



COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Jan. 27, 2011

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Indio Permanent Campus One Step Closer

PALM DESERT, CA—A permanent community college campus in Indio is one step closer to reality with the recent signing of a disposition and development agreement between the City of Indio and the Desert Community College District to establish College of the Desert's East Valley Campus in Indio.

The Indio campus represents the next phase of the East Valley Campus and complements the Mecca/Thermal facility, the first phase of which opened on Buchanan Street in 2009.

The Indio campus will be built on a 2.5 acre site in downtown Indio in a square city block bounded by Oasis Street to the west, Towne Street to the east, Requa Avenue to the south, and Civic Center Drive to the north.

Jerry Patton, president of College of the Desert, says that the new East Valley Indio Campus will consolidate all of the college's programs, classrooms and offices that are currently housed in temporary facilities in the Monroe Avenue Center and River Springs Charter School.

"The East Valley Campus, with sites in Indio and Mecca/Thermal, is part of COD's overall strategy to further our outreach to students and to contribute to economic development in the eastern Coachella Valley," Patton says.

Funding to build the Indio campus comes from Measure B, a \$346.5 million bond issue passed by a huge margin by Valley voters in 2004 to expand College of the Desert for future growth by renovating and growing the Palm Desert campus and to create new campuses in the east and west regions of the Coachella Valley.

Dr. Edwin Deas, COD's vice-president of business affairs, says that the collaboration between the City of Indio and College of the Desert will be good for revitalization of the downtown area, as well as economic redevelopment for the east valley region.

"The lease of our current site in Indio expires in 2013, and the collaboration between the City of Indio and the College will allow us to establish a permanent campus to support the community and students and to be a strong partner in the region's economic redevelopment plans," says Deas.

"In keeping with COD's policy on sustainability, the facility will be designed and constructed with the environment in mind and include features to achieve at least Silver LEED rating," he adds.

The building is being designed by gkkworks, a California based architectural firm with extensive experience in designing educational facilities. The facility is envisioned as a 40,000 sq. ft, three-story building with a ground floor breezeway that will separate educational space from 10,000 sq. ft. of retail space in the northern portion of the building facing Oasis Street, as requested by the City of Indio. The building will occupy the western portion of the site, on Oasis Street, and will maximize parking behind the facility.

The building will be designed with a modular dimension to create flexible spaces that allow for reconfiguration, as needed.

The first floor entrance will feature an atrium and an open concept lobby with multi-purpose space that could be used as a conference center or divided into four 44-student classrooms. A grand staircase, two elevators, and security office will be located in the lobby.

The atrium and open staircase will invite students and faculty to move through the building without the use of elevators. The building's narrow width will provide natural daylight in the corridors and interaction spaces.

The second floor will house five classrooms with 44-student spaces in each, an active learning lab, and administrative offices.

On the third floor will be five classrooms with 44-student spaces in each, an admin/staff lounge, student lounge, two laboratories with direct access to the roof for venting of fume hoods, and space for faculty.

Credit and non-credit day and evening classes will be offered, and students will be able to complete Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESLN) programs, an Associate in Arts (AA) in liberal arts degree, and transfer courses to four-year (CSU and UC) universities.

Educational services will include academic counseling, assessment testing, Math and English tutoring, and an Academic Skills Center (ASC) computer lab.

The Indio campus will accommodate approximately 3,000 students.

Design of the facility will be followed by the necessary state approvals including Division of the State Architect (DSA), which has to approve all community college building plans. Construction is anticipated to start in 2012, and the site is slated to be open for classes in the fall of 2013.

Site preparation and construction are expected to create approximately 350 jobs in the region.



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MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

College of the Desert – East Valley Campus, Indio

Vision for East valley Campus, Indio

The East Valley Campus, Indio is being designed by gkkworks, a California based architectural firm with extensive experience in designing educational facilities. The facility is envisioned as a 40,000 sq. ft, three-story rectangular building with a ground floor breezeway, separating educational space from 10,000 sq. ft. of retail space in the northern portion of the building facing Oasis Street, as requested by the City of Indio. The building will occupy the western portion of the site, on Oasis Street, and a 200-car parking lot will be located along Towne Street.

