

NEWS

Summer 2017

Accreditation Reaffirmed

At its annual meeting June 7-9, 2017, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the regional accrediting agency that evaluates two-year colleges in California, took action to reaffirm San Diego Miramar College's accreditation for seven years through 2024.

In a letter from ACCJC Interim President Richard Winn, the Commission reaffirms that San Diego Miramar College has provided evidence that it continues to be in compliance with accreditation standards, policies and eligibility requirements. The full letter can be found [here](#).

"With the entire college's involvement in preparing for the 2017 College's Self Evaluation Report (SER) and Accreditation Team visit, ACCJC's action to reaffirm the College's accreditation for seven years is a confirmation of the College's commitment to student access, equity, and success," said San Diego Miramar College President Dr. Patricia Hsieh. The College's Self-Evaluation Report (SER) can be found [here](#).

As part of the regular seven-year evaluation cycle, a visiting team from the ACCJC reviewed the college's comprehensive Self-Evaluation Report (SER) and interviewed dozens of San Diego Miramar College faculty, staff and students during its campus visit March 13-16 of 2017.

Upon completion of that visit, San Diego Miramar College received 13 commendations from the visiting team in March 2017 and 8 recommendations for improvements. Campus leadership has moved swiftly to address the recommendations by the visiting team.

The next report due from the College will be the Midterm Report in spring 2021.

U-T Reader's Poll Recognition

Thanks to an aggressive social media campaign, and your help voting, San Diego Miramar College has been recognized as a San Diego Favorite in the Best College's



category in the 2017 San Diego Union Tribune Reader's Poll. The full list of winners will be published August 27 in the U-T. We had some stiff competition after being grouped with USD, SDSU and UCSD.

Transfer Student Headed to Yale

Twenty-four year old Miramar College graduate Summer Lee admits to not taking her education very seriously as a student at Torrance High School. "I wasn't very passionate about education back then, and admittedly, I didn't put forth much effort," said Lee. Not the type of statement you'd expect to read from a soon to be Ivy League student.



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Fast forward 6 years and Lee has been accepted to Yale University as an Eli Whitney Student after completing an associate of arts degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences this past May at San Diego Miramar College.

The Eli Whitney Students Program is designed for individuals with high academic potential who have had their education interrupted, at some point during their educational careers, for five or more years. Yale accepts between 2 and 9 Eli Whitney Students a year. In Lee's case, she graduated high school and pursued a career in the Marine Corp ascending to the rank of sergeant. After 4 years and a deployment to Afghanistan and Qatar as a comptroller, Lee enrolled at San Diego Miramar College. "I was not from San Diego, but through research, I became aware of the high transfer rate and incredible support Miramar College provides to its student veterans," said Lee.

While at Miramar College, Lee used that support to excel in her studies posting a perfect 4.0 GPA. She also served as the treasurer for the Student Veterans Organization and used the College's Vets-2-Jets program to assist with the purchase of textbooks.

This fall she will enroll at Yale and begin pursuit of her bachelor's in economics hoping to start a non-profit organization to help veterans excel in academia. "After Yale, I'd like to go to business school and earn my MBA. I am also excited to pursue an internship next summer with Goldman Sachs as an analyst."

Lee learned about the Eli Whitney Students Program while attending the Warrior Scholar Project at Harvard while stationed at Camp Lejeune in North Carolina. The one-week academic program assists veterans transitioning from the military to college. "It is such a great honor to be accepted into the Eli Whitney Student Program and I believe my military service played a crucial role in this transition. My time in the Marine Corps served as a sufficient preparatory period to gain confidence in my academic abilities. I owe most of my academic success to the Marine Corps and its leaders who shaped me into the student-veteran that I have become today. Additionally, I feel very lucky to have met such incredible staff and faculty during my two years at Miramar College and Mesa College. They work tirelessly to ensure academic success of their students and deserve every ounce of praise and recognition."

