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Marymount College announces 20-year plans for Rancho Palos Verdes and San Pedro campuses

Marymount College is submitting 20-year plans to the City of Los Angeles and to the City of Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) that forecast serving students who will attend classes at two distinct locations — the current Palos Verdes Drive North residential campus in San Pedro and the main campus in RPV. The college has two other San Pedro sites: the Waterfront Campus in downtown San Pedro and a residential community on West 24th Street.

Only a few years ago, Marymount was a small two-year college with declining enrollment. After Marymount was granted accreditation as a four-year college in 2010, the college experienced a tremendous transformation. Within recent years, Marymount:

- Increased student enrollment by more than 70 percent.
- Added new programs in business, media, global studies, psychology, American studies, premedical studies and forensic science investigation.
- Was admitted to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics.
- Established one of the nation's most comprehensive and integrated service learning programs that included providing 16,000 hours of volunteer service in one year to the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor.
- Established the Waterfront Campus in San Pedro.