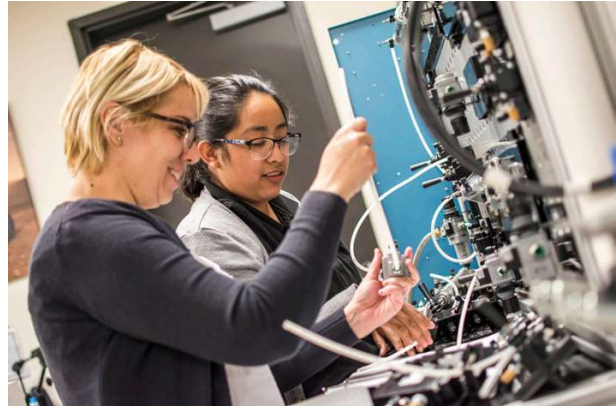


The Cooperative Education Reskilling and Training Pilot Program will offer several not-for-credit programs to include engineer technician, machinist technology, unmanned systems, welding, biomedical equipment technician, and craft brewing technician, to name a few, that can be completed in 3–6 months.



Expanding workforce opportunities in North County

The recent pandemic and subsequent recession has been a wake-up call for California, creating a critical need on the part of employers, economic development organizations, education, and city governments to work closely together to foster workforce development in a much more coordinated and effective way.



DR. SUNITA "SUNNY" COOKE
PRESIDENT
MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

California Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner Horvath was tasked to work with economists on how to address economic recovery. Her discussions and research highlighted the need for short-term training that included paid internships. "By offering students the chance to take accelerated work training and internship courses, this program will

help folks in our region gain the qualifications they need to compete for well-paying jobs, make career pivots, and more. With our economy in a period of transition, many Californians are in need of a whole different set of skills to break into lucrative industries and get ahead, and this sort of training will help them get there" explains Boerner Horvath.

The Cooperative Education Reskilling and Training Pilot Program will offer several not-for-credit programs to include engineer technician, machinist technology, unmanned systems, welding, biomedical equipment technician, and craft brewing technician, to name a few, that can be completed in 3–6 months. Each program would offer adult students the opportunity to re-skill while gaining on-the-job experience through paid internships.

Included in Assembly Bill (AB) 132—Postsecondary Education Trailer Bill, signed by California Governor Newsom on July 27, 2021, **MiraCosta College's Technology Career Institute (TCI)** will receive \$3.5 million in

funding for a Cooperative Education Reskilling and Training Pilot Program. Funds will be used to support short-term programs offering disadvantaged and unemployed adults the opportunity to reskill while gaining on-the-job experience through paid internships.

"The pilot program provides rapid retraining of workers and will allow students to earn while they learn, which will enhance skill development and job placement opportunities while providing income at the same time. MiraCosta College's Technology Career Institute has an established, successful model of accelerated training that can rapidly train technical, collaborative, critical thinking and other essential abilities for high-demand, high-skilled jobs. These types of intensive, hands-on training programs are particularly important for individuals who may face barriers to accessing training and employment opportunities, including veterans, high school and alternative high school graduates, non-traditional learners, and unemployed/ underemployed workers,"

explains MiraCosta College Superintendent/ President Dr. Sunita "Sunny" Cooke.

In addition to the funding allocated to MiraCosta College, AB 132 makes college more affordable and accessible to include the:

Implementation of an expansion of Cal Grant program, improvements to the middle-class scholarship program and dual admissions pathway to UC or CSU for eligible community college students.

Expansion of college savings accounts program for low-income and underrepresented public-school students.

Creation of programs to help underrepresented students gain relevant work experience and support workers displaced by the pandemic with education or high-quality training grants.

Creation of a California Comeback plan to create more slots for in-state students who wish to attend a CSU or UC school.

For more information, visit tci.miracosta.edu

School lessons from the pandemic



ANDRÉE GREY, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT
ENCINITAS UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

As a school district, we have just entered our third school year impacted by the global pandemic. It seems hard to believe we have been at this for so long. Yet, despite being exhausted from the

many twists and turns in learning models, guidance and data, the August 17th start to our 2021-2022 school year was optimistic and enthusiastic. We are carrying with us a great deal of knowledge that COVID-19 has taught us about our children and our community.