Lee will spend this summer touring the country until she

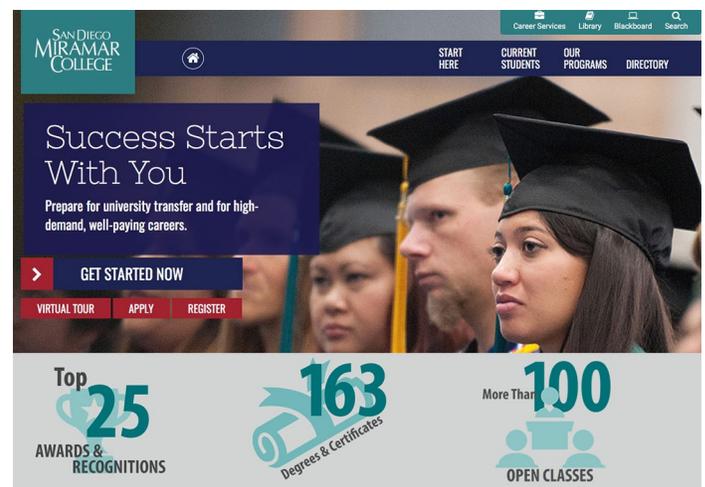
begins classes at Yale in August. "I'm excited to continue my academic journey at Yale and a bit nervous about the transition." The San Diego Union Tribune published a feature story on Summer in their July 25 edition. You can read the story [here](#).

New Website Launches

Miramar College debuted its new website on July 25. The website rebuild was a lengthy process that involved feedback from all constituency groups, quantitative analyses, and an outside consultant. The finished product can be found here at sdmiramar.edu.

We understand change can be difficult, but we are excited about some of the new features of the site, like its mobile friendliness. This will give our students "on the go" better access to the information they need.

The new website was designed to be more student-friendly, allowing for more streamlined pathways for students to find the information they need.



It is important to note for this roll-out that only higher level webpages were upgraded. In the coming weeks and months, Dean Miramontez's office will work diligently with the rest of the college to fix any bugs and update content. This means that lower level webpages will be upgraded within the new website template.

In the meantime, we really appreciate your patience during this collaborative process. If you identify any issues, please email Kurt Hill (and cc Daniel Miramontez) so they can be tracked and resolved.

Students Present at JPL

Miramar College students were invited to present their STEM research projects, in the field of Microcontrollers and



Robotics, at the NASA JPL Poster Symposium and Field Trip on August 17. Fourteen students attended along with Gina Bochicchio. NASA covered all costs for the students, including transportation to JPL in Pasadena. This was a great opportunity for Miramar College students to showcase the hard work they have put into their research this spring and summer, as well as the opportunity to do some networking with professionals in STEM career fields. In addition, 11 students in the group each received a \$600 scholarship. The students made a dry run of their presentations as part of a flex activity on August 14 in the new science building.



Aviation Department Adds Plane

The newest member of the Aviation Department is this Cessna 172, pictured above. It joined the Miramar College family over the summer and is stationed at Montgomery Field. The plane was purchased with funds from the recent strong workforce initiative grant. It will be used primarily by the Aviation Maintenance students and Pilot Ground School students among others.

Strong Workforce Featured in U-T

The College's effort to use Strong Workforce funding from the state was featured in an August 19 San Diego Union-Tribune article. Click [here](#) to read the article.

Bus Wraps/Billboards

Perhaps you noticed MTS Miramar College buses rumbly through campus. The College entered into a partnership with Coastal Media and MTS to advertise on the side of 8 buses. The buses started rolling onto their routes on July 19. The advertising deal goes through January. This same ad is also hanging above eastbound Miramar Road near the 805 in the form of a billboard.



Vets-2-Jets Grant

On May 26, the College received a \$7,500.00 grant from San Diego Gas & Electric to continue to fund its successful Vets-2-Jets program.

To date, the Vets-2-Jets program has provided services to over 200 Veterans. During the Spring 2017 semester alone, the Vets-2-Jets program assisted 58 Veterans purchase textbooks for their classes.

San Diego Miramar College created the Vets-2-Jets program to remove the financial barriers that negatively impact the academic success of disabled Veterans. Through the career placement center, the program is able to assist Veterans, who have a 20% or greater VA disability rating, with text book assistance, laptops for loan, and at times help with utility bills, housing and transportation needs. The funds are also used to sponsor on-campus movie nights and

BBQ's for all Veterans. To date, the Vets-2-Jets program has provided services to over 200 Veterans.

Professor and Student Honored

In June, Rosvelia Hernandez, a Paralegal student at Miramar College, received the Wiley W. Manuel Pro Bono Certificate, named after California's first African-American Supreme Court Justice. This honor is awarded annually to students and/or professor's who contribute 50+ volunteer hours to low-income people. Adjunct faculty member Dovie King was also awarded the same honor. Ironically, Hernandez was a student of King's in her Bankruptcy Law class. The award is presented by the Legal Aid Society of San Diego. The duo also received the Outstanding Service Award for legal contributions. Rosvelia did her volunteer work at the new Bankruptcy Clinic, while King did hers at the Domestic Violence Restraining Order Clinic. "I am very proud of Rosvelia and think it is remarkable that professor and student share the same honors," said King.

