



SAN DIEGO
CITY COLLEGE

2024-2025

ANNUAL REPORT

YOU BELONG HERE!





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YOU BELONG HERE!

THE HEART OF EAST VILLAGE

San Diego City College (SDCC) is located in vibrant, downtown San Diego in the neighborhood of East Village.. Our students come from all walks of life to create their personal pathways to a successful future in one of the most beautiful cities in the world.

Our faculty members are experts in their fields, and they choose to teach at City because they believe in our students and our college.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO THE KUMEYAAY NATION

SDCC acknowledges that we gather on unceded Kumeyaay land. We value Indigenous knowledge and cultural worldview. We commit to providing transformative educational experiences for all campus members and guests as we examine practices that perpetuate harm against Indigenous, Black, Brown, and other marginalized communities. We pledge to sustain a meaningful and respectful relationship with the Kumeyaay and other Indigenous communities as we honor this beautiful land together.

SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITMENT

SDCC welcomes and inspires every student to identify and pursue their community, personal, educational, and professional goals. We prioritize accessibility, equity, and social justice through student-centered support services and educational opportunities for global learning. We offer general education, associate and bachelor's degrees, transfer pathways, certificates, and career technical education for personal enrichment and economic mobility.

MISSION STATEMENT

SDCC welcomes and inspires every student to identify and pursue their community, personal, educational, and professional goals. We prioritize accessibility, equity, and social justice through student-centered support services and educational opportunities for global learning. We offer general education, associate and bachelor's degrees, transfer pathways, certificates, and career technical education for personal enrichment and economic mobility.

SDCC EXECUTIVE CABINET

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Vice President, Instruction

John Parker, DBA
Vice President,
Administrative Services

Marciano Perez, Jr.
Vice President, Student Services

Cesar Gumapas
Information Officer,
Communications

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of San Diego City College, it is my honor to present the 2024–25 Annual Report. This publication highlights the accomplishments and milestones that continue to shape our legacy of excellence and opportunity.

For more than 109 years, City College has provided high-quality, accessible education to hundreds of thousands of students. Our exceptional faculty and dedicated classified professionals remain steadfast in their commitment to helping every student achieve their educational and career goals. With more than 200 degrees and certificates, our programs reflect the diversity, creativity, and ambition of the nearly 15,000 students we serve each year.

Located on 60 acres in the heart of downtown San Diego's East Village, City College stands as one of the region's most dynamic centers of higher learning. We remain a leader in workforce development and transfer education, preparing students for meaningful careers and continued study at top universities across the nation.

The recently approved Measure HH construction bond marks a bold new era for our college. This \$3.5 billion voter-approved initiative will provide upgrades, renovations, and new facilities across the district. At City College, the first phase includes four major projects designed to strengthen the student experience and modernize our campus.

Affordable student housing will soon become a reality through a partnership with The Michaels Organization, with an expected 2028 opening. The Saville Theatre will be replaced with a state-of-the-art performing arts center. The A Building expansion will create a centralized Student Services hub, and athletics facilities will receive key upgrades to better serve both students and the community.

As we look ahead, City College remains deeply committed to equity, innovation, and student success. Together, we are building a stronger, more vibrant future for our students and our city.

You Belong Here!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ricky Shabazz'.

Ricky Shabazz, Ed.D.

President
San Diego City College

Photo: President Shabazz (center) with students at the 2025 Opening Day and Student Resource Fair event.



STUDENT SUCCESS

OVERCOMING THE ODDS

SDCC helped save Karin Angel.

A survivor of an abusive relationship who spent more than a year living in her car or on her grandmother's couch and who endured several nights in jail on assault-related charges, Angel found support, stability, and purpose at City College. She graduated with honors, earning an associate degree in sociology, and received a full-ride scholarship to the University of San Diego (USD). Now she hopes to return to City as a counselor to guide students overcoming their own challenges.

"I'm blessed to be at a campus like USD, but still, it's not like City," she said. "I don't think anywhere is like City. That's my home."

City College became Angel's home the day she returned to school after years away. During her first sociology class, Professor Jessica White learned that Angel had just been released from jail and encouraged her to call 211, a regional resource network for community and health support. White has mentored Angel ever since, including at USD, where she also teaches sociology.

