CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM: More than 2.6 million students are enrolled annually in the state’s 112 community colleges, making it the world’s largest system of higher education. Desert Community College District is one of 72 districts statewide.

THE DISTRICT: College of the Desert was formed by a vote of the people in 1958. COD is within the Desert Community College District, which covers 4,120 square miles. It encompasses three K-12 school districts and portions of three counties: Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial. The District consists of the main COD campus in Palm Desert and the Eastern Valley Center in Indio, and the Eastern Valley Campus in Mecca/Thermal. In addition, the Western Valley Center operates classes in Palm Springs and Desert Hot Springs. A permanent West Valley site is planned for Palm Springs. The college also offers classes online.

ENROLLMENT: For Fall of 2011, head count was 10,412 students, reflecting more than 31,700 enrollments. Traditionally, 70-80% of these students are the first in their family to attend college. One out of every 23 persons in the population of the district attends COD during the year. Students range in age from teenagers to seniors; 45 percent are ages 18-21 years old and 15 percent are 30-39. Students can attend classes during the day or night, or both. The ethnic profile of the student body in Fall 2011 was 25 percent White, 57 percent Hispanic, 4 percent African American, 4 percent Asian, 2 percent Filipino, 1 percent American Indian, and 7 percent responded “unknown or other.” More than half the students, 55 percent, are female. One in four students attend College of the Desert full-time or take 12 or more units of study.

FEES: Students pay $46 per unit of study. The typical class is three units. Students also pay a $20 parking fee per semester and a $14 health fee. A nurse for students is available on campus during all hours classes are offered.

FACULTY: The District employs 130 full-time faculty members, counselors, and librarians. Most full-time academic faculty possess a master’s degree and some hold a doctorate. The District also has 299 adjunct instructors, many of whom are employed in the field in which they teach.

PROGRAMS: Students can fulfill a variety of educational goals, including earning a two-year Associate of Arts (A.A.) degree or an Associate of Science (A.S.) degree; then transfer to the University of California or California State University systems or to private institutions; earn certificates in occupational programs; or take classes for personal enrichment. Program areas include:

- Administration of Justice
- Agriculture
- Air Conditioning/HVAC R
- Architecture/Environmental Design
- Art
- Automotive Technology
- Advanced Transportation Tech
- Business
- Communication
- Computer Science
- Culinary Arts
- Digital Design and Production
- Early Childhood Education
- Emergency Medical Tech
- English
- Fire Technology
- Foreign Language
- Health Science, Nursing
- Kinesiology
- Liberal Arts
- Mass Communication
- Mathematics
- Music
- Sciences
- Social Sciences
- Theatre Arts

BUDGET: The unrestricted general fund (regular operating fund) 2012-13 fiscal year budget is $37.3 million, which includes reserves of 15% or $5.6 million.

ATHLETICS: A full range of men’s and women’s sports activities are offered through College of the Desert including: baseball, basketball, cross country, fencing, football, golf, soccer, softball, tennis, and volleyball. Many of the Roadrunner teams have won national, state and conference titles.

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**ECONOMIC IMPACT:** COD’s economic benefit to the Coachella Valley has been calculated at $337 million annually, according to a 2004 study. The economic impact report was issued by Dr. Michael Bazdarich, a noted regional economist, who based his findings on a study of earning power of COD graduates and those who enter the workforce with college credits or certificates designed to enhance their careers. The study was conducted prior to the approval by voters in 2004 of a $346.5 million bond issue which will fund a capital improvement campaign at COD for the next decade. This construction is expected to have enormous economic impact on the region.

**COURSES:** COD offers about 1,000 classes each semester in approximately 91 different program areas. The college offers 42 Certificates, 23 Non-Transfer Degrees and over 40 Transfer Degrees. During the 2011-12 academic year some 640 graduates earned AA or AS degrees from COD.

**CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MILESTONES:** DCCD is a cultural asset to the communities within the district. The College offers award-winning performances each year in dance, theater, and music. Student artists and photographers also have opportunities throughout the academic year to display their work on campus and in regional art shows. The District is involved in a variety of cultural and economic development activities which improves the quality of life in the community as well as strengthens the District's academic offerings. For example, the District has:

- Conceived and worked to establish the Bob Hope Cultural Center/McCallum Theatre.
- Offers a major theatrical production performed at the McCallum Theatre and several additional Performing Arts productions annually.
- Established the Child Development Center, accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which provides affordable childcare for the children of students, college staff, and community members, while providing a model early childhood education program and laboratory for COD students.
- As part of COD’s School of Applied Science and Business, the PaCE, Partnership and Community Education Program, provides professional development, workforce training, and personal enrichment opportunities that contribute to the success and vitality of its partners, clients and learners.

The PaCE program builds partnerships with the Coachella Valley business community to help equip potential employees and incumbent workers with the skills necessary to meet their current and emerging needs. Over 60,000 participant hours of training are delivered annually through PaCE programs.

- Established the Desert Energy Enterprise Center (DEEC) in Palm Springs. The Center is preparing skilled workforce for the emerging utility-scale renewable energy industry in our region. Over 300 job seekers and current workers are expected to receive training in the solar, wind, and energy efficiency fields this year.
- Established the Multi-Agency Library on the Palm Desert campus, in conjunction with the city of Palm Desert and the Riverside County Public Library system. The library offers students state-of-the-art facilities and technology.
- COD is an open-access college emphasizing a wide range of college and pre-collegiate courses as well as certificates, degrees and transfer programs.