Promise Scholars Orientation

This semester, Miramar College College is scheduled to welcome 120 new San Diego Promise Scholars to campus. On June 21, 79 of the new Promise Scholars were on campus for orientation. The half day event allowed for the students to meet with peer mentors, explore career interests and network with others. Several students were able to meet with a counselor to set up an educational plan.



Jets Jump Start

One-hundred and six incoming students attended the College's annual Jets Jump Start program hosted by the Outreach Office on Saturday, July 15. Jets Jump Start is designed to be a final opportunity before Fall registration begins for students to learn about the matriculation process, how to register for classes, how to use Reg-e, locate classes



and resources, and to get a better sense of the college experience from fellow students.

There were club presentations and student panels to provide insight on what to expect from fellow Miramar College students and on how to get involved beyond the classroom.

Mary DeLeon, branch manager from Wells Fargo also provided support by facilitating a financial literacy workshop for students. Wells Fargo also provides book grants to qualified students each semester. Professor Wilhelm attended to provide support for the Miramar Business Club and speak about some of the programs available to students.

Petti To Appear in Documentary

Professor Kevin Petti spent another summer lecturing in Italy, and while there, he was interviewed as a subject matter expert for a documentary being produced by Chinese Central Television. Petti will be featured in an eight-part documentary called 200 Years of Surgery. The CCTV film crew spent an entire day shooting Petti lecture inside the world's oldest permanent anatomy theatre (1594) at the University of Padua. The documentary is slated to release late 2017. From September 1-3, Petti will be in London acting as the Senior Scientific Consultant and General Coordinator for North America, for the International Congress on Anatomic Wax Modeling.



Business Club Attends "Play 4 SAY" Event

On July 27, five student officers from the Miramar Business Club joined approximately 55 other teams as a participating sponsor in the annual "Play 4 SAY" fund raising event held at Liberty Station in San Diego. Teams competed in rounds of Bocce, Corn Hole, and Ladder Golf games. The event



Photo: Standing L-R: Angela Lammi, Shelly Lofy, Madison Dodd, Michelle Malham, James Ngo, David Wilhelm

was attended by 300 guests representing businesses in the local community who collectively raised nearly \$40,000 in support of the mission of SAY San Diego which is to “empower youth, adults, families, and communities to reach their full potential.”

“The student members of the Miramar Business Club embrace every opportunity to contribute and give back to our local community in support of our valued partnership with SAY San Diego” said assistant professor of Business, David Wilhelm. “We are pleased to once again participate in this valuable opportunity to serve the community.”

Business Club Receives US Bank Grant

The Miramar College Business Club received a \$1,500 grant from US Bank for program support of the entrepreneurship initiatives planned by the members of the student organization.

The Miramar College Business Club will apply the grant toward a scholarship that will allow for its members to support a community based project. Details on the scope of the community project will be determined at a later date.

Convocation Recap

Another successful Convocation took place on August 17. President Hsieh updated the College on the progress that was made over the last 12 months. Daniel Miramontez, Naomi Grishman, Gerlad Ramsey, Paulette Hopkins and Brett Bell updated the crowd gathered in L-105 on the progress made in institutional effectiveness. The overarching theme centered on the 8 recommendations handed down in the recent accreditation report. Kurt Hill and Bill Smith showed off the new website. Three other presentations focused on tools of engagement, online tutoring, and flexible schedule for classes and services.



QUICK HITS



Solar Eclipse Draws Big Crowd

The solar eclipse on the first day of school drew quite a crowd. Students, staff and faculty lined up 300 deep on Compass



Point to get a glimpse. CBS 8 sent a crew to cover the viewing party. Click [here](#) to view the coverage on the 5 o'clock news!

Student Scores Big on MLT National Exam

Miramar College student Jimmy Guo scored 883 in the MLT National Board Exam over the summer. That is at the top 0.3% of examinees nationwide, and the top score for the Miramar College MLTT program. Guo would like to thank Professor Wayne Cherry and Professor Carolyn Matthews for all their guidance.

