



# SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

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**FOR IMMEDIATE  
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## **Ceremonial groundbreaking marks construction start for new Science Building at San Diego City College**

*Project is on track to obtain prestigious Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification for green building*

SAN DIEGO – More than 80 faculty, staff, contractors and district dignitaries turned out January 20 to kick off construction of the latest instructional facility for San Diego City College – a \$57.2 million Science Building project that caps more than two decades of dreaming and planning for the state-of-the-art facility. The four-story building will house the Astronomy, Life Sciences and Physical Sciences programs, and will include multiple laboratories, science lecture rooms, teaching gardens, a rooftop observation deck and a planetarium.

“I recall when I first came to City College more than 10 years ago, in talking with the Natural Sciences faculty they would share their visions for the future and how, at some point, we would be able to build a single building for the natural sciences that would allow us to bring all of the programs that were scattered around campus into one state-of-the-art facility,” said Terrence Burgess, President of San Diego City College.



Pictured (l-r): Minou Spradley, Dean of Engineering & Technologies, Mathematics, Sciences and Nursing; Mary Benard, Vice President of Instruction; Michael Cash, President, Associated Students; Rich Grosch, President, SDCCD Board of Trustees; Constance M. Carroll, Chancellor, SDCCD; Terrence Burgess, President, San Diego City College; David Umstot, Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management; Awana Payne, President, City College Classified Senate; and Nancy Crispin, Chair, Physical Sciences Department.

Nancy Crispin, Chair of the Physical Sciences Department, praised the building design as representing a ‘turning point.’

“We can’t offer enough astronomy classes to satisfy the demand, and the new planetarium and labs will enable us to now do so,” said Crispin, a Chemistry professor. “To have labs equipped with up to date instrumentation that, in some cases, students have had to go elsewhere to get....that won’t be the case anymore. We’ll be able to develop new programs to make sure that our students are prepared to work in both a 21<sup>st</sup> century society and economy.”

“Just as the student body changes every year, every decade – everyday things are changing and this allowing us students to step into the 21st century and to step into the next level of learning,” said Michael Cash, president of City College’s Associated Students. “Every day technology progresses someone has to teach that and there has to be a proper place to learn those things.”

Designed by architects Harley Ellis Devereaux, the four-story Science Building will provide 98,978 gross square feet of new construction. It is on track to obtain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). It will be one of seven LEED-certified projects for City College, and one of 30 across the District. It includes a variety of sustainable features:



- The exterior is comprised of a fiber cement panel ‘rainscreen’ system which provides a waterproof membrane behind open joints. The gap allows for the circulation of air across the vapor barrier.
- Sunshade devices are used on the south elevation to reduce solar heat gain and glare.
- Light shelves harvest daylight which reduces energy demands from artificial lighting, and helps to reduce eyestrain and increase productivity.
- All windows utilize ‘high performance’ glass that allows sunlight to filter into the building, but reduces the amount of UV light and solar heat entering the building.
- All walls and roof areas are highly insulated, helping to conserve energy resources and making the building more comfortable by maintaining a healthy and uniform temperature.
- The landscape materials will include native and drought tolerant plants.

“You’re going to hear a lot about this building today in terms of its architecture and sustainability, but I look at it as an example of the cooperation and vision and courage that this district displays on a daily basis,” said Rich

Grosch, president of the SDCCD Board of Trustees. “We are making a difference to not only the students, the faculty and the staff, but transforming this community college district at every campus.”

Describing the day as one of “celebration for this wonderful project,” Chancellor Constance Carroll thanked the citizens of San Diego for making the new facility possible. “The citizens of San Diego love City College and the institutions of the San Diego Community College District so much that they have the confidence to impose a tax upon themselves to ensure that this bold vision becomes a reality.”

A ceremonial shovel, engraved with the date of the ceremony, was presented to President Burgess by Mike Conroy of Rudolph & Sletten, the construction manager for the project. Additional project partners include:

Structural Engineer – Stedman & Dyson Structural Engineers

Civil Engineer – Bureau Veritas N.A., Inc.

Fire Alarm & Security – Xnth Technology Design

Fire Protection – Protection Design & Consulting

Landscape Architect – Spurlock Poirier Landscape Architects

Propositions S and N Program Manager – Gafcon, Inc.

Campus Project Manager – Thomas J. Fine, CCM, JE Moore Consulting

Furniture, Fixtures & Equipment (FF&E) Project Manager – Tricia Hendrickson, Gafcon, Inc.

The project is targeting completion for June 2013.

Related Resources:

[San Diego City College Science Building Fact Sheet](#)

[Groundbreaking Ceremony Photos](#) (Facebook)

[Rendering and Instructional Model Images](#) (Facebook)

The \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program is providing new state-of-the-art teaching and learning facilities, major renovations and campuswide infrastructure projects at City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges and six Continuing Education campuses throughout San Diego. For more information, please visit [www.public.sdccdprops-n.com](http://www.public.sdccdprops-n.com). For high-resolution photographs or renderings, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (760) 705-6919 or [ukroemer@gafcon.com](mailto:ukroemer@gafcon.com).