At the end of the 2020-2021 school year, we engaged in a great deal of reflection about what we learned during the pandemic in order to capitalize on this crisis and use

it as a springboard to transform learning for the better. Here are our top five takeaways:

1. Our children want to be in school and they thrive best when in school! When in person learning was not an option or it was reduced in hybrid, students really were united in the desire to return to in person as soon as possible. As they returned to regular schedules this August, they have universally exclaimed how happy they are to be back fully. Never has there been such an appreciation for school by children than now.

2. Learning is social. As students returned to school, connecting and conversing has been essential. When students talk about their learning with others, they are better able to make sense of it and retain it.

3. A sense of belonging matters for students and staff. Isolation was stressful and strenuous on most, however, as students have returned they have reestablished their connections to school, their peers, and their sense of belonging to a school community.

4. Our parents and families are our greatest partners. Many families learned so much more about what teaching and learning looks like because of the opportunities to see instruction or participate during distance learning or hybrid. Families noted feeling more equipped to support their children. We know we can enhance student learning and success by working together.

5. Social and emotional learning matters. Students cannot learn if they are struggling



emotionally and the pandemic has been emotional and traumatic for some. We know we must make sure they know they are loved and cared for before they can fully access content. We must provide intentional and explicit instruction to support students in gaining skills in self awareness, self-esteem, self-regulation, and empathy so that students can thrive in a complex world.

These valuable lessons are guiding our work and our students will achieve extraordinary things this year. In **Encinitas Union School District**, we are committed to ensuring our students have a school year that supports their learning needs - academically, socially and emotionally despite the continued challenges of the pandemic.



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MiraCosta College selected as preferred provider of healthcare talent

MiraCosta College has been named a Preferred Provider of Healthcare Talent by the Advancing San Diego (ASD) program. Advancing San Diego is a collaborative effort to address skilled talent shortages and increase diversity in high-growth, high-demand jobs in the local economy.



**DR. SUMITA
"SUNNY" COOKE**
SUPERINTENDENT/
PRESIDENT
MIRACOSTA
COLLEGE

MiraCosta College is one of three community colleges in the San Diego region selected as a Preferred Provider of Healthcare Talent. Selected through a competitive application process, preferred providers are colleges, universities, and certificate programs recognized by local employers for training the next generation of medical administrative professionals in San Diego. Eligible students of these programs are invited to apply for an ASD-funded internship in small companies in San Diego.

MiraCosta College Medical Administrative Professional Certificate

MiraCosta College's Medical Administrative Professional Program offers training in procedures used in medical offices, clinics, and hospital settings, as well as HIPAA compliance. The program prepares a variety of students—fresh out of high school in preparation for entry-level positions, as well as older adults furthering their careers, job transitioning, or reentering the workforce—for career opportunities in outpatient settings, such as a doctor's office, urgent care centers, specialty clinics, and some hospital-level positions.



MiraCosta College's Medical Administrative Professional Program offers training in procedures used in medical offices, clinics, and hospital settings, as well as HIPAA compliance.

Students go from learning to earning in as little as one year with MiraCosta College's Medical Administrative Professional certificate program. Providing essential training for the high-demand and secure healthcare industry, it prepares students for careers as a medical biller, medical coder, medical front office assistant, medical receptionist, medical records clerk, and medical scheduler.

Rich Dicker, faculty lead for the program, explains that students take a curriculum of coursework ranging from an introduction into the broad range of career options to technical skills including electronic health

records, insurance billing and coding, patient advocacy, medical terminology, and basic human anatomy and physiology.

"The completion of this program can lead to industry credentials in billing and coding and national certification as a medical administrative assistant," Dicker explains. "To further bolster the program, we are now in our third year of offering a certificate in clinical Medical Assisting, which medical administrative students can transition into for additional credentials and employment opportunities."

Dicker notes, "Many previous students are currently employed with organizations such

as Kaiser Permanente, **Scripps**, and numerous specialty and private practices in the San Diego County region. The education, coupled with industry credential opportunities, has allowed previous students to gain employment throughout the country, with recent graduates working in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Washington."