"I would not be the person I am today if it wasn't for her," Angel said.

She also credits several programs that supported her success, including City Scholars, which helps justice-impacted students transition to college; the San Diego Promise, offering free tuition; Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS); Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS); and Yo Soy STEM, a culturally affirming pathway for Latina/o/x students in math, engineering, and science.

A pivotal moment came through a Yo Soy STEM internship teaching at Emerson Elementary in Southcrest. "It was amazing to see Black and Latinx kids come in thinking science is boring and leave believing they could be scientists," Angel said. The experience inspired her to pursue a career in education.

A first-generation college student with Salvadoran and Guatemalan roots, Angel grew up in City Heights and tested out of high school at 16. After her mother moved to Texas, she became homeless, alternating nights between her used Nissan Altima

and her grandmother's couch. Planning for the future seemed impossible until she reconnected with City College counselors and enrolled in Professor White's class.

Even then, transferring to a four-year university felt out of reach. Dr. Erin Charlens, Transfer Center Coordinator, encouraged her to apply for USD's Constance Carroll Trailblazer Scholarship, named for the San Diego Community College District's longtime chancellor. The scholarship honors students whose perseverance and commitment to social justice set them apart.

This fall, Angel began classes at USD, where her mother once worked as a maintenance employee.

"I give all the credit to God," she said. "He opened the doors, but City showed me how to walk through them."

Photo: Karin Angel at San Diego City College's commencement ceremony held at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

FOR THE LOVE OF SCIENCE

When Shane Haggard first set foot on the San Diego City College campus, he never imagined it would become his second home and the foundation of a successful career. Starting as a student, then serving as a campus lab tech, tutor, and adjunct instructor, Haggard now thrives as a tenured professor and chair of the Faculty Senate's Professional Advancement Committee.

A native of rural Alabama, Haggard earned dual bachelor's degrees in chemical engineering and medicine from the University of Alabama, Huntsville. He worked as a NASA contractor designing rocket engines and as a flight medic before visiting San Diego in 1997 and deciding to stay. An on-the-job injury as a firefighter and paramedic ended his first responder career, leading him to enroll in the City College Chemistry Program in 2001.

Two years later, tragedy struck when Haggard's partner died unexpectedly in an accident at their home. Grieving and unable to work, he faced an uncertain future until supportive City College faculty and classified

professionals stepped in to help, even taking up a collection to pay his rent.

"What kind of college reaches out to a student to do something like that?" Haggard recalls. "It's unheard of."

Encouraged by his City College family, Haggard completed his associate degree and transferred to San Diego State University, where he earned a bachelor's and later a master's degree in chemistry. After working as a quality control chemist, he returned to City College to teach.

"I went back to City because I wanted to give back to the college that had done so much for me," he said.

His students are grateful he did. Haggard consistently receives outstanding reviews on RateMyProfessors.com. "Lectures are engaging. He listens to students. Very outgoing," one student wrote. Another added, "He makes chemistry less intimidating and truly cares about his students."

Haggard's love of science extends beyond the classroom. He has hosted on-campus presentations on the science of superheroes and regularly appears as a panelist at Comic-Con, WonderCon, San Diego Comic Fest, and San Diego Who Con, connecting science with science fiction and fantasy. He also participates in panels exploring the scientific themes in the works of H.P. Lovecraft, one of his favorite writers.

"I've always been into science fiction and horror," Haggard told The San Diego Union-Tribune. "Growing up, I loved that Lovecraft included real science. And the science is excellent."

Reflecting on how it all began, Haggard smiles. "I blame this on my fifth-grade science teacher," he said. "She showed us a glowing chemical reaction in the dark. I was mesmerized. From that moment, I knew I wanted to be a scientist."

Photo: Professor Haggard (left) promoting the Science program to prospective and current students at San Diego City College's annual Open House event.



PROGRAM SPOTLIGHTS

DISABILITY SUPPORT PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Disability Support Programs and Services (DSPS) empowers students with disabilities through inclusive, accessible support. Led by longtime advocate Darren Walters, DSPS provides academic accommodations, personalized education planning, and self-advocacy training.

