

CCconnections

Fall/Winter 2009

The design of the learning environments in the new facility enhances the educational programs and supports active collaboration.



 post-consumer, recycled fiber

Collaboration Beyond the Classroom

Through the inclusion of local industry leaders, the Nursing and Health Sciences Complex at College of the Desert addresses the region's severe nursing shortage by training the next generation of nurses.

When the School of Nursing at College of the Desert, Palm Desert, Calif., first opened its doors in 1968, there was room for just 18 students. Today, in a new, state-of-the-art facility, the program accommodates more than 240 full-time students, thanks in part to the College's strong ties to regional healthcare leaders and a highly participatory, community-centered planning process.

In 2004, voters in the Desert Community College District voted overwhelmingly to pass a local bond measure, enabling the College to renovate its 40-year-old campus and expand for future growth. The School of Nursing, untouched since 1968, was ready for its transformation.

According to Dean Leslie Young, "An advisory committee was formed in the early stages of planning to determine community and program needs. Involving community member user groups and taking field trips to other successful nursing skills labs really helped to gather the information we needed to program a successful facility."

With a 2,500-healthcare-worker shortage projected for the next five years in the Coachella Valley—the home of College of the Desert—the new complex, which opened in December 2008, helps to address the area's severe nursing shortage. "We continue to meet with CEOs from local medical centers once a semester to better understand their needs," says Dean Young. "The growth

of our programs can be credited to the strong relationships we've cultivated with our community and industry leaders," she added.

Because of the partnership with nearby California State University, San Bernardino, Palm Desert campus, students are able to take coursework at College of the Desert and easily transfer to the University to earn their four-year degree.

"The hospitals and community continue to be overwhelmingly supportive," says Dean Young. "Our advisory committee that was formed in our planning and programming phases continues to be active and will help us evolve the program to better address student and community needs."

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HMC
Architects



A Conversation with Fred Harris

As the Assistant Vice Chancellor of College Finance and Facilities Planning at the Chancellor's Office, Fred Harris has a lot to say about the state budget crisis, planning initiatives, sustainability programs, and FUSION.

With today's economic climate, what advice would you give districts regarding facilities planning?

Remember this: Don't lose heart due to the current budget mess; and stay the course doing necessary facilities planning and construction on your campus. While there's a lot of disheartening news about state budget cuts to the operational side of districts, that hasn't dampened demand for Community Colleges and the need for new and improved facilities. We are now at 2.9 million students annually. Our campuses continue to experience increases in demand for classes despite the recent rise in fees from \$20 to \$26 per unit and cutting of class sections due to the budget reductions.

Demand in this economy continues to be strong for Community Colleges, not only for those who are seeking transfer to four-year schools, but also for those needing "basic skills"

education—either due to deficiencies in their secondary education or lack of language skills or other barriers—and career tech/workforce education. Lots of people are either out of work and/ or need to improve their job skills in this ever-changing economy. Studies project that "Y generation" students will have more than a dozen different careers during their working life. Educating and preparing that workforce is so important for the long-term sustainability of our economy.

To further illustrate this point, 65 of our 72 districts have passed \$22.8 billion in local bonds approved by voters since November 2000, when Prop 39 lowered the voter approval threshold for local bonds from two-thirds to 55 percent. In fact, in November 2008, there were nine local Community College bonds on the ballot, and they all passed to the tune of more than \$5 billion—how's that for confirmation of demand!

So when it comes to facilities planning, in what areas do you think districts should be focusing their attention?

There is an ongoing need for up-to-date educational and facilities master planning on our campuses. It is imperative that each campus master plan reflects the varied and changing demographic and economic priorities of their community. The more the plan continues to address those priorities, the more successful a campus will be now and into the future in fulfilling its educational mission.

There also needs to be greater effort on our campuses to mitigate global warming, your carbon footprint, and greenhouse gases. There's a city in the East Bay that developed and began to implement what they thought was a viable plan for addressing their greenhouse gas impacts, well ahead of most other municipalities in the state. However, they are being sued by the State Attorney General because their plan was deemed to not go far enough. Our system's sustainability efforts go a long way to help mitigate greenhouse gas impacts; however, a lot more than just facilities contributes to the carbon footprint, and a lot more needs to be done, and done soon.

Transportation is an area that needs greater attention relative to greenhouse gas mitigation. When you look at a campus' carbon footprint, over two-thirds of that footprint is generated from transportation. One remedy we are pursuing is a partnership with the statewide Student Senate to secure an online carpooling program at each campus

"It is very important for campuses to adhere to the state standards for space when planning facilities. This will ensure that campuses will be eligible for state capital outlay funds when they become available."





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for students and staff. The company offering this service utilizes Facebook to match riders to drivers. It also takes care of all the marketing and management of this online system, and has built in several safeguards to protect the safety of students.

What other opportunities related to facilities should districts be aware of?