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), employment in healthcare occupations will grow 18 percent from 2020 to 2030 with 104,400 openings for medical assistants each year for the next decade. The BLS states, "The growth of the aging baby-boom population will continue to increase demand for preventive medical services, which are often provided by physicians. As a result, physicians will hire more assistants, allowing the physicians to see more patients. An increasing number of group practices, clinics, and other healthcare facilities will also need support workers, particularly medical assistants, to complete both administrative and clinical duties." The average wage for medical assistants in the San Diego region ranges from \$37,000 to almost \$54,000 annually.

Sandy Comstock, Associate Dean of Nursing and Allied Health, comments, "Our population is growing and getting older. The Medical Administrative Program helps the medical industry meet the growing need for well-trained workers. This program is perfect for someone who wants to work in a challenging, exciting environment, and who wants to help people."

California residents pay \$46 per unit for classes and with the MiraCosta College Promise, all first-time college students, who enroll full-time (12+ units) qualify to receive two-years of college free. The remaining cost of the certificate program is approximately \$1,500 for tuition and books.

The SOCAL Initiative for career exploration

Carlsbad Unified is excited to be a part of the development of an innovative avenue for students to explore future careers.

Investigating future careers is a truly daunting undertaking for a young person.



**DR. BEN
CHURCHILL**
SUPERINTENDENT
CARLSBAD UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

But a new collaboration called the SO-CAL Initiative -- Student Opportunities for Career Awareness and Learning -- is helping students with this important process. The group's goal is to create a series of high-quality 3-minute videos that will introduce students to the local

job market by highlighting local workers at their workplaces, demonstrating their work and discussing their careers. These videos will be shown in Career Technical Education (CTE) classrooms and also will be available in school counselors' offices across the North County.

Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Bret Schanzenbach has always had an interest in providing real-world career information for students as they make tough decisions about their futures. So in the past he supported activities such as guest speakers, field trips, and internships. As the pandemic made these experiences less feasible, he and his colleagues looked for new and sustainable ways to share information about the local



Eric Holmberg of Erickson Hall Construction participates in one of the videos for the SOCAL Initiative at Kelly Elementary School.

job market with young people in the community. They came up with a plan to offer students virtual visits to local companies to observe the work of professionals and tradespeople via videos.

This community-based effort will focus on local job market needs, and will use local talent to expand knowledge of and interest in jobs available here in the North County. The career videos will specifically target a range of good jobs, from those requiring a community college certificate or vocational training program to those demanding college or advanced degrees. **ViaSat, Solatube, TriCity Medical Center**, and

Erickson-Hall are just some of the local companies to be featured. Students watching the videos will be able to relate to the local North County scene, with views of recognizable landmarks such as the Carlsbad sign and the Oceanside pier.

SOCAL Initiative partners include the Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista Chambers of Commerce, the **San Diego North Economic Development Council**, and representatives from **TriCity Medical Center**, Carlsbad, Oceanside, and Vista Unified School Districts' CTE programs, and the **Carlsbad Educational Foundation**.

The Initiative has received a grant from



Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Bret Schanzenbach with Chris Ryan of Ryan Video Productions, interviewing Matt Riley of Erickson Hall Construction.

San Diego County to fund the first phase of the project.

Phase I of the Initiative is building a web portal, due to roll out on Dec. 15, that will host 30 career videos. Each video will feature information about an in-demand career, and the essential skills and education that an applicant needs to get hired. It will be searchable by industry, company, or profession/job, and will also provide links that will guide interested students to high school and community college resources, and possible local internships. An additional 30 videos will be developed in Phase II.

The SOCAL Initiative is another powerful example of the support our schools receive from our local business and industry community. These videos will connect Carlsbad students with additional tools to help them navigate today's workplace. And they will provide our students with valuable opportunities to learn about local careers.

MiraCosta College named in Top 150 Community Colleges

The Aspen Institute has named **MiraCosta College** as one of the 150 entities eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, one of the nation's highest awards honoring achievement and performance of America's community colleges. The colleges selected for this honor stand out among more than 1,000 community colleges nationwide as having high and



DR. SUNITA "SUNNY" COOKE
SUPERINTENDENT/
PRESIDENT
MIRACOSTA COLLEGE

improving levels of student success, as well as equitable outcomes for Black and Hispanic students and those from lower-income backgrounds.

