

Remarks from College of the Desert Superintendent/President Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D.

Good Afternoon. Thank you for being here – joining us today are alumni, foundation board members, faculty, staff, administrators and College of the Desert Board Members – Trustee Bonnie Stefan, Trustee Fred Jandt, Trustee Mary Jane Sanchez-Fulton, Trustee Aurora Wilson, and our student Trustee Arturo Delgado.

On behalf of the Board, faculty, staff, students, alumni, friends and supporters, I am pleased to share the very good news that we now own this site, can finalize our facility plans and look forward to construction of the Palm Springs Campus.

We are thrilled that we were able to reach agreement to purchase this property, and are excited about getting started.

The ability to relocate College of the Desert's newest campus to the center of Palm Springs represents an unprecedented opportunity for our students, business partners and community.

As one of the fastest growing community colleges in California, the Board continues to be committed to offering programs and classes tied to growing industry sectors and close to where our students live and work.

This location for our campus will help us continue to meet the educational demands of tomorrow's students and produce the highly skilled work force that is the engine of our economy.

The unique partnership opportunities available to us in Palm Springs align perfectly with the four educational/workforce pillars planned here.

- Digital Media and Film
- Hospitality and Culinary Arts
- Healthcare
- Sustainable Technologies

All four of these industry sectors are integral to the regional desert economy and we know education and training are the keys to a job, career and a better life for our students and a skilled workforce for local business.

We are grateful to our civic, education and industry partners that have long been committed and continued to support the shared vision for this campus. Faculty and staff are looking forward to using their expertise and industry knowledge to create a campus that is unlike any other.

The advantages of this location are obvious —

- Easy access to public transportation on existing bus routes,
- Adjacent to Palm Springs High School, Sunrise Park with multiple athletic fields, an Olympic-size pool, and the Palm Springs Public Library.

Thank you to our advocates and supporters at the City of Palm Springs and Palm Springs Unified School District.

The location also provides exciting opportunities for collaboration with partners like the

- Palm Springs International Film Festival,
- DIGICOM,
- The Camelot Theatres,
- The Coachella Valley iHub, and Accelerator Park.

Our healthcare, energy and hospitality partners will continue to be important partners in the development of programs and facilities to serve our students and the community here.

None of this would be possible without your support – your investment in our college and in our students’ success is what drives everything we do. The Board of Trustees, the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee and I promise that we will continue to be good stewards of that investment.

Abraham Lincoln said, “The best way to predict your future is to create it.” We look forward to creating this new Palm Springs Campus as a shining example of the vision, innovation and dedication that brought us to this moment.

We are deeply appreciative of the support of each and every one of you. I can’t wait to get started.

About College of the Desert:

Established in 1958, College of the Desert (COD), located in Palm Desert, is an accredited community college serving eastern Riverside County, California. The College leads the region in providing quality, higher education, technical training and lifelong learning opportunities, in response to the dynamic needs of our diverse community. The College serves more than 15,000 students each year and is the number one source of transfer students to California State University, San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus. For more information, visit www.collegeofthedesert.edu.