



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education



MEDIA ADVISORY

September 1, 2010

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“Topping Off” of Library Learning Resource Center at San Diego Miramar College

*Construction milestone marks placement of highest structural element;
25’ long beam weighs over 475 lbs.*



What: Topping-off ceremony for Library Learning Resource Center (LLRC)

When: **Friday, September 10, 2010, 9:00 – 9:45 a.m.**

Where: Staging area is located at [Student Parking Lot #2](#), San Diego Miramar College, 10440 Black Mountain Road, San Diego, CA 92126

Background:

A ‘topping off’ marks the point when a structure’s highest element is hoisted into place; in this case, a 25’ beam weighing 475 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 vertical beam – one of approximately 1,700 used for the Library Learning Resource Center (LLRC) - 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 165-ton crane will hoist the beam into its final position.

The \$37.4 million LLRC will be a three-story, 100,000 square feet facility which will include a new library, state-of-the-art classrooms and computer labs, tutoring services, a media production facility and faculty and staff offices and work spaces. Construction began in December 2009, and is expected to be completed October 2011. The building is designed to obtain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC), and includes a number of sustainable features:

- Design maximizes both daylight and views to the outside, increasing user comfort and productivity, and reducing the need for artificial light.
- All windows use "high performance" glass that allows sunlight to filter into the building, but reduces the amount of UV light and solar heat entering the building
- Extensive use of construction and design materials made with recycled content
- Materials are locally produced or harvested, and will produce little or no chemical fumes
- High efficiency plumbing and electrical fixtures
- Light colored roofing, concrete paving and canopy-type trees reduce the heat absorbed and re-radiated from the building and site
- A rooftop deck will provide gathering space and area for future solar photovoltaic panels
- Trees and shrubs have been selected for their compatibility to the area, to provide shade and to minimize the need for water
- A high efficiency irrigation system uses reclaimed water, and utilizes a controller that adjusts itself to local weather, resulting in significant water savings
- Diversion of at least 75% of construction waste from local landfills

By The Numbers

955 tons of steel
 55 truckloads for delivery
 1,700 pieces of steel
 Largest beam is 33' x 141' and weighs
 6,800 lbs.
 \$3.9 million worth of steel
 Steel phase takes approx. 135 days

The Library Learning Resource 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. The LLRC is flanked by the future Arts & Humanities and Business & Mathematics buildings, also built as part of Propositions S and N.

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, Citizens' Oversight Committee members, students, others
- 240-foot steel crane

Project Partners

- Architect: Zagrodnik + Thomas Architects
- Construction Manager: Sundt Construction
- Mechanical Engineer: M.A. Engineering, Inc.
- Electrical Engineer: Michael Wall Engineering
- Civil Engineer: Burkett and Wong
- Landscape Architect: Wimmer Yamada and Caughey
- Propositions S and N Program Manager: Gafcon, Inc.

For high-resolution rendering, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (760) 705-6919 or ukroemer@sdccd.edu.