



# SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College  
Miramar College • Continuing Education



## NEWS RELEASE

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## San Diego Miramar College Celebrates Newest “Green” Classroom Buildings

*Classes previously held in 40-year-old bungalows;  
projects are first to be fully integrated in 3D building information modeling*

SAN DIEGO – Big, bright and beautiful were echoing themes for the February 22 grand opening celebration of Miramar College’s two newest classroom buildings – the Humanities & Arts building and the Math & Business building.

A swath of drought-tolerant turf sparkled an almost unnatural emerald green in what was unveiled as the new Compass Center on campus. Nearly 60 students, staff and faculty – all wearing bright crimson t-shirts with the compass theme honoring Miramar’s aviation history – lined the walkways connecting the new buildings with the new quad. Each held a 10 foot length of satiny red ribbon ready to be tossed into the air upon the ceremonial ribbon-cutting.



Performing the ceremonial ribbon-cutting are (L-R) San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) Trustees, Bill Schwandt, Maria Nieto Senour, President of the Board of Trustees Rich Grosch, Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh, and SDCCD Chancellor Constance Carroll.

Even the actual scissors were bigger than life – a 3’ long oversized pair with a big red bow and an intimidating slice.

“Right now on each side of us, San Diego Miramar College Arts and Humanities and Business and Math students are learning in state-of-the-art classrooms.

These new classroom buildings and their more than 80,000 square feet of new instruction space take it up a notch!” said Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh.

“We are very privileged to be teaching in these facilities,” said Paulette Hopkins, Dean, School of Business, Math and Science. “When you get an opportunity to tour the buildings this afternoon, I think you’ll see why we really believe we’re lucky, honored and privileged to be teaching here.”

“This is wonderful to see that the academic core of Miramar is not only built out with one of the finest groups of faculty you can find, but the finest collection of facilities to match the caliber of those faculty members,” said Constance Carroll, Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District.

The Arts and Humanities Building consists of approximately 45,000 square feet of new construction for the English, Visual Arts, Music, Speech and Foreign Language programs. The building includes “smart” classrooms equipped with computers, audiovisual and multimedia equipment, a 60-seat tiered lecture theatre, a recording studio, studio space for drawing, painting and ceramics, and related office space for faculty and staff.



The Business and Mathematics Building consists of approximately 45,000 square feet of new construction including new “smart” classrooms, six new business computer labs, a mathematics research center and related office space for faculty and staff.

The buildings were the first in the construction bond program to be fully integrated in Building Information Modeling (BIM), a cutting-edge tool that allows architects, engineers, builders and owners to construct a building in digital space before constructing it in real space.

In addition to the investment in education, the new buildings also generated an investment into the local workforce. “We’re our own stimulus package for San Diego,” said Rich Grosch, President of the Board of Trustees for SDCCD. The project generated nearly 500 jobs for local builders, professional services providers and subcontractors; prevailing wage jobs enabling workers to provide for their families.

The \$34.4 million dual classroom building project was funded by the San Diego Community College District’s \$1.555 billion Propositions S and N construction bond program, which is providing new teaching and learning facilities, major renovations, and campuswide infrastructure projects at City, Mesa, and Miramar Colleges, and six Continuing Education campuses throughout San Diego. All construction and major renovations included in the bond program are designed and built to obtain the highest possible Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. Designed by NTD Architecture with construction management services provided by Sundt Construction, the Humanities & Arts and Math & Business buildings are on track to obtain a LEED Gold certification. Sustainable features include:

- Sloped roofs provide north-facing clerestory windows (a band of narrow windows along the very top of a high wall, allowing light to filter into adjacent spaces) and south-facing photovoltaic panels.
- The design includes efficient thermal “massing,” which delays the transfer of heat throughout the course of a day, and minimizes the impact of a heating or cooling load on a building. Heavy materials such as concrete, brick and stone can all be used to achieve thermal massing.
- 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.
- Recycled materials, high efficiency lighting, plumbing and mechanical systems are used throughout.

**Project Partners:**

- **Architect:** NTD Architecture
- **Construction Manager:** Sundt Construction (CMMP project)
- **Structural Engineer:** Wiseman + Rohy Structural Engineers
- **Electrical Engineer:** Michael Wall Engineering
- **Mechanical Engineer:** DCE, Inc.
- **Compass Center Designer and Landscape Architect:** Wimmer Yamada & Caughey
- **Propositions S & N Program Manager:** Gafcon, Inc.
- **Campus Project Manager:** James Bray, Gafcon, Inc.

To obtain high-resolution renderings and/or construction photographs, please contact Ursula Kroemer at (760) 705-6919 or [ukroemer@gafcon.com](mailto:ukroemer@gafcon.com).