We’re into the next phase of our partnership with the state’s four investor-owned utilities (Pacific Gas & Electric, Southern California Electric, Southern California Gas, and San Diego Gas & Electric), which cover 80 percent of the state. Our first three-year phase for 2006–08 is now over. Even though we accomplished a lot of energy-efficiency benefits for our campuses through this initial partnership, an area of major concern is that we left \$12 million of the \$20 million provided to us from the utilities unspent.

Since districts need to partner with specialists to be successful, is there any advice you can give to our readers on how to best partner with your department?

Learn as much as you can about FUSION, because we have designed FUSION to be that constant factor for the system in a sea of ever-changing personnel—in our office, at the districts, and with design and construction consultants. The more you know about FUSION, the more you will understand our system’s processes and “culture.”

It is essential to have more rather than less communication as you partner with your Chancellor’s Office facilities specialist. Get to know your facilities specialist, reach out to them, and don’t hesitate to share your knowledge—which is highly valued by our staff as being essential to get your project completed on time, within scope, and within budget.

There are a lot of districts who are more active in capital outlay than others; some I’ve heard recently are not enthusiastic about participating in the program or developing IPPs or FPPs for the perceived reason that there’s no money.

What advice would you give to those districts?

The glass can either be half empty or half full. I like to look at it as overflowing. And if you don’t ask, you don’t get. If you’re not willing to ask, you’re creating a self-fulfilling prophecy that you won’t get anything. And if that’s the result you want, then we can accommodate you, because there’s more demand out there than there is money; there are numerous other districts willing to have your district’s share of the state bond dollars.

I can truly appreciate the concern due to the current economic climate to not seek state funding on projects. All the delays and complications with

the budget and the Pooled Money Investment Account has had a major impact on districts. It has been extremely disheartening and beyond inconvenient for all involved. I fully believe there will be a 2010 state bond for higher education facilities. We have an awesome, pent-up demand due to no state bond in 2008. There’s a bill in the Legislature, SB 271 Ducheny, that includes \$4.1 billion for Community College facilities over four years. Some choose to predict a bond won’t happen because debt service on existing state debt is high or the state’s fiscal situation is in shambles. However, I believe that the chances for a state bond in 2010 outweigh those issues, because there is demand for education, especially Community College education, and this economy needs the relief to keep it on the path of recovery that public construction can bring.

HMC Welcomes



David Maglaty, AIA, LEED AP

An award-winning architect, David has joined HMC Architects as a senior project designer. He is well known for his ability to work with user groups and has successfully led teams through the design process on a variety of higher education projects, including buildings for the University of California at Berkeley and Santa Cruz.



Mitchell De Jarnett

Mitchell, a published designer with projects in Europe and the US, has joined HMC as a senior project designer. Mitchell's work has spanned multiple design fields, including new media, public art, and architecture, including a large public plaza artwork project at the California State Capitol in Sacramento. Mitchell is currently working on several Community College master planning projects.



Tom Christian, AIA

Tom recently joined HMC Architects as a principal in charge. He brings a diverse, 25-year architectural background with expertise in Community Colleges and pre-K-12 projects to the firm's leadership team. His expertise is a great asset to the firm as a whole, particularly in our Community College practice.

ACCCA. Advance. Advocate. Act.

HMC Architects is a proud member of the Association of California Community College Administrators (ACCCA), an organization committed to providing professional education, training, and development opportunities for Community College administrators. We support ACCCA and all that it does for our California Community College system.

1 ACCCA will prepare you to advance your career with our industry's best professional development programs and networking events. ACCCA will successfully advocate for administrator rights and resources in the State Capitol, and will act boldly to give members effective representation.

2 ACCCA professional development opportunities are invaluable for all up-and-coming college managers, as well as established administrators. ACCCA's Mentor Program, Administration 101 program, and mock interviews have helped many CEOs advance their careers. In addition, ACCCA's website gives members access to the latest job openings around the state.

3 ACCCA networking events up and down the state make it possible to network with Community College system leaders.

4 ACCCA successfully advocates for the interests of all California Community College administrators. ACCCA is the only organization solely dedicated to this important cause. ACCCA's PAC gives them the ability to contribute

In today's changing times, preparing for the future has never been more important.

funds to legislators who support your administrative rights and resources.

5 The annual ACCCA Conference allows members to hear directly from legislators, policy makers, and other Community College leaders. Additionally, an annual salary survey keeps members up to date on the latest salary trends.

6 ACCCA is a proactive organization, always looking for ways to improve member services. Each year, member surveys help to prioritize services and the ways they are delivered in the future.

7 ACCCA gives peace of mind. All members receive a free \$1 million professional liability insurance policy and free accidental death and dismemberment insurance. Other benefits include discounts on other insurances, travel, and entertainment.

For more information on joining ACCCA, visit their website at www.accca.org, or call 916.443.3559.



Introducing CCconnections

“I am pleased to introduce our first edition of CCconnections—a newsletter focused on bringing information and resources to California Community Colleges.”

