



SAN DIEGO COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

City College • Mesa College
Miramar College • Continuing Education



MEDIA ADVISORY

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“Topping Off” at Mesa College Allied Health Building

Construction milestone marks placement of highest structural element

- What:** Topping-off ceremony for Allied Health Building
- When:** Wednesday, September 10, 2008, 2:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- Where:** 7250 Mesa College Drive, San Diego, CA 92111-4998
Construction site is at the corner of Mesa College Drive and Armstrong. Enter construction site on Armstrong. Map available for download from <http://www.sdmesa.edu/7shared-files/campus-map.html>
- Special Guests/
Speakers** Constance M. Carroll, Chancellor
David Umstot, PE, CEM, Vice Chancellor, Facilities Management
Rita Cepeda, Ed.D., President, Mesa College
Margie Fritch, Dean, School of Health Sciences and Public Service
Robert Betz, Project Director, McCarthy Builders
- Background:** A ‘topping off’ marks the point when a structure’s highest element is hoisted into place, a practice that started in Scandinavia over 1,000 years ago. Upon reaching the highest point, workers traditionally put into place a small evergreen tree as a symbol of good faith and good luck.
- In keeping with this longstanding construction tradition, the final horizontal beam – one of more than 700 used for the Allied Health building - will be available for construction crewmembers, campus and district dignitaries to sign before it is lifted into place along with an evergreen tree and American flag.
- Construction on the \$23.3 million San Diego Mesa College Allied Health Building began in June 2008. The three-story, 50,000 gross square foot instructional facility will house state-of-the-art classroom and laboratory facilities to support degree and certificate programs in five healthcare fields: Dental Assisting,

Health Information Technology, Medical Assisting, Physical Therapy Assistant and Radiologic Technology. The project is scheduled to be completed by September 2009.

The Allied Health building is one of ten projects currently under construction as part of the \$1.55 billion Propositions S & N construction bond program. For more information, please visit <http://www.sdccdprops-n.com>.

**Visuals/
Media Availability**

- Signing of the steel beam
- Lifting of the steel beam into place with evergreen tree and American flag
- Construction crew, district and campus leaders, trustees, Citizens' Oversight Committee members, students
- 200-ton steel crane
- 15,000 pound steel beams
- Spanish speaker will be available

Among the largest community colleges in California and the nation, San Diego Mesa College is a fully-accredited two-year college offering 160 Associate degree and certificate programs. Recognized in 2007 as one of the top 100 producers of associate degrees in the nation, Mesa ranks as San Diego's top transfer institution. Its career programs and industry alliances offer graduates almost immediate job placement in the fields of allied health, biopharmaceutical, biotechnology, business technology, consumer studies, and more. Other top specialized career programs include fashion, architecture, multimedia, animal health technology, American Sign Language, interior design, and hospitality and event management.

The San Diego Community College District is a leader in post-secondary education worldwide. The district's three colleges and six Continuing Education campuses serve the academic and occupational training needs of 100,000 students every year. The three colleges – San Diego City College, San Diego Mesa College and San Diego Miramar College – offer associate degrees and certificates in occupational programs that prepare students for entry-level jobs, and arts and sciences programs that transfer to four-year colleges and universities.

Proposition S, a \$686 million construction bond passed in 2002, and Proposition N, an \$870 million bond passed in 2006, are providing for new and renovated facilities for SDCCD students throughout the city. In June 2007, the District received the highest possible rating for its construction bonds. Standard and Poor's (S & P) Investment Services, among the most highly regarded bond rating firms, upgraded the District's rating from AA to AA+. No other California community college district has achieved this rating. Learn more at www.sdccdprops-n.com.

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