

College Administrators Offering More Flexible Learning Formats to Reach New Students

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grade for their education meeting their needs.

“While enrollments are certainly a substantial concern for administrators, there is a strong underlining of good news as students continue to see the value of higher education even if they want it delivered in new formats and on their terms,” said Dr. Jeff Seaman, lead researcher and Director of Bay View Analytics.

“It is not a surprise that students are worried about rising costs of college and with the inflation that is driving all costs up,” said ACCT President and CEO Jee Hang Lee. “The survey demonstrates that a strong majority of community college students feel their educations are worth their investments and that their colleges value them. Community colleges are tailor made for helping students with limited resources thrive during challenging economic times. These survey findings help college leaders to make the best decisions for their institutions’ students. We look forward to sharing these survey results with our members, and to continuing to gain insights through future surveys.”

“HERDI’s network of community college leaders is well-represented in the survey results. It is no surprise to me that more than 70% of two-year administrators have plans already underway to meet student demand for more online and hybrid classes,” said Toni Cleveland, President and CEO of HERDI. **TPR**

CSUSB Palm Desert Campus dean Jake Zhu to Retire

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“Over the past four years, Jake has worked hard to grow the Palm Desert Campus by expanding in-demand programs that are needed by the community,” said Morales.

“During his tenure, the Palm Desert Campus added many new programs, including hospitality management, cybersecurity, entrepreneurship, kinesiology, social work and child development, along with a new cohort of designated PDC faculty for each program. And we saw the opening of the Palm Desert iHub across the street from campus – a collaboration of the City of Palm Desert, the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership and CSUSB – that houses many of these new programs. The iHub greatly enhances our Palm Desert Campus and gives our students much needed experiences and opportunities that will help them after graduation as they start their careers,” he said.

CSUSB Provost Rafik Mohamed echoed the president’s praise.

“Through Jake’s efforts, the Palm Desert Campus has expanded student research activities and there has been an increase in faculty involvement at PDC,” he said. “Jake has worked hard to strengthen partnerships with university leadership and community organizations.”

“It has been an honor and pleasure to serve as dean of the CSUSB Palm Desert Campus and I very much enjoyed working with our exceptional faculty, staff and students,” said Zhu.

“PDC has significantly increased student enrollment, thereby, providing better access opportunities for local students and higher education, and we achieved this during the most challenging time - during the COVID-19 pandemic - when colleges and universities were experiencing an enrollment downturn across the country. The success of the Palm Desert Campus during the past four years is a community success and I thank everyone who made contributions to that achievement. I truly believe the best days of PDC are still ahead of us,” he said.

The search for an associate vice president to lead the campus is currently underway.

TPR

BUSINESS NEWS

CVEP CEO NAMED ONE OF TOP 50 ECONOMIC DEVELOPERS IN NORTH AMERICA

The Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) announced that Chief Executive Officer, Joe Wallace, has been named one of the top 50 Economic Developers in North America in 2023 – the only one in California and one of three in the western states. Recipients will be presented with their award at Consultant Connect’s ECONOMIC event in Atlanta, GA on Thursday, November 30th.

“I’m honored to have been nominated and named one of the top 50 economic developers in North America. Receiving this award in 2023 validates the hard work and creativity that the CVEP team invests every day to establish innovative regional programs to foster entrepreneurship and diversify industry,” said Joe Wallace, CEO of the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership (CVEP) and award recipient.

Consultant Connect, a consulting agency designed to bridge the gap between economic developers and site consultants, recently announced its 2023 list of North America’s Top 50 Economic Developers. The economic development professionals selected for this list were nominated by their colleagues in both the economic development and site location consulting industries for excellent practices, innovation and success in building the communities they serve.

Each Top 50 Economic Developer will have the opportunity to share industry knowledge, leadership insights and career wisdoms with fellow industry professionals. Consultant Connect strives to lift up the economic development industry by recognizing remarkable economic developers.

“The Consultant Connect team looks forward to releasing the Top 50 list every year because we believe that the work of economic developers is not only transformative to communities, but it is deeper than that. Each year jobs are created that impact individuals and their families. We are truly honored to provide a platform for North America’s top economic developers to be recognized for the passionate commitment they have made to the communities they serve,” said Carla Sones, Managing Director, Consultant Connect.

PALM SPRINGS PLAZA THEATRE FOUNDATION REVEALS IDENTITY OF PREVIOUSLY ANONYMOUS DONOR

The Palm Springs Plaza Theatre Foundation recently held a donor appreciation event at which they announced that the Foundation had been given permission to reveal the identity of a significant donor. In April of 2022, the Foundation board informed the Palm Springs City Council that it had received an incredibly generous donation of \$2 million as a matching grant. At the time, the board was asked by those donors to withhold their identity until later in the fundraising campaign. At the donor appreciation event, also attended by California Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Foundation President J.R. Roberts publicly revealed for the first time the identity of Donna and Jon Croel, the couple previously known as “Donor Number Two.” The Croels are new residents of Palm Springs and were so captivated by the Plaza Theatre restoration project that they

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