



The **PACRA Pacer**

15 California Community Colleges to offer 4-Year Bachelor's Degrees

The chancellor of California's community college system has announced the names of 15 colleges, including two in San Diego that will be participating in a pilot program that allows the state's 2-year schools to offer baccalaureate degrees for the first time.

The colleges presented by Chancellor Brice Harris to the system's Board of Governors on January 20 came from 36 applicants located throughout the state.

Among those schools being recommended are Oceanside's MiraCosta College which plans to offer a bio-manufacturing degree by 2017, which would include biotherapeutics, diagnostics, supplies and industrial products and San Diego Mesa College which plans to provide a 4-year health information management degree.

The 15 community colleges announced for the Baccalaureate Degree Pilot Program are:

Antelope Valley College – Airframe Manufacturing Technology
Bakersfield College – Industrial Automation
Crafton Hills College – Emergency Services & Allied Health System
Cypress College – Mortuary Services
Feather River College – Equine Industry
Foothill College – Dental Hygiene
MiraCosta College – Bio-manufacturing
Modesto College – Respiratory Care
Rio Hondo College – Automotive Technology
San Diego Mesa College – Health Information Management
Santa Ana College – Occupational Studies
Santa Monica College – Interaction Design
Shasta College – Health Information Management
Skyline College – Respiratory Therapy
West Los Angeles College – Dental Hygiene

Until now, the state's 112 community college have offered only 2-year degrees. But legislation authored by state Senator Marty Block, D-San Diego and signed by Governor Jerry Brown in 2014 established the seven-year pilot program. The Board of Governors has given initial approval to the 15 schools recommended by Chancellor Harris. The selected programs will undergo further review before a final vote scheduled for March. A regular unit at a California community college cost \$46. Students in the four-year program will pay that fee plus an additional \$84 for each unit, for a total cost of \$130 a unit.

PACRA Mission

We are retired Palomar College public employees working together to maintain and improve the quality of the lives of our members by protecting and monitoring our retirement benefits and health and welfare issues.



PACRA

Request for your E-mail address...

If you haven't already done so, PACRA would very much appreciate having your e-mail address on file. If you prefer we not publish it in our Membership Directory please just let us know. We will honor your request for privacy. There are occasions when your Board feels it is in your/our best interest to alert you to events and/or activities that may affect your benefits, and due to the ever-increasing cost of postage it is far more cost-effective for us to do so through e-mail rather than US Mail. Thank you for your support.

PACRA Pacer,

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Scholarship Donation Opportunity

The PACRA Board would like to enhance its scholarship fund so it can offer additional financial assistance (i.e., an additional scholarship opportunity or book grant) to a relative of a PACRA member in good standing. If you are interested in helping with this effort you can do so by making a tax-deductible donation to the PACRA scholarship fund. Simply go to the PACRA website at www.palomar.edu/pacra. Click the 'Donate' link; select an amount; select PACRA (Palomar College Retirees' Association) from the drop down menu and then complete the payment process. Again ...all donations are tax deductible.



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SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendars and plan to attend PACRA's Annual Meeting to be held on **Thursday, May 14, 2015, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm**, at The Old Spaghetti Factory, 111 North Twin Oaks Valley Road, San Marcos. Lunch will be served at noon.

Retiring Palomar College President **Robert Deegan** will be our honored guest and he will give us an update on campus activities and the presidential search process.

Please plan to join us ... renew acquaintances, take photos and just plain relax and enjoy the company of long-time colleagues.

REMEMBERING OUR COLLEAGUES WE ONE TIME WORKED WITH, BUT HAVE PASSED

IN MEMORIAM ...

Rebecca 'Becky' Taliaferro (formerly White)
Administrative Secretary, Student Services
Passed – December 16, 2014

Robert Lusky
Physical Education Department
Passed – January 2, 2015

NEWS BRIEFS

Palomar College held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new baseball field on November 14. Pictured are Palomar Community College District Governing Board Trustee Nancy Chadwick and Superintendent/President Robert P. Deegan. The new baseball facility will include a natural turf field, bleacher seating for approximately 300, additional upper seating on the grass slope, seven full batting cages, bullpens for both teams, an elevated press box and a designated warm-up area for visiting teams. The field is expected to be completed in late spring 2015.



