



# SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College  
Miramar College • Continuing Education



## MEDIA ADVISORY

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## San Diego Mesa College breaks ground for new Student Services Center

*State-of-the-art facility is on track for LEED Silver green building certification; energy efficiency exceeds state requirements by 38%*

Before a crowd of approximately 175 students, faculty, staff and special guests, a ceremonial groundbreaking was held to mark construction of the [Student Services Center](#) at San Diego Mesa College.

“Our vision for this important facility was focused on fulfilling students’ dreams,” said Dr. Barbara Kavalier, Vice President of Student Services for Mesa College. “We dared to imagine when a student walked through the open doors of the new Student Services Center she would enter an environment, that, with her first step, would ignite the learning process. She would know immediately that this was place where she belonged, where she could get all the support services needed to be successful in college.

“The new Student Services Center is all about using space to make connections of the human kind,” she added.

The celebration and groundbreaking marks the culmination of more than four years of design and extensive collaboration among students, faculty, staff and the architectural team. The \$55.7 million project provides a new four-story, 85,000 SF building and central location for student services on



Getting ready for the ceremonial "scoop" are David Umstot, Vice Chancellor Facilities Management; Constance M. Carroll, Chancellor; Rich Grosch, President, Board of Trustees; Elizabeth Armstrong, Interim President, Mesa College; and Leslie Bruce, Member, Citizens' Oversight Committee. [View downloadable gallery here.](#)

campus, including Admissions, Financial Aid, Evaluations and Testing, Counseling, Student Government, Disabled Student Services, and Information and Outreach. It is the latest SDCCD project funded by Propositions S and N.

“This building is a testament to our ability to meet our commitments to the voters who approved both propositions S and N,” said Elizabeth Armstrong, Interim President, Mesa College. “All of us here are grateful for the confidence placed in us by the voters.”

Designed by Architects Hanna Gabriel Wells, the Student Services Center is on track to obtain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification from the United States Green Building Council (USGBC). It includes a number of unique features:

- All of the departments are arranged around an open four-level atrium, where students can interact with each other and the various departments.
- Each floor opens up onto a series of outdoor terraces that move up the hillside from the lower parking lot to the upper campus. A grand stair connects the upper and lower plazas to form a bold new campus entryway.
- The colors of the building relate to the colors and textures of the trees that cover the hillside slopes adjacent to the project, connecting the building to its location on campus and creating a vibrant point at the new north entryway to the campus.
- Projected energy savings of 340,000 kWh annually are 38% better than state requirements.
- Water-efficient plumbing, irrigation and landscape will result in a water savings of 40% on the building use and 50% on landscape.
- The project will include materials and finishes that include recycled content, attention to Indoor air quality and the use of natural daylight

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