"It is an honor to be included amongst the top 15 percent of community colleges invited to compete for the Aspen Prize," explains Dr. Sunita "Sunny" Cooke, MiraCosta College superintendent/president. "MiraCosta College's Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and administrators have all been steadfast in our commitment to improving student outcomes in areas of retention, completion, transfer, and equity. We look forward to moving forward in the Aspen selection process."

The \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition for America's community colleges—as President Obama called it, "basically the Oscars for great community colleges."

"In an era of persistent inequity and workforce talent gaps, our nation's best community colleges are stepping up to deliver



MiraCosta College has been named in Top 150 Community Colleges, and will compete for \$1 million Aspen Prize.

Photo by: miracosta.edu

more degrees to increasingly diverse students so they are prepared for the good jobs waiting to be filled," said Josh Wyner, executive director of the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program. "Leaders of exceptional community colleges understand that achieving excellence requires expanding college access and increasing degree completion, but it doesn't stop there. They are committed to ensuring that all students—including students of color and those from

low-income backgrounds—graduate with the skills needed to secure a job with family-sustaining wages or successfully transfer to and graduate from a university. That same commitment that stands at the center of the Aspen Prize: to advance the goals of social mobility and equitable talent development."

The Aspen Prize spotlights exemplary community colleges in order to elevate the sector, drive attention to colleges doing the best work, and discover and share



highly effective student success and equity strategies. Since 2010, Aspen has chosen to focus intensively on community colleges because they are—as First Lady Dr. Jill Biden stated at

the 2021 Aspen Prize ceremony—"a powerful engine of prosperity."

Moving forward, MiraCosta College will submit data and narratives for the intensive review process. Selection of the top ten finalists by a panel of 15 experts in community colleges, higher education, and workforce training, will be announced in spring/summer 2022. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data, including employment and earnings data. A distinguished jury will make award decisions by late spring 2023. I have always been drawn to older people since I was a girl. I often talked to older neighbors, but there were two neighbors, that I especially liked to visit weekly just to chat. "Cat Man" came out front every day with his cats on long leashes. He would lean against his truck with one elbow on the bed, and we would talk about cats and other topics of interest to us both. I also called on Miss Lynn, a professor at SDSU. She lived alone and had been to exotic places. Her home was filled with interesting things and her yard was a beautiful jungle. I asked her about everything she knew.

Visit miracosta.edu

The new Career Pathways Strategic Plan

Evelyn Parra, a junior at Sage Creek High School, recently participated in BCK's Storm



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Water Pollution Prevention Plan internship – one of Carlsbad Unified's many partnerships with business, industry, and nonprofits. She worked alongside scientists, students, and public agencies to employ ways of conserving our water and protecting the ocean from pollution. Now she dreams of pursuing a career as a hydrologist.

Our new *Career Pathways Strategic Plan* aims to introduce students such as Evelyn to career possibilities and encourages them to explore their interests and passions from the early grades. Our goal is that students will graduate prepared for their futures with both the academic and employability skills they need to be successful. In this endeavor we are fortunate to benefit from the generous support of our business, industry, and nonprofit communities, and we appreciate all of our partners who make so many opportunities possible for our students.

First and foremost is our invaluable partnership with the **Carlsbad Educational Foundation (CEF)**, and its partners, in the many career programs it facilitates for Carlsbad Unified students. In these CEF-supported programs, elementary students are learning to build and code through the Lego Robotics curriculum for all second graders, culminating in a learning trip to **LEGOLAND California Resort**; observing wildlife on **Agua Hedionda Lagoon** field trips for all third graders; studying vegetables and sustainable practices on Coastal



Carlsbad's emerging scientists have participated in the Science Olympiad, supported by Viasat, Inc.

Roots Farm visits (virtual and in-person) for kindergartners and all fourth graders; and learning about running a business through the Junior Achievement BizTown curriculum and field trips for all fifth graders.

Middle school students experience hands-on science experiments and activities through CEF – with help from their partners, in the form of programs such as such **Nordson Corporation's** Tech Time Challenge; Science Day, with volunteers from Thermo Fisher; Science Lab Super Charge; and the **Agua Hedionda Lagoon Foundation's** Environmental Stewardship initiative for all seventh graders.

