



**SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY  
COLLEGE DISTRICT**

City College • Mesa College  
Miramar College • Continuing Education



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

April 25, 2011

**Media Contact:**  
Ursula Kroemer  
Communications Director  
Propositions S & N Construction Program  
(760) 705-6919  
[ukroemer@gafcon.com](mailto:ukroemer@gafcon.com)

### **“Topping Out” of Student Services Center at San Diego Mesa College**

*Construction milestone marks placement of the highest primary structural element;  
45’ long beam weighs over 3,200 lbs.*



**What:** Topping Out Celebration for Mesa College Student Services Center

**When:** **Thursday, April 28, 2011, 11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.**

**Where:** Staging area is located at [Student Parking Lot #1](#), San Diego Mesa College, 7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego 92111-4998.

**Background:**

A “topping out” marks the point when a structure’s highest element is hoisted into place ; in this case, a 45’ beam weighing 3,268 lbs. The practice started in Scandinavia over 1,000 years ago . Upon reaching the highest point, workers traditionally put into place a small evergreen tree as a symbol of good faith and good luck.

In keeping with this longstanding construction tradition, the final horizontal beam – one of approximately 900 used for the [Student Services Center](#) - will be painted white and made available for construction crewmembers, campus and district

dignitaries to sign before it is lifted into place along with an evergreen tree and American flag. A 550-ton crane will hoist the beam into its final position. ([See video of steel erection](#))

The \$45.6 million Student Services facility will be a four-story, 85,000 gross square feet building for student support and academic achievement services. The building will house Admissions, Financial Aid, Evaluations and Testing, Counseling, Student Affairs, Associated Student Government, Disability Support Programs and Services, and Outreach. It will include classrooms, an Academic Skills Center, a café, and a new express elevator between the lower parking lot and the upper campus.

### *By The Numbers*

700 tons of steel  
36 truckloads for delivery  
883 pieces of steel  
Largest beam weighs 8,850 lbs.  
\$3.8 million worth of steel  
30-day steel erection duration

All of the departments are arranged around a [four-level atrium](#), where students can interact with each other and the various departments in a single location. Each department opens into the atrium without doors, encouraging students and department faculty to engage each other without barriers.

Each floor opens up onto a series of outdoor terraces that move up 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.

The building is design to meet LEED Silver certification. Projected energy savings of 340,000 kWh annually are 35% 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 Student Services Center is one of eight projects currently under construction as part of the \$1.555 billion Propositions S & N construction bond program, providing for new instructional and career training facilities, major renovations, parking, public safety enhancements and infrastructure projects at City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges and six Continuing Education campuses. To learn more, please visit <http://public.sdccdprops-n.com/Pages/sdccd.aspx>.

#### **Visuals/**

- Signing of the steel beam

#### **Media Availability**

- Lifting of the steel beam into place with evergreen tree and American flag
- Construction crew, district and campus leaders, students, others
- 240-foot steel crane

#### **Project Partners**

- **Architect:** Hanna Gabriel Wells Architect
- **Construction Manager:** PCL Construction
- **Civil Engineer:** Snipes-Dye Engineering
- **Electrical Engineer:** Michael Wall Engineers
- **Mechanical Engineer:** McParlane and Associates
- **Landscape Architect:** MLA Design Studio
- **Propositions S and N Program Manager:** Gafcon, Inc.

For high-resolution renderings, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (760) 705-6919 or [ukroemer@sdccd.edu](mailto:ukroemer@sdccd.edu).