



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education



NEWS RELEASE

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Renovation of Historic Aviation Center at San Diego Miramar College Takes Off!

*Remodeling timing coincides with high demand for aviation technicians;
On track for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification*

SAN DIEGO – With jets flying overhead from neighboring Marine Corps Air Station Miramar to provide timely background music, nearly 100 people gathered to celebrate the start of a major renovation of the San Diego Miramar College Aviation Center; the 40-year home to the region’s only FAA-approved aviation maintenance technology program and a vital career training program within the San Diego Community College District.

“It’s time for a face-lift! It’s time to prepare to serve the aviation industry for the next 40 years,” cheered Dr. Patricia Hsieh, President of San Diego Miramar College.

The original aviation facility, built in 1971, will undergo a retrofit of existing classrooms and lab space, and include new classrooms for a total of 15,300 square feet to support degree and certificate programs in aviation maintenance technology. Workforce trend data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics indicates demand for aircraft mechanics and technicians will increase 10% through 2016.

“The key to Miramar’s success, particularly in respect to career technical vocational education is that Miramar really follows the industry closely. You take your



Pictured L-R: Terrie Hubbard, Vice President, Classified Senate; Daphne Figueroa, President, Academic Senate; David Buser, Chair, Aeronautical and Aviation Department; Rich Grosch, President, SDCCD Board of Trustees; Patricia Hsieh, President, San Diego Miramar College; Constance Carroll, Chancellor; Wheeler North, Professor, Aviation Maintenance Technology; David Umstot, Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management.

lead from the aviation industry and you really are a true partner with the industry,” said Dr. Constance M. Carroll, SDCCD Chancellor. “A remodel of a top flight facility is every bit as important as a new construction project, especially when it serves the best aviation technical facility in Southern California, and provides opportunities for students to get jobs in an ever-changing industry.”

“You hear a lot about career training, and that is what we’re all about here,” said Rich Grosch, President of the SDCDD Board of Trustees.” This building is important because these programs are giving our students a career path. We’re putting people to work.”

David Buser, Chair of the Aeronautical and Aviation Department at Miramar, said the programs become very personal for his students. “I make it a point to take them aside and remind them that the next time you’re working on that airplane, you have to think about the face that you and your family might be flying that very plane one day, or as a pilot, you may be in that very cockpit.”



The \$10.2 million project is on track to obtain a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold certification by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) – one of 10 LEED-certified projects built or planned at Miramar and among 30 across the District. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2012.



It is being funded by the SDCCD’s \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program, providing for new, state-of-the-art instructional and career training facilities, major renovations, infrastructure projects, parking, public safety and ADA enhancements at City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges, and six Continuing Education campuses located throughout San Diego.

For more information, please visit www.public.sdccdprops-n.com. For high-resolution renderings or photographs, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (760) 705-6919 or ukroemer@gafcon.com.