CEF also funds Junior Achievement's Finance Park for all twelfth grade students, helping to prepare them for the financial challenges of adulthood. It also supports high school career pathways by, for exam-

ple, assisting Carlsbad High School's Business Pathway Marketing students with internships and helping with the production of marketing materials, social media, and websites.

And there's more. CEF provides elementary music for our budding singers and musicians, helps pay for musical instruments and music coaches for bands and orchestras at our middle and high schools, and funds sets, costumes, and music for both high schools' spring musicals. Our emerging scientists have access to programs such as the First Lego League STEM program and the Science Olympiad, supported by **Viasat, Inc.** Further, there are unique school-specific opportunities, such as the International Baccalaureate program at Jefferson Elementary, Project Lead the Way at Calavera Hills Elementary and Middle, and

the Genius Project at Sage Creek High.

Our District boasts fourteen Career Pathways, aligned with San Diego's high-priority industry sectors, including the national award-winning CHSTV broadcast journalism program, the Linked Learning Gold-Certified Film Academy at Carlsbad High School, and Sage Creek High School's BioMed and Engineering Pathways. These pathways are guided by the expertise of the District Career Pathways Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee members and other business partners collaborate throughout the year with career pathway teachers, aligning curriculum, software, and equipment with industry standards. These volunteers from the business and industrial community also offer internships, feedback on student projects, mentorships, guest speakers, and other hands-on experiences for students.

We also salute the Chamber of Commerce's **SOCAL Initiative – Student Opportunities for Career Awareness and Learning** – which creates videos featuring local workplaces to provide students with virtual experiences of careers here in our community.

The **City of Carlsbad's** Cultural Arts Office is assisting our career exploration efforts in many ways, including supporting the production of *The Wizard of Oz* at Jefferson Elementary, in collaboration with **New Village Arts**, where students are learning about the "front and back of the house" while putting on the play.

Carlsbad Unified is committed to promoting the career readiness skills, knowledge, and experiences which will lead students to productive and fulfilling lives. Valuable partnerships help our students become self-directed learners, exposed to a wide variety of opportunities to practice career readiness skills. We couldn't do what we do without the support of our business, industry, and non-profit communities.

Here come the Carlsbad champions

"The teenagers are here!" When the Carlsbad Champions arrive on an elementary school campus the young students are full of excitement. After an assembly, the high school students will hang out with them, play with them on the playground, and give them their "trading cards."

SCHOOL NEWS



DR. BEN CHURCHILL
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CARLSBAD UNIFIED
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Carlsbad Champions are nineteen high school seniors who applied and were selected to serve as role models for Carlsbad youth, committed to academic achievement, developing healthy habits, demonstrating inclusiveness, and promoting

strong moral character to the younger students of **Carlsbad Unified School District**. A track star, accomplished musicians, a soccer captain, a speech and debate president, an award-winning journalist, and more—these seniors exemplify the breadth and depth of CUSD's extraordinary graduates. But when they show up at the elementary school, they are "the teenagers."

At an assembly the Champions tell the elementary students their stories, reflecting on the challenges they faced growing up, and the support that helped them overcome life's darker times. With poise and wisdom, they tell of the tough times they faced in their younger years—struggling to make friends, being bullied, not speaking English, academic difficulties, and being "different." One student moved twelve times because her dad was a fighter pilot in the military, and never felt that she belonged.

Under the guidance of Student Services Specialist Rosemary Eshelman, Champions strive to set a positive environment for students. They talk with kids about resisting negative influences, and encourage them to think about their futures and how to get there. They tell of getting the help they needed from teachers, counselors, and friends, and finding something they loved, getting involved, and finding their paths. And they share their successes. Here are some of them:

- **Luca**, who credited the elementary music programs funded by CEF for opening the door to music, will pursue theater and music at CSULA.

- **Raina** found First Lego League robotics in 6th grade, made it to the world championship in 8th grade, and was dedicated to the program for the next 7 years. She became president of the Speech and Debate team, and will study engineering at Penn State.

