



COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Jan. 18, 2011

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Dr. Edwin Deas, 760 773-2592
Vice President, Business Affairs
edeas@collegeofthedesert.edu
or Pam LiCalsi, 760 773-2508
Executive Director,
Institutional Effectiveness
plicalsi@collegeofthedesert.edu

COD Board Appoints Integrated Design Team for New Palm Springs Campus

PALM DESERT, CA—The Board of Trustees of College of the Desert (COD) has approved the appointment of an architectural integrated design team for COD's proposed West Valley Campus slated for 119 acres on the northwest corner of Tramview Road and North Indian Canyon Drive.

The team consists of Santa Monica architectural firm *HGA*, which is partnering with well-known local architect Lance O'Donnell of *o2 Architecture*, leading Coachella Valley firms *RGA Landscape Architects* and *MSA Consulting, Inc.*, and construction management firm *Sundt Construction, Inc.* Together, they will plan and design the self-sustainable campus that will serve the western valley cities of Palm Springs, Cathedral City and Desert Hot Springs.

HGA was one of seven firms that submitted proposals for the campus project.

COD President Jerry Patton said that he is pleased with the team's appointment because of their holistic approach to architectural design and their many years of experience in planning and designing energy efficient, sustainable campuses for colleges and universities.

"The self-sustainable vision and approach we've set for the West Valley Campus requires an integrated architectural design team that has the expertise, collaboration, creativity and leadership to turn this project into reality. *HGA* and other members of the design team, including the program management team of EIS Professionals at COD, have a strong and proven commitment to sustainability," Patton says.

He is particularly happy to see Lance O'Donnell on the team.

“Lance has a life-long connection to the desert because he grew up in the Coachella Valley, and he’s a respected leader in sustainable architecture, judging by the Platinum LEED residence he designed and built for himself in Palm Springs recently,” Patton says.

Besides educational programs, the West Valley Campus will feature commercially-operated facilities for research & development, business incubation of ‘clean technologies’ and a 60-acre “GreenPark” site where energy will be generated by a third party through photovoltaic solar systems.

Dr. Edwin Deas, COD’s vice president of business affairs, says that “integrated sustainability” will feature prominently in design, construction and operation of the West Valley Campus to address such issues as energy efficiency and reduction, water conservation, waste management, and renewable energy generation.

“One of the key guiding principles for the architectural integrated design team is to design a holistic operating campus that is compatible with desert ecology, is a net zero energy project, and one that produces more energy than we need,” says Deas.

“We’re planning a teaching and learning environment that’s environmentally and socially responsible, and economically viable through cost savings and reduced operating costs. There will also be health benefits for occupants of our buildings,” he adds.

The new campus is being developed with proceeds from bond sales authorized when voters approved Measure B by a huge margin in 2004. Measure B is a \$346.5 million bond issue that included a mandate to acquire sites and construct satellite campuses to serve the west and east portions of the Coachella Valley. The East Valley Campus in Mecca-Thermal opened in 2009.

The City of Palm Springs acquired the 119 acres on which the campus will be located from the Bureau of Land Management and recently transferred the land to Desert Community College District for College of the Desert’s new West Valley Campus.