Of the words that have been used to describe 2009, perhaps none better describe this year than the single word: UNCERTAIN. Uncertain financial and credit markets have created uncertain state budgets, which have created uncertain funding for our Community Colleges. This unprecedented uncertainty has created additional pressures that, in some cases, are challenging plans to move forward.

One fact we know for certain is that Community Colleges are in a prime position to respond quickly to improve the situation. Community Colleges provide an affordable and quality education, can help train the workforce, and fuel the economy. Which is why now is the perfect time to plan.

For our inaugural issue we highlight key initiatives and opportunities to assist you in your short- and long-term planning efforts.

We spoke with Leslie Young, Dean of Health Sciences, College of the Desert (p. 1), where the College’s recently completed Nursing and

Health Sciences Complex is helping to overcome regional economic uncertainty. According to Dean Young, the facility not only meets the needs of the College’s educational program, but provides much-needed skills training for nursing and other health-related careers in a region that is facing a severe shortage of nurses.

We had a conversation with Fred Harris, Assistant Vice Chancellor of College Finance and Facilities Planning (p. 2–3), to discuss strategies on how to best plan for the growing demand for Community Colleges within our current economic uncertainty. He emphasized the importance of having current master plans that are reflective of the community demographics and highlighted several initiatives that are available to assist districts in preparing for a more stable future.

One of these initiatives is the CCC/IOU Partnership—a partnership between California Community Colleges and the state’s four largest investor-owned utility companies that promotes the planning and construction of energy-efficient facilities on Community College campuses. Our discussion with

Ron Beeler, CCC/IOU Outreach Manager, (p. 6) highlights the details of this partnership and offers suggestions to those wishing to increase their knowledge of this valuable resource.

As Community College planners and architects, we understand the importance of sharing knowledge and resources in order to address key issues and plan for the future. We hope the introduction of this newsletter comes at a time where it can be useful to you as you plan for a brighter future.

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Partnering to Save

In the midst of the current economic climate, California Community Colleges are proving to be successful in becoming more environmentally and economically sustainable through energy use and conservation, efficient construction, rehabilitation, and operation of campus facilities.

This success is largely due to the CCC/IOU Energy Efficiency Partnership, a program that translates energy efficiency and life-cycle cost savings into dollars that can be used in the classroom.

The CCC/IOU Partnership establishes a permanent framework for a sustainable, long-term, comprehensive energy management program. There are 72 Community College districts throughout California and more than 90 percent of them are served by four large investor-owned utilities, (PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, and SoCalGas). Established in the 2006–08 CPEC Energy Efficiency Program Cycle, the CCC/IOU Partnership has set ambitious goals of saving 19,000 kW, 84 million kilowatt-hours, and 2.5 million therms of gas by the end of the cycle.

To achieve these goals, the Partnership is committing approximately \$22 million in incentive funds to Community College districts who participate in the program. Districts participating in the program will receive incentives for sustainable initiatives that are implemented within the parameters of the program. According to Lisa Hannaman, Account Manager at Southern California Edison, the 2010–2012 cycle will include renewed focus on new construction and renovation/remodel projects, in addition to expanded focus on training and education, as well as implementation, allowing California Community Colleges to look at a more comprehensive energy efficiency strategy.

By the end of 2009, the program had funded more than \$8.3 million for completed projects, with more than half of that funding going to just 5 of the 72 eligible districts. Ron Beeler, CCC/IOU Outreach Manager, hopes to see more districts stepping up to take advantage of the incentives being offered by the program.

“In 2008 there was more than \$12 million left on the table unused, which didn’t roll over to the next year,” Ron said.

How can your district participate in this innovative program? Ron is working with the CCC/IOU Partnership and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to assist in delivering this message throughout the state. According to Ron, “The goal of the Partnership is to get the message to the districts that for every \$1 you’re investing in sustainable programs on your campuses, you will see \$2 in savings, and that’s in addition to the incentives you’re receiving through the program. We try to stress that districts that participate in implementing these programs will see real savings now; not 10 years from now.”

Ron pointed out that changes to campus-wide lighting are one place where significant savings can be seen in just a six-month time period. “If your campus is using a lot of T-12 bulbs, there’s no reason why you shouldn’t be participating. This program is about reducing your bottom

line expenses by replacing inefficient materials,” he added.

“By traveling through the state and talking with district and facilities leaders, we’re hoping to get the message out that the savings are real, there’s a lot of money to go around, and there are even more low-cost or no-cost solutions that can be implemented where districts can begin to see real cost savings,” says Ron.

If your district is not currently participating in the CCC/IOU Partnership, Ron advises that getting started is a relatively simple process that begins by contacting your local investor-owned utility representative (a complete list of representatives can be accessed on the CCC/IOU Partnership website, www.cccutilitypartnership.com).

For questions about the CCC/IOU Partnership, please contact Ron Beeler directly. He can be reached at 714.267.7209 or by email at ronbeeler@sbcglobal.net.