Specialized courses like DSPS 21 and DSPS 34 build confidence and independence, while the High Tech Center offers assistive technologies and one-on-one training. Whether starting college or preparing to graduate, DSPS ensures every student thrives. Scan the QR code to learn more.



BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN CYBER DEFENSE & ANALYSIS



The Bachelor's Degree in Cyber Defense and Analysis prepares students for high-demand careers protecting digital systems and critical infrastructure. Through hands-on training, real-world simulations, and industry-aligned coursework, students build advanced skills in cybersecurity, risk assessment, and digital forensics.

Expert faculty and partnerships with regional employers provide valuable mentorship and career pathways. Whether advancing in the field or starting a new career, graduates are equipped to lead in today's evolving cyber landscape. Scan the QR code to learn more.



TOP RANKED NURSING PROGRAM



The Nursing Program empowers future nurses with the knowledge, skills, and hands-on clinical experience needed to excel in today's healthcare environment. Guided by expert faculty and supported by strong hospital partnerships, students gain confidence in patient care, critical thinking, and professional practice.

With state-of-the-art labs, simulation training, and a compassionate learning community, City College prepares graduates to serve with excellence and empathy. Scan the QR code to learn more.



BY THE NUMBERS

FISCAL RESOURCES AND GRANTS

SDCC continues to manage its fiscal resources with transparency and a focus on student success. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the College oversees more than \$120 million across its funding areas, including \$55.7 million in General Fund Unrestricted and \$37.3 million in General Fund Restricted resources. These funds support academic programs, classified professionals, and essential student services that sustain learning and campus operations.

Financial aid remains a vital component of access and equity. In 2024-2025, City College students received more than \$37.6 million in financial assistance through the California College Promise Grant and other federal and state aid programs, helping students manage educational costs and continue their studies. Grant information for the fiscal year will be incorporated as it becomes available, reflecting ongoing efforts to secure external funding for innovation and student achievement.



General Fund Unrestricted	\$55,769,214
General Fund Restricted	\$37,349,676
Child Development	\$1,293,499
Special Revenue	\$178,150
Capital Outlay Projects	\$483,648
Trust and Agency	\$43,915
Student Rep Fee Trust	\$226,679
Scholarship & Loan	\$25,908
Associated Student Trust	\$226,452
Student Financial Aid	\$23,648,294
KSDS	\$1,262,480

Total \$120,507,915.00



CCPG (Formerly BOG)	\$6,179,719.20
Federal and State Aid	\$31,501,901.11

Total \$37,681,620.31



BY THE NUMBERS

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

In 2024-2025, SDCC awarded 1,430 degrees and certificates, including 1,039 associate degrees and 347 Associate Degrees for Transfer. The Top 5 Majors on page 10 demonstrate ongoing demand in Business, Biology, Transfer Studies, Computer Information Science, and Psychology.

Students enrolled in more than 59,000 UC or CSU transferable courses and 16,154 Career Technical Education courses, as shown in the Enrollment by Course graphic. Online learning remained a major component of instruction, representing 53 percent of all enrollments.

Data from the San Diego Community College District Facts on File Report on Academic Year 2024-25.

DEGREES & CERTIFICATES AWARDED

1,430
1,039 391



AA/AS DEGREES



CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT



BUSINESS



BIOLOGY



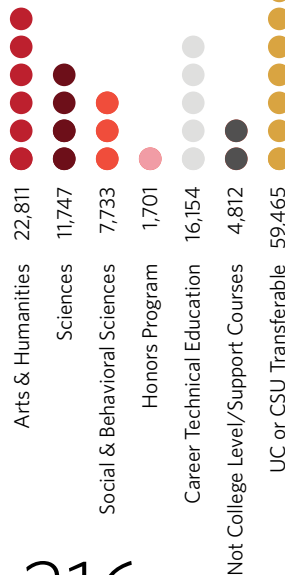
TRANSFER STUDIES



COMPUTER INFO SCIENCE

ENROLLMENT BY COURSE

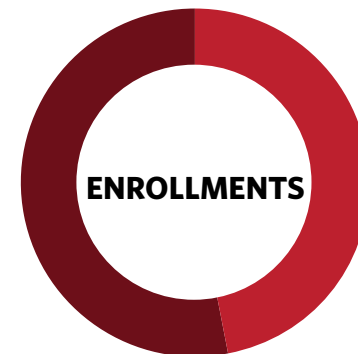
Categories are not mutually exclusive.



