

General Information

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Section I General Information

History of the College

The history of Palomar College is rich in tradition, educational achievements, and personalities. In 1946, Dr. Daniel C. McNaughton, the first president of the College, said, "Palomar College will provide the first two years of regular four-year college course work in order to meet the requirements of students whose ambitions include university training. It will also provide a two-year liberal arts education, leading to the Associate in Arts degree for students who wish to secure a broad cultural education, but who do not necessarily plan to attend a four-year college or university. It will offer a wide variety of training programs in many of the semi-professional and vocational fields represented in the industrial, mercantile, and agricultural life in San Diego County." The history has been documented in a 636-page book, **Palomar College Golden Jubilee: 50 Years of Excellence**, published in 1995. Copies of the book are available in the Palomar College Bookstore.

On January 15, 1946, registered voters in the Vista Unified School District, the Fallbrook Union School District, and the Escondido Union High School District voted 714 to 417 in favor of establishing a "junior college" in the North San Diego County area. At that time there were only 4,525 registered voters in the three school districts, and 1,131 of these individuals cast ballots on January 15. In those days, the Escondido District included the geographical areas which are now contained in the San Marcos and Poway Unified School Districts.

Under state law, the San Diego County Superintendent of Schools appointed five persons as members of the first governing board for the new College. Their first meeting was held February 27, 1946. At subsequent meetings that year, the board selected a name for the College and agreed that classes would begin September 23, 1946, on what then was the Vista High School campus, between the hours of 3:30 and 10:00 p.m. That site is now occupied by Lincoln Middle School in Vista.

The name "Palomar" was chosen because the College was located fairly close to Palomar Mountain, where the California Institute of Technology was completing construction of what was to be the world's largest telescope. Most of California's two-year colleges, including Palomar, are now called "community colleges," rather than "junior colleges."

The governing board hired a director, a dean of students, and nine faculty members--seven men and two women--to teach courses in science, mathematics, music, art, social sciences, commerce, English, physical education, and foreign languages at the new College. Exactly 100 persons were enrolled on the first day of classes, and three days later, the total had climbed to 198--108 men and 90 women. This total did not include carpentry apprentices or agricultural students in the Veterans' Vocational Agricultural course that started two weeks later. Over the next 55 years, College enrollment grew steadily until it exceeded 27,000 full-time and part-time students in 2000-2001. During the summer of 1949, after three years of operation at Vista High School, the College moved to its present 200-acre campus in San Marcos. As the North San Diego County population continued to grow, more and more classes were scheduled in other locations. Those locations with the largest numbers of classes and students were called "education centers," and include: Escondido, Fallbrook, Ramona, Mt. Carmel, Camp Pendleton, Pauma Indian Reservation, and Borrego Springs.

To this day, Dr. McNaughton's general description is still true.

Vision

Learning for Success

Mission

Palomar College is an educational leader committed to quality learning. We provide our community the knowledge, information, skills, and aesthetic appreciation necessary to live responsibly, effectively, and creatively in an interdependent and changing world.

Values

Palomar College is a learning community dedicated to achieving student success and cultivating a love of learning. We strive to improve performance and outcomes based on evidence. To provide the highest quality learning and cultural experiences, we are guided by our core values of

- Achieving excellence in teaching, learning, and service;
- Fostering integrity as the foundation for all we do;
- Providing access to our programs and services;
- Celebrating diversity in people, philosophies, cultures, beliefs, programs, and learning environments;
- Supporting inclusiveness of individual and community viewpoints in collaborative decision-making processes;
- Promoting mutual respect and trust through open communication and actions;
- Supporting innovation to enhance and enrich learning environments and services.

Educational Philosophy

The educational philosophy of Palomar College is based upon belief in the value of the individual and belief in the individual's potential for intellectual, ethical, personal, and social growth. Only through growth in these areas can a citizen come to understand personal rights.

The fundamental assumption of the democratic way of life is the intrinsic worth of the individual. This assumption thus becomes the main principle of public education.

In order to become an effective member of a democratic society, an individual should participate in a free exchange of ideas. Only within a democracy is the individual assured the freedom for such an exchange and for self-realization consistent with the freedoms and opportunities of others.

By providing equal opportunities for all, the community college helps its students to realize their potential. Thus their talents become more readily available to the community, and their participation in society becomes more effective.

Governing Board and District Policy

In accordance with its designated function as a policy-making body, the Governing Board of the Palomar Community College District creates the policies by which the district operates, subject to the Education Code of the State of California, all rules prescribed by the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, and all federal statutes. Board policy may be changed, subject to the Education Code of the State of California, only by action of the Governing Board through a majority vote of its members.

The Governing Board schedules its regular open meetings in the Board Room on campus at 5:00 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Meetings are open to the public.

Palomar College Foundation

Since the 1950s, the Palomar College Foundation has helped provide supplement public funding for college programs and activities. Over the years, the Foundation has provided funding for the swimming pool, a harpsichord for the Performing Arts Department, a trailer for tutorial groups, facilities for the Child Development Center, furniture for the Student Center, renovation for the Library, curtains for the Theatre, and many, many scholarships for deserving students.

With the support and generosity of the community, the Palomar College Foundation has secured over \$15 million in designated and undesignated funds which are support student learning, educational programs, scholarships and capital equipment. Yet, every year as state budgets shrink, the needs of our community grow.

Won't you consider making a contribution? We welcome the support of individuals, families, and businesses who want to help fulfill the mission of Palomar College, the vision of our community and the hopes of thousands of students and families who need our help. For more information or to be added to our newsletter mailing list, please call the Advancement Office, (760) 744-1150, ext. 2733.

Policy On Diversity

Palomar College recognizes and appreciates the benefits of a diverse campus community and values the individual distinctions of its staff and students. In support of its goal to encourage students to examine their own and other heritages through multicultural and interdisciplinary programs, Palomar College seeks to provide positive role models for all students and recognizes that diversity in the academic and vocational environment fosters cultural awareness, mutual understanding and respect, harmony and creativity.

Palomar College offers equal educational and employment opportunities regardless of group identification, national origin, religion, age, sex, race, color, ancestry, sexual orientation, or physical or mental disability. It is the policy of the College that, unless exempted by statute, every course offered and maintained by the District shall be fully open to enrollment and participation by any person who has been admitted to the College and who meets the stated prerequisites for the course.

The District's policy of non-discrimination covers admission, outreach, educational programs and activities, facilities, access to course offerings, counseling, financial assistance, employment assistance to students, health and insurance benefits and services, athletics, textbooks and curricular material, and employment.

Limited English speaking students who are otherwise eligible will not be excluded from any vocational education program.

Spanish Translation

Los estudiantes elegibles para entrar en el programa de educacion vocacional no pueden ser excluidos debido a su ingles limitado.

Vietnamese Translation

Nhung hoc-sinh neu hoi du cac dieu-kien phu-hop vao nhung chuong-trinh giao-duc huan-nghe se khong bi tu khuoc boi ly do trinh-do Anh-van kem.

Designation of Responsible Employee as Title IX Coordinator

The Assistant Superintendent/Vice President, Human Resource Services, Administrative Services Building, room A-1, (760) 744-1150, ext. 2531.