Hoefert Attends SkillsUSA Competition

Miramar College student Julian Hoefert took part in the SkillsUSA Diesel Skills Competition held June 21 and 22 in Louisville, KY. After two days of stiff competition, the 21 year-old placed 24th, but enjoyed the experience.



Conners Attends Mira Mesa High School Graduation

James Conners, adjunct counselor, who teaches at Miramar College attended Mira Mesa High School graduation in June. Conners was present to support several students graduating who completed his Personal Growth 120 class this past year.



Credit by Exam

Nearly 300 students from the San Diego Unified School District were on campus on June 1 to take their credit by exam for Biology 131-Intro to Biotech. For those who passed, they each received 4 units of college credit. In addition, passing the class and exam gives them 5 points towards their high school GPA.



CC Daily Spotlight

The College was spotlighted by the American Association of Community Colleges during the week of July 17. Click [here](#) to read the spotlight.

PEOPLE

Margarita Sanchez is the new administrative secretary, effective July 1st. Margarita has worked in the Office of the Vice President of Instruction since spring 2015.

Jessica Aguilar and **Robyn Kabonaizi** have been selected as senior student services assistants for the Miramar College Admissions & Records Office. Jessica and Robyn have held various positions of increasing responsibility within Student Services during their respective years of employment with the San Diego Community College District and we are fortunate they have chosen to join the Miramar College family.



Professor **Donnie Tran** to the Academic Success Center as faculty coordinator for Academic Success (formerly The PLACe). Effective July 1st, Donnie will be our permanent faculty coordinator overseeing all tutoring and tutoring related activities in the Academic Success Center.

Former Miramar College professor **Helen Webb** passed away June 28. Professor Webb taught business courses here in early 90's through 2008 and taught pro-rata in subsequent years. She was actively involved in many campus functions including serving as the college curriculum chair for years, as well as a representative on the Academic Senate.

Katinea Todd retired after 20 years of service. Her last day in the VPI Office was June 30. Aster Keleta retired on August 18 from the VPI Office.



Dorothy Hawthorne, wife of longtime Miramar College Foundation Board member, **Tom Hawthorne** passed away on July 3.

The couple had just celebrated 69 years of marriage. Click [here](#) to read her obituary.

Dr. **Jacqueline Honda** resigned from her associate dean position and accepted a position as the Dean for Institutional Effectiveness at Skyline College.



Jonathan Kropp is the College's new Deputy Sector Navigator (DSN) for Advanced Transportation and Renewable Energy. Jonathan spent the last eight years working on regional economic and workforce development grants at Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District. During Jonathan's time with Grossmont-Cuyamaca he was awarded over \$6 million in grants, which were mainly focused on renewable energy, energy efficiency, and sustainability.

EVENTS

Want to know what's going on?

Check "all" or search by category in the Master Calendar: Athletics, Civic Center Activities (campus rentals), Community Events, Hourglass Complex, Internal College Activities, Student Activities, Student Services at www.sdmiramar.edu/calendar.

Stay informed...

Committee agendas, minutes and reports can be found at www.sdmiramar.edu/campus/governance. College Executive Committee (CEC) meetings are open to all interested parties.

Add/Drop/Refund Deadline

September 1

Women's Soccer at Ventura Tournament

September 1 & September 2

Men's Water Polo vs. Rio Hondo

September 2 • Aquatic Center

Women's Soccer at Cerritos

September 5 • 4pm

CalFresh Event

September 6 • 10:30am-2:30pm • K-1 Student Services Building

Women's Soccer vs Cypress

September 8 • 3:00pm • Hourglass Field

Men's Water Polo at Citrus College

September 8 • 1:00pm

Men's Water Polo at Mt. SAC

September 9 • 8:00am

Chancellor's Forum

September 13 • 2:30-3:30pm • Room L-105

Women's Soccer at Mira Costa

September 19 • 3:15pm

Pass/No Pass Grade Deadline

September 22

Women's Soccer vs Mt. San Jacinto

September 22 • 1:00pm • Hourglass Field

Women's Soccer vs San Bernardino

September 26 • 3:15pm • Hourglass Field

Men's Water Polo vs. Southwestern

September 27 • 3:30pm • Aquatic Center

Women's Soccer at Palomar

September 29 • 3:15pm

Men's Water Polo at Saddleback Invitational

September 29 • 9:00am & 12:40pm

Men's Water Polo at Saddleback Invitational

September 30 • 4:10pm