

## **San Diego and Imperial County Community Colleges Celebrate Career Education Month by Changing Lives through Accessible Education**

*The region's 10 campuses provide more than 200 hands-on training programs for high-paying, in-demand careers*

**SAN DIEGO, CA (February 18, 2020)**—For more than a century, community colleges have been providing education and the promise of a better future to students with diverse needs, including underserved communities, veterans, older adults, first-generation college attendees, English language learners, recent high school graduates, and those looking to upgrade their work skills. Every February, the ten schools in the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College region celebrate national [Career Education month](#) by highlighting the achievements of career education-focused students and staff.

Today, as part of the month-long celebration, the region is launching its first-annual Impact Report showcasing the personal stories behind the enrollment numbers, certification rates and job growth created by three years of collaborative community-wide investment in career education. Published on [CareerEd.org](#), the Impact Report highlights the economic and emotional impact of education on students' lives, the hands-on expertise of professors, and the benefits of workforce training for local employers.

Career Education programs in San Diego and Imperial Counties are continuously updated, to address the urgent need for middle-skill workers in local job sectors including: manufacturing; transportation and logistics; agriculture, water and environmental technologies; business and entrepreneurship; energy, construction and utilities; information technologies and digital media; health; and life sciences and biotech. Within the next two years the region will see an estimated 47,000 job openings per year across these industries with employers facing an increasingly uphill battle to fill open positions.

“Community colleges have long been the problem solvers of America’s educational system. We’re here to retrain workers during economic recessions; provide direction for recent high school graduates; guide first-generation students through the higher education process; and now to train middle-skills workers to meet the needs of our economy,” said San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association (SDICCCA) President Dr. Kindred Murillo. “As we celebrate Career Education month I’m deeply proud of what we’ve accomplished, and look forward to the future as we continue working together as a region.”

**Learn More. Earn More. | [CareerEd.org](#)**

SDICCA Career Education programs are an affordable, efficient path to a rewarding, high-paying career. Courses cost an average of just \$46 per credit, compared to the average of [\\$594](#) for a four-year college degree. The average four-year college student leaves school today with an estimated [\\$37,000 in debt](#), and many students continue to struggle making payments well after graduation. In fact, the Brookings Institute estimates that nearly 40 percent of borrowers who entered college in 2004 may default on their student loans by 2023. By contrast, Career Education programs may provide complete career training for as little as \$3,000, and a majority of students (71 percent) are employed within a year of graduation.

### **About Career Education in San Diego and Imperial Counties**

San Diego and Imperial Counties' community colleges and continuing education campuses have united to fill the growing regional middle-skill labor gap by promoting Career Education programs to target these well-paying, in-demand jobs. Whether learning new skills, completing short-term free career training, or earning a certificate or an associate degree, Career Education students gain real-world experience that prepares them for in-demand, well-paying jobs. With more than 200 programs to choose from, students learn by exploring, collaborating and doing, with hands-on training taught by instructors and professionals who have worked in their field of study.

The community colleges and continuing education centers in San Diego and Imperial Counties offering students the opportunity to "Learn More. Earn More." are: Cuyamaca College, Grossmont College, Imperial Valley College, MiraCosta College, Palomar College, San Diego City College, San Diego Continuing Education, San Diego Mesa College, San Diego Miramar College, and Southwestern College. To learn more, visit [CareerEd.org](http://CareerEd.org)

### **CTE Month**

Career and Technical Education Month®, or CTE Month®, is a public awareness campaign that takes place each February to celebrate the value of CTE and the achievements and accomplishments of CTE programs across the country. CTE month was created and developed by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). ACTE is the nation's largest not-for-profit association committed to the advancement of education that prepares youth and adults for successful careers.

###