News Briefs continued on page 4



NEWS BRIEFS continued . . .

Simple Steps Help Save Water Indoors

While water-saving efforts often are focused outdoors because so much water is used for landscapes, there are several low-cost ways to save water indoors. The collective impact is substantial when hundreds of thousands of people do their part.

- Trim a minute or two off showers and collect water in a bucket for plants while it's warming up. Saves 2.5 gallons per minute.
- Program dishwashers to skip pre-rinse and extra rinse cycles. Saves 2 to 4 gallons per load.
- Don't leave the water running while washing or rinsing dishes by hand. Saves 2.2 gallons per minute.
- Wash only full loads of laundry. Saves at least 15 gallons per load.
- Fix leaky toilets. Saves 30 to 50 gallons per day.
- Fix leaky faucets. Saves 15 to 20 gallons per day.
- Install aerators with flow restrictors on faucets. Saves more than 4 gallons per day.

For more information about water conservation, go to www.WaterSmartSD.org

FACTS ABOUT TODAY'S SENIORS BABY BOOMERS ARE TURNING 60 EVERY 7 SECONDS

It's no secret that the senior population ... in this country and around the world ... is growing and changing. Here are some interesting demographic statistics about the senior population:

- Half of adults, ages 65 and older, are on-line. 53% of American adults, ages 65 and older, use the Internet or e-mail. Once on-line, most seniors make Internet use a regular part of their lives. For most on-line seniors, Internet use is a daily fixture in their lives. Among Internet users ages 65 and older, 70% use the Internet on a typical day. (Overall, 82% of all adult Internet users go on-line on an average day. Pew Research)
- Seniors control more than \$7 trillion in wealth
- Represent 41% of all discretionary spending power (2.5 times the average of other age groups)
- Eat out an average of three times per week
- The best educated of any previous group
- The largest homeowner group
- Are physically able to relocate anywhere they select
- Deposit money in local banks
- Purchase 90% of long-term care insurance
- Own almost half of the credit cards in the US
- Account for more than \$610 billion per year in direct healthcare spending
- Account for 51% of all over-the-counter drug purchases
- Consume 74% of all prescription drugs
- Represent 65% of all hospital bed stays
- Represent 1.5 million residents in continuing-care retirement and assisted living residences
- Have tremendous political power

So ... what are you waiting for? Get involved! Your voice makes a difference. As of June 2013 there are 574,759 CalPERS retirees. There are 1,104,237 Active and Inactive CalPERS members for a total membership of 1,678,996 (taken from CalPERS, Facts at a Glance). By working together we can help shape the laws, policies, products and services that will profoundly affect the quality of our lives.

Statistics provided by: Pew Research, US Census Bureau, AARP, and CalPERS Facts at a Glance

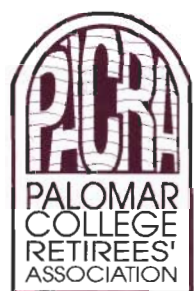
Observation

“The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do what you'd rather not.”

-American humorist Mark Twain (1835-1910)

PALOMAR COLLEGE RETIREES' ASSOCIATION

1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069-1487



The **PACRA Pacer**

STRENGTH FROM WITHIN

Strength, stability and wisdom come with time. Casa de las Campanas is the only Type "A" not-for-profit continuing care community in San Diego County.



Over the last 26 years, we've built a community of close-knit friends and neighbors. We've established services that make sense, amenities that make life so much more enjoyable, and a plan that makes tomorrow's worries fade away.

Come home to Casa, and enjoy.



Retirement living for the best years of your life!

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Casa de las Campanas is the only Type "A" not-for-profit continuing care community in the San Diego area. We're managed by Life Care Services™



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