MODE OF INSTRUCTION

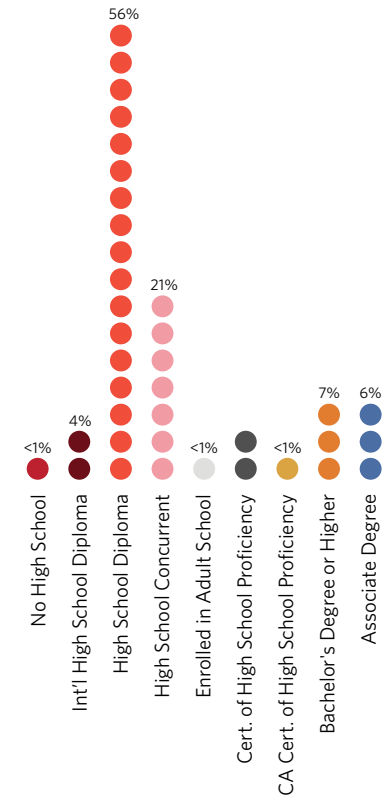
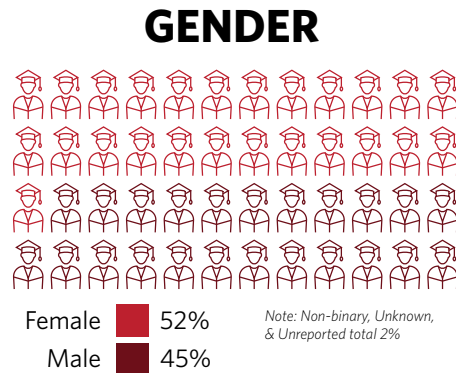


On-Campus 1,407 (55%)
Online 1,169 (45%)



On-Campus 29,573 (47%)
Online 33,684 (53%)

**RACE/
ETHNICITY**



39%



FIRST GENERATION STUDENTS

15%



MILITARY STATUS
(ACTIVE
DUTY, VETERAN,
DEPENDENT)

94%



**COURSE LOAD,
PART-TIME**
(FEWER THAN
24 CREDITS)

FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

A HALF CENTURY OF IMPACTING LIVES

Talk about trial by fire. Fresh out of graduate school, Theresa Savarese stepped into a business and economics classroom at Gerard Catholic High School in Phoenix, replacing a beloved instructor midway through the semester. The students, some from the city's most affluent families, were not shy about showing their displeasure.

"There were about four or five girls who just had it in for me from the beginning," Savarese said. "They even told me, 'We're going to break you.' I'd drive home crying. I was only 23, so I wasn't much older than them. Then you'd get these big senior boys who'd say, 'We'd like to ask the teacher out.' It was a hard time, but I still liked what I did, and I knew this was what I wanted to do."

That difficult start only strengthened her resolve. Now, more than 50 years later, including the past 35 at San Diego City College, Savarese is preparing to retire July 31, leaving behind a legacy of thousands of students whose lives she helped shape.

"It seems like all I ever wanted to do was teach," she said. "It just intrigued me. I really

thought I could make a difference in people's lives. And I hope I've done that."

Her colleagues agree. "She's an amazing friend and colleague, someone you could always go to for sound advice," said Shana Carr, City College accounting professor and department chair. "She has meant so much for so many."

Savarese's former students have gone on to become professional athletes, ministers, lawyers, business leaders, and educators.

Originally from Brooklyn, Savarese grew up in Bohemia, Long Island, before moving to Arizona as a teen when her parents decided they had enough of East Coast winters. She earned an associate degree from Phoenix College and bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Arizona State University.

Her first teaching job came in 1974 at Gerard Catholic High School. She later taught at Deer Valley High School and became Business Department Chair at Barry Goldwater High School, where she created Arizona's first networked computer

lab at a high school. Around that time, she began teaching night classes at Phoenix College and discovered her passion for the community college environment.

A spring break trip to San Diego in 1990 changed everything. On a whim, she stopped by the San Diego Community College District offices, learned City College was hiring, and soon accepted a position teaching Office Information Systems.