- **Caden** remembers "looking up to those Champion guys" in elementary school. He signed up for Broadcasting at AOMS, and then CHSTV and volleyball became his great passions. He will attend UTexas at Austin to pursue film production.

- **Anthony** said that Pacific Rim Elementary fostered his love for science and music—he plays the cello—and helped him figure out who he wanted to be. He will attend UCLA.

- **Capri** is in Biomed, soccer, and track at SCHS, and remembers when the Champions came to an assembly at her school. She will go to Purdue to study environmental science.

- **Wendy**, who didn't speak English when she arrived at school, was motivated by the Champions, who told her, "You can do it. Go for it!" She loves that kids from Mexico light up when she speaks. They can recognize themselves in her. She will attend CSU San Marcos in the fall.

- **Shervin** found his love for soccer, and then track, and with successes on the field he became more confident and made good friends. He took 10 AP classes, and will major in pre-med at UCLA.

- **Austin** developed a love of science and math at AOE. He remembers enjoying the Champions' visit to his school and thinking, "These guys are super cool." It felt great to go back to elementary schools and inspire kids. He will be attending Purdue to study engineering.

- **Talan** reports that, after visiting her elementary school as a Champion, her 5th grade teacher emailed her to say, "I'm proud of you." That meant so much to her. She is off to UCSC to study biology.

- **Ben** is grateful for his years from Pacific Rim through CHS— "Such a special district, such great opportunities." After serving as

Carlsbad Unified Champions



Carlsbad Unified School District celebrates 19 high school seniors with high academic achievements, healthy habits, strong character and role models for Carlsbad youth.

executive producer at CHSTV, and captain of the water polo team, he will attend Purdue for engineering.

"These kids are growing up in my community. I want them to have all of the same benefits that I did," said Wendy. "I can tell them, 'Keep a smile on your face. It gets better.'"

"These kids haven't been in school. They

have been through a lot. They need role models and mentoring," said Haley.

"I grew up in these schools, and I remember the Champions coming to visit us. I always wanted to be one," reported Mardi.

Champions, we wish you the best as you go forward to follow your dreams. Please keep in touch!

Miracosta college welcomes new Vice President

Shannon Stubblefield, an experienced leader in fundraising and developing community partnerships, has been named as the new Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation at MiraCosta College.

HIGHER LEARNING



DR. SUNITA "SUNNY" COOKE
SUPERINTENDENT/
PRESIDENT
MIRACOSTA
COLLEGE

Stubblefield begins her post at **MiraCosta College** on June 1 after 10 years as chief philanthropy officer for North County Lifeline. Stubble-

field led the community engagement department for the nonprofit organization that works with families in North County who are dealing with challenges, such as poverty or mental health issues.

"We are excited to have Shannon as part of the MiraCosta team," said MiraCosta College Superintendent/President Sunita V. Cooke. "Her knowledge and experience will serve generations of students well into the future as we seek to strengthen our partnerships with the community and continue to build support for our students and our college."

In her new role, Stubblefield will oversee



Shannon Stubblefield named as the new Vice President of Institutional Advancement and Executive Director of the Foundation at MiraCosta College.



the college's foundation, institutional advancement efforts, and marketing department.

Stubblefield, a native of Southern California, earned her bachelor's degree in business management from San Diego State

to earn a master's degree at the University of San Diego's Nonprofit Management and Leadership program.

"I love the joy of working in a job that is really giving back and making a difference every day," she said. "Being in the field of philanthropy surrounds me with people who have a shared vision and motivation to help others and really make a difference in people's lives."

Stubblefield worked for six years in Chicago, at the McCormick Tribune Foundation and at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, before returning to San Diego County. She is the past board president for **North County Philanthropy Council** and has previously taught fundraising as an adjunct professor at the University of San Diego and North Park University.

Stubblefield said that she is passionate about equity and the opportunities that education offers and is looking forward to helping those who are trying to improve their lives through education. "MiraCosta has a phenomenal reputation in our community," stated Stubblefield. "I know how many students come to MiraCosta for access to education. We can support those students by raising money for scholarships and by partnering with community members who want to support students."

University. She began working in 2001 with a job at the nonprofit Infoline, now known as 2-1-1 San Diego. That job sparked an interest in fundraising and philanthropy, leading her