The building will be designed with a modular dimension to create flexible spaces that allow for reconfiguration, as needed.

First floor

The entrance to the campus will feature an atrium and an open concept lobby with multi-purpose space that could be used as a conference center or divided into 4 classrooms with room for 44 students in each. A grand staircase, two elevators, and security office will be located in the lobby area. The atrium and open staircase will invite students and faculty to move through the building without the use of elevators. The building's narrow width will provide natural daylight in the corridors and interaction spaces.

Second floor

The second floor will house 5 classrooms with 44 student spaces in each, an Active Learning Lab, and administrative offices.

Third floor

There will be 5 classrooms with 44 student spaces in each, an admin/staff lounge, student lounge, 2 laboratories with direct access to the roof for venting of fume hoods, and hoteling space for faculty.

Educational Programs

Credit and non-credit day and evening classes will be offered, and students will be able to complete Adult Basic Education (ABE) and English as a Second Language (ESLN) programs, an Associate in Arts (AA) in liberal arts degree, and transfer courses to four-year (CSU and UC) universities.

Educational services will include academic counseling, assessment testing, Math and English tutoring, and an Academic Skills Center (ASC) computer lab.

The Center will accommodate approximately 3,000 students.

Environmental Sustainability

In keeping with COD's Policy on Sustainability, the building will be designed and constructed with the environment in mind. The following features will be included to achieve at least Silver LEED rating:

- Strategies to utilize passive energy for hot and cold temperatures.
- Wall systems that minimize heat gain and loss.
- Deep overhangs on the south side to take advantage of the sun's summer and winter angles.
- Strategies to include alternative energy sources, water conservation, and wind protection measures.
- Construction waste management.
- Drought tolerant plant landscaping.
- Pervious paving.
- Reduced water consumption through low-flow fixtures.
- Reflective cool roof material to reduce building heat gain.
- Light pollution reduction.
- Motion sensor lighting systems.
- Natural light sources, daylight harvest and air ventilation systems.
- Low emitting materials.
- Green household products and procedures.

About College of the Desert

College of the Desert was founded in 1958 and opened its doors at the Palm Desert campus in September 1962.

As a two-year college, COD offers students an affordable option for starting college and transferring to a four-year institution. College of the Desert is the number one source of transfer students to California State University at San Bernardino. In addition to academic programs, COD offers a number of popular vocational and technical programs including Nursing and Health Sciences, Digital Design and Production, Turf Grass Management & Ornamental Horticulture, Advanced Transportation Technologies, Culinary Arts, and a full range of Administration of Justice Courses at the new Public Safety Academy training facility. Green technology programs are offered at the Desert Energy Enterprise Center on Micro Place, just south of Gene Autry in Palm Springs.

Facts & Figures

- College of the Desert offers over 1,000 classes in 89 different course areas in multiple locations throughout the Coachella Valley and online – the largest and most diverse course offering in the region.
- Each year, some 13,000 students enroll at College of the Desert – among the top ten largest community college student populations in California.
- Annually, COD awards more degrees and certificates than all other local higher education providers combined.
- In 2009, College of the Desert awarded 646 degrees and certificates.
308 students transferred to the California State University system.
56 students transferred to the University of California system.
364 students transferred to 4-year colleges.

- 33% of COD students are enrolled full-time, 52% are enrolled part-time, and 15% take non-credit courses.
- 56% of all College of the Desert students are women.
- 55% of all College of the Desert students are Hispanic.
- 41% of students are aged 18-21; the average age is 28.
- More than 70% of all students are the first in their family to attend college.
- Graduates with AA degrees or higher earn incomes that are 35% higher than those with high school graduation in the Coachella Valley.
- College of the Desert is an economic driver for the region and adds \$282 million annually in income to the Coachella Valley, representing 0.6% of the total Coachella Valley economy.

An investment in College of the Desert helps stimulate economic recovery, prepares workers for tomorrow's jobs and increases opportunities for employment. COD invests donations and contributions smartly in responsive academic and program growth, student support, scholarships and needed faculty and technology advancement.

Website: www.collegeofthedesert.edu