working for the same end, participants say: a more equitable and accessible institution.

Significant developments include serving incarcerated and formerly-incarcerated students through the college's Transitions program, and promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) to underserved populations.

Especially impactful has been the establishment of an Office of Student Success & Equity, tasked with identifying students who are "disproportionately impacted" at Palomar and leading the effort to provide them with better support.

Summer 2020: A Galvanizing Moment

After decades of antiracist work that crossed academic, departmental and generational boundaries at Palomar College, the time had come, with a national wave of momentum, to evaluate the way the college resists and overturns institutionalized racism.

More than 300 people attended a virtual healing forum, and during the event, Dr. Kahn shared the 10 "action items" that would shape the college-wide antiracism effort. They are:

1. *Improve and include race-conscious and race-based training for current Palomar police department officers and students in public safety programs.*
2. *Identify a designated space for African American/Black students at Palomar College (mirroring the Pride and Veterans Center).*
3. *Hiring more faculty, staff, administrators who are African American/Black.*
4. *Hiring full-time faculty for Africana Studies who are authentically engaged in Black consciousness.*
5. *Audit classroom climate. Create action plans to implement inclusive classroom and equity-minded teaching.*
6. *Provide professional development training specifically addressing support for our African American/Black students and promoting anti-racism in curriculum and teaching to ensure action is taking place.*
7. *Ensure African American/Black employees are protected contractually and are included in decision-making processes.*
8. *Host get-out-the-vote campaign and contextualize the history of voting rights.*
9. *Have celebratory graduation for African American/Black students on campus.*

Page 16 and "A Better Future"
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COMET

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Reflecting on a Stellar Year at Palomar College

August 2020: Palomar College took delivery of a telescope with a 24-inch mirror donated by the Palomar Observatory. Standing 15 feet tall fully assembled, the instrument will enable Palomar's Astronomy students and faculty to see deeper into space, and with greater clarity, when it is reassembled on campus.

October 2020: Two major building projects funded by Prop. M—the Rancho Bernardo Education Center and Library/Learning Resource Center (LRC) at the San Marcos campus—won prestigious design awards from the Sacramento-based Community College Facility Coalition.

January 2021: The Statewide Training and Education Advisory Committee (STEAC) unanimously voted to re-accredit Palomar's Fire Technology program, which includes the widely recognized Fire Academy in San Marcos.

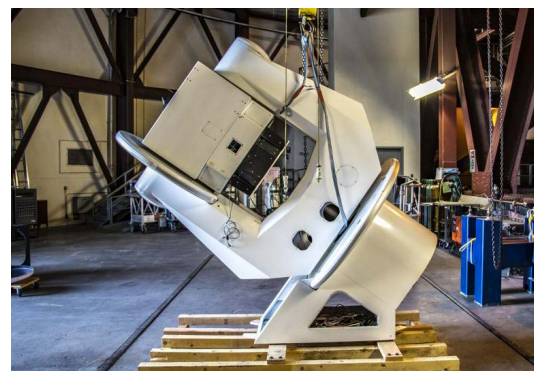
February 2021: Capping a year of sustainable-energy advances, the college won an Excellence in Energy Leadership Award from San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) for its Maintenance & Operations (M&O) building, a “net-zero” project that opened in 2019. In December 2020, the North Education Center in Fallbrook also went net-zero with the activation of a 161-kilowatt (kW) solar array. That installation was preceded in August by the largest solar energy project to date on any Palomar property: a 442-kW solar array on the top floor of the college's parking structure in San Marcos.

May 2021: Four women on staff at Palomar College were honored as “Women of the Year” by the American Association for Women in Community Colleges (AAWCC): Student Trustee Rachel Alazar, STEM Center Supervisor Dr. Mireya Gutiérrez-Agüero, Director of Public Affairs Julie Lanthier Bandy and Professor Mercedes Tiggs.

May 2021: The Palomar College Foundation established a sizable endowment fund after the Boehm Gallery at Palomar College sold a long-held work by John Baldessari, entitled “Painting and Drawing,” in a private sale last fall.

June 2021: Three Palomar College students were awarded Puente Statewide Community College Scholarships, capping their first year in college and the successful completion of a program focused on college and transfer success. The students selected as scholarship recipients were Chris Garcia, 19, of San Marcos; Lorna Martinez, 18, of Vista; and Oseas Garcia, 20, of Escondido.

June 2021: The Palomar Community College District (PCCD) Governing Board approved the selection of Dr. Star Rivera-Lacey as the next Superintendent/President of Palomar, effective July 26, 2021. Dr. Rivera-Lacey, who hails originally from Oceanside, brings a distinguished record of higher education leadership in the region.



