

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

ROOM TO GROW. ROOM TO DREAM.

EXPANSION PLAN OVERVIEW

College of the Desert (COD) is in the midst of tremendous growth. Last year, COD was the second fastest growing community college in California. This year the College graduated its largest class in history, and future years are expected to see even greater success as enrollments continue to grow.

To meet the increasing demands for higher education and training, College of the Desert is planning to place a bond measure on the ballot in November 2016. This bond measure is part of an overall plan to strengthen the main missions of the College: give students the skills they need to be prepared for a successful career or transfer to four-year universities.

Room to Grow. Room to Dream.

In 1962, when the college opened its doors, 500 students were enrolled; today, even with improvements in recent years, the campus struggles to find enough space for the more than 14,000 students currently attending and clamoring for classes.

There is a direct relationship between having enough classrooms and labs and being able to offer key classes at times when students need them. A majority of our student population is part time – at least in part because students cannot access the classes needed to commit to a full-time schedule. This leads to unnecessary delays in graduation, transfer and entry into the workforce.

Today, with its largest graduating class having just received their diplomas, College of the Desert is once again being

asked to grow. The bond measure will allow us to meet that goal and address a backlog of needs and projects which are not able to be funded with current or projected future revenues including:

- Upgrading nursing, first responder, law enforcement, job and career training classrooms
- Expanding career and support facilities for veterans and military
- Improving and expanding science labs, electrical systems, and computer technology
- Repairing leaky roofs, bathrooms and disabled accessibility
- Acquiring, constructing and repairing facilities, sites and equipment

Securing Our Future Workforce

Funding for community college facilities is the responsibility of each individual college district. Past bond measures have allowed for some of the most needed expansion, repair and modernization needs, but there are significant needs remaining if we are to meet the needs of a growing student population and a skilled workforce.

To save resources and maximize space, COD has and will continue to partner with other local governments as well as community, education and business partners to share costs and resources. California State University San Bernardino – Palm Desert, the McCallum Theatre, local cities and the Marriott Corporation are all COD partners.

COLLEGE OF THE DESERT

ROOM TO GROW. ROOM TO DREAM.

EXPANSION PLAN OVERVIEW

The bond measure will provide critical capital funding which will allow the College to expand, modernize and prepare for the future, including providing funding to:

1. Add classrooms to meet student demand.
2. Modernize academic classrooms, labs and student support spaces.
3. Expand the Veterans Resources Center to increase counseling and support services to military veterans and their families.
4. Construct science and technology labs.
5. Increase instructional space for job-training programs.
6. Build new University Centers to bring high demand bachelor's degree programs to our campuses in partnership with leading 4 - year universities.
7. Expand and rebuild existing facilities on the Palm Desert campus to provide for a one-stop jobs and career placement center to better connect students with employers and vice versa.
8. Repair, renovate and/or replace deteriorated roofs, ceilings, floors, windows, doors, and hardware.
9. Expand Campus Technology. Upgrade and/or expand classroom and systems technology, core infrastructure, backup power supply, networking and wireless capacity and connectivity to modernize technology and/or support distance learning.
10. Improve earthquake, security and fire safety. Upgrade and/or expand security lighting, fire protection systems, fencing, alarm systems, video surveillance and door lock systems.
11. Modernize Public Safety Training Center, including improvements to classrooms, job training facilities for public safety professions such as fire science, criminal justice, search and rescue, and emergency responders.
12. Provide facilities for continuing education of fire, police, emergency responder and other public safety job training. The Center will have technology, equipment, and space to serve as an Incident Command Center during local emergencies, wildfires, and other natural disasters.
13. Improve Disabled Access. Upgrade classrooms, buildings, grounds, and facilities to improve accessibility for persons with disabilities, and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
14. Improve Campus Energy Efficiency. Modernize, upgrade and/or construct deteriorated energy management systems, interior and exterior lighting controls, geothermal systems, heating and ventilation (HVAC) systems, and systems with more energy efficient models/systems.
15. Secure millions in state matching funds that otherwise will be lost.

Fiscal Accountability

- All bond funding will benefit COD campuses and cannot be taken away by the state.
- Proceeds from the sale of the bonds authorized will be used only for the acquisition, construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of school facilities.
- No funds will be used for any salaries for any employee at the college.
- The expenditure of bond money is subject to stringent financial accountability requirements. By law, performance and financial audits will be performed annually, and all bond expenditures will be monitored by an independent citizens' oversight committee to ensure that funds are spent as promised and specified.