Over the next three decades, she taught a wide range of computer business technology courses and spent 12 years as Information Technology Department Chair. Her leadership helped City College become the first community college in California to offer a bachelor's degree in Cyber Defense and Analysis.

"It's been a wonderful career," Savarese said. "I'm so fortunate to have had the opportunity to be at City College for so long."



2024/25 HIGHLIGHTS



JULY 2024

SDCC welcomed its inaugural fall 2024 cohort for the campus's first bachelor's degree in Cyber Defense and Analysis.



AUGUST 2024

SDCC celebrated recipients of the Jim and Jan Sinegal Bright Start Award and the Jim Sinegal Presidential Scholarship, presenting ten \$1,000 scholarships and MacBooks.



NOVEMBER 2024

The Veterans Service Center hosted a panel where veterans share their stories and transitions to civilian life and completing their degrees.



JULY 2024

Treobytes Summer Camp brings kids ages 10-14 to City College for hands-on STEM fun with circuits, robotics, game design, and more.



SEPTEMBER 2024

SDCC celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with its Café con Colegas gathering, bringing students, faculty, and classified professionals together for coffee, culture, and community.



DECEMBER 2024

SDCC's Library and Mental Health Counseling hosted a "De-Stress at the Library" event with therapy dogs and ongoing relaxation activities for students.



FEBRUARY 2025

SDCC hosted community-building events celebrating Chicanx/Latinx, LGBTQ+, AAPI, and Black students, fostering culture, connection, and belonging across campus.



MAY 2025

SDCC celebrated its 111th Commencement, honoring 1,014 graduates earning degrees, certificates, honors, and recognizing 79 active-duty and veteran graduates.



NOVEMBER 2025

City College unveiled its first affordable student housing community with VR tours and speakers highlighting its transformative impact for students.



APRIL 2025

City College received an \$850,000 Rebuilding Nursing Infrastructure Grant to expand enrollment, strengthen student support, and upgrade simulation technology for its top-ranked nursing program, a major win for students and the community.



AUGUST 2025

SDCC hosted its first-ever TransferPalooza, a conference that helped students explore transfer pathways, connect with universities, and gain insider tips for success at Saville Theatre.



NOVEMBER 2025

The college celebrated the success of the inaugural Scholarships For Veterans event, which raised \$4,500 for each SDCCD campus.

Friends of Downtown San Diego



THE FOUNDATION

The San Diego City College Foundation continues to play a vital role in expanding opportunities and transforming lives across the campus community. Established in 1972, the Foundation was created through a partnership between San Diego City College and local community leaders who believed in the power of education. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Foundation serves as the college’s philanthropic arm and connects donors, partners, and advocates with the students who benefit directly from their generosity.

The Foundation helps students overcome financial barriers by awarding scholarships, funding essential programs, and supporting resources that promote academic success. Its impact includes expanding access to scholarships, strengthening food security efforts, and providing emergency assistance, school supplies, and technology that allow students to stay focused on their goals.

Through responsible stewardship and transparent reporting, the Foundation ensures that every gift is used thoughtfully. To support student success and make a meaningful difference, please scan the QR code to donate to the Foundation.

Photo: SDCC hosted its annual Friends of Downtown Big Give Scholarship Event in October, celebrating recipients and honoring a partnership that has supported students since 2000. Friends of Downtown remains the college’s largest single donor, providing more than \$900,000 in scholarships and awarding 32 scholarships in 2024, increasing to 38 in 2025.

SDCC FOUNDATION BOARD

Gerald Ramsey Chair	Charles Hopper Board Member
Delonda R. Peppers Vice Chair	Maurice Lyles Board Member
Bianca Elisa Guzman-Arellano, M.A. Secretary	Celina Martinez Board Member
John Parker, DBA Treasurer	Sylvia Ramirez Board Member
Christy Ball Board Member	John Rogers Board Member
Terrence Burgess, Ph.D. Board Member	Roxann Solis Board Member
Paulina Alexandra Gutierrez Cardenas Board Member	Anntonika M. Whittaker Board Member
Dotti Cordell Board Member	Ricky Shabazz, Ed.D. President
L. James Haddan Board Member	Erin Flanagan Director. Development and Entrepreneurship



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