Trustee-Area Election

Palomar's Governing Board Welcomes Three New Members

Following the first trustee-area election for the Palomar Community College District Governing Board, three new trustees were sworn in during the board's regular meeting on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

Voters in Trustee Area 2, encompassing most of Escondido and the eastern third of the Highway 78 corridor, elected Christian Garcia, a local high school teacher and long-time North County resident.

Roberto Rodriguez was elected in Trustee Area 3, which includes much of Vista, stretches across unincorporated land north of Escondido and extends along the eastern side of Interstate 15 as far south as Poway. Rodriguez teaches government and economics in the Sweetwater Union High School District.

Brian Olson was elected to represent Trustee Area 4, a sprawling district extending from I-15 east to near the Salton Sea. (Due to personal reasons, Olson resigned his seat in August 2021.)

Garcia and Rodriguez joined Mark Evilsizer, who represents Trustee Area 1, including most of the district south of Highway 78 and west of I-15, and Norma Miyamoto, who represents Trustee Area 5, including Fallbrook, Bonsall, east Oceanside and Camp Pendleton. Evilsizer was elected Vice President, and Miyamoto Board Secretary at the December 15 meeting.



Saving Taxpayers \$21.2 Million

Bond Refunding Effort Yields Dividends on Low Interest Rates



Taxpayers in the Palomar Community College District (PCCD) will save \$21.2 million in future debt payments as a result of a bond refunding process that was completed in October 2020.

In order to take advantage of uncommonly low interest rates, the college performed a careful analysis of how to optimize savings to taxpayers within the PCCD, identifying approximately \$200 million of Series C bonds that were eligible for refunding.

The refunded bonds were part of Prop. M, the \$694 million capital improvement bond measure approved by voters in 2006. The transaction was approved by the Palomar College Governing Board with the adoption of a resolution at its September 8, 2020 meeting.

Yulian Ligioso, then the Acting Assistant Superintendent/Interim Vice President of Finance & Administrative Services at Palomar, said the move represented an approximately 9.5 percent savings that will be reflected in local property taxes over the life of the bonds.

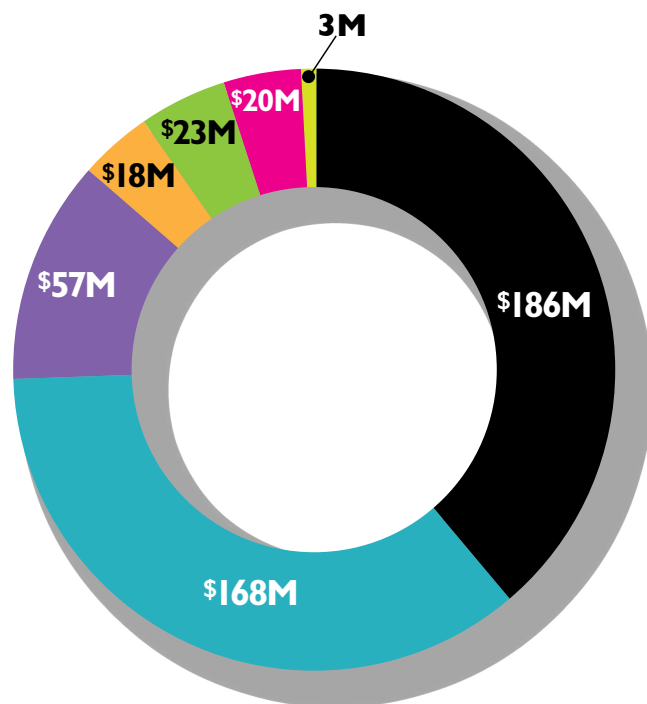
"We are thrilled to be able to save our taxpayers such a significant amount of money in the coming years, thanks to the leadership of our Governing Board," said Dr. Kahn, Interim Superintendent/President. "Prop. M has completely revitalized Palomar's physical presence in North County, and this refunding allows us to take advantage of the lowest interest rates we've seen since the measure was passed."

"We are refinancing these loans that are held by the taxpayers in our district from 5 percent interest to about 2.7 percent," said Ligioso. "So we are almost halving the interest, which has a significant impact on the debt service payments."

Fiscal Update

For the eighth consecutive year the Palomar Community College District received an unmodified opinion on the 2019-20 fiscal year financial audit, indicating that the District's financial reporting is in order. For the \$694 million Construction Bond Program (Measure M) approved by voters in 2006, the District also received an unmodified audit opinion on the 2019-20 financial audit and the performance audit noted no instances of noncompliance. In addition, Palomar earned an A on the San Diego County Taxpayers Education Foundation report card which rates the transparency and accountability of the College leveraging taxpayer dollars. In September 2021, the Governing Board unanimously adopted the 2021-22 Budget for the District totaling \$736 million.

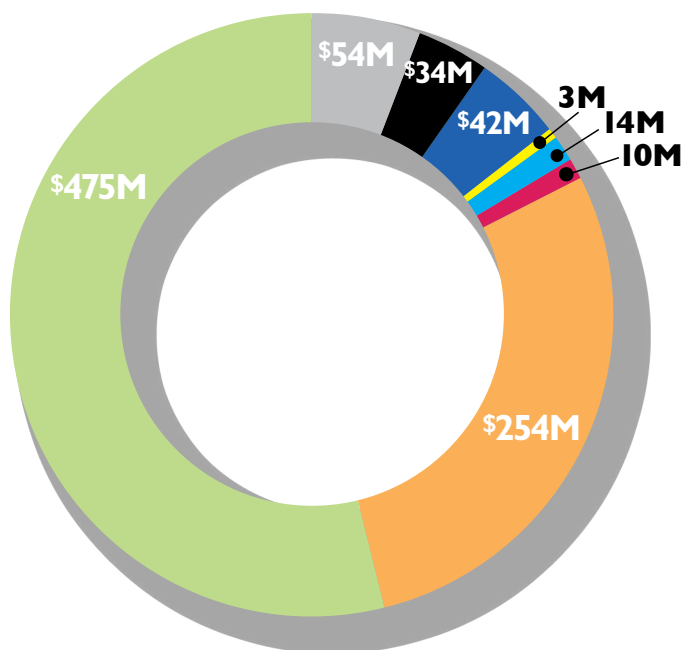
2020-2021 ALL FUNDS



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

EXPENDITURES BY CATEGORY

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



Credit for Prior Learning

A Pioneering Palomar Program Extends Academic Credit for Previous Experience

When the Credit for Prior Learning system launched in April 2021 at Palomar College, a new world of academic possibilities opened to incoming students who have previous work experience—work that can now be counted as college credit.

Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) is college credit awarded for validated college-level skills and knowledge gained outside of a college classroom, which might be gained through: training in military, industry or government employment; apprenticeships, internships, or other experiential learning opportunities; or certain volunteer and civic activities.

“Many of our students arrive with some level of professional expertise, and they are now able to achieve their goals faster by translating that previous training into Palomar College credit,” said Interim Superintendent/President Dr. Jack Kahn.

For students, the process for receiving this credit is as simple as searching for applicable courses and completing a brief online petition, followed by a meeting with college staff to ensure eligibility. Once approved, the credits are officially “transcribed,” or entered into the student’s transcript. More than 200 courses across 40 disciplines are currently available as Credit for Prior Learning.

The complex, collaborative effort to create the systems necessary to make that transaction possible began in 2019, with a grant from the Foundation for California Community Colleges.

As a California Community College pilot program, Palomar’s Credit for Prior Learning initiative is the first of its kind in the state, and has provided valuable insight that is already being used to design similar programs across California, explained CPL Coordinator Candace Rose.

“This was really a collaborative process, with faculty, counselors, administration, information services, admissions and staff from other areas of the college all working together to launch this spring,” said Rose, who teaches Cinema and is Chair of the Media Studies Department. “We already have a lot of student interest, and we expect to see many receive credit as a result of these efforts.”



Palomar College Foundation

Emergency Grants and Computers

With an abundance of internal and community support, the Foundation had another successful year in generating revenue to support our mission to remove financial barriers for Palomar students.

The emergency grant program provided over 55 times the traditional annual amount in emergency aid and laptop computers for students. Over \$275,000 in grants and resources were awarded to more than 2,500 students to help keep them enrolled at Palomar College.

No-Show Presidents Invitational Golf Classic

The health and safety of everyone took priority and necessitated cancellation of the 2020 President's Invitational Golf Classic. The COVID-19 pandemic did not, however, cancel the need for student support.

In fact, the need is even more urgent and compelling than before. The Foundation's dedicated golf committee insisted the show must go on—even without a tournament. They asked supporters to contribute and the results were overwhelming: \$85,000 raised from 28 sponsors.

Scholarship Stewardship

The Palomar College Foundation has been pleased to present a special stewardship gift to each of its annual scholarship donors. With the cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 Honors Night celebration due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation found a creative way to introduce donors to their scholarship recipients through an individualized picture book.

The book included messages from the Executive Director of the Foundation, the Interim Superintendent/President of Palomar College, and specific photos with thank you notes from the donor's scholarship recipients. Additional photos of the donors from previous Honors Night events along with Palomar College campus photos were portrayed throughout the book.

Presented in a lively fashion with a box of "mint" flavored items, the Foundation thanked the donors for their commitment, investment, encouragement, and involvement. Donor feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Transitions Program

A Neighborhood Reinvestment grant from the County Board of Supervisors awarded the Foundation the opportunity to support the Transitions Program class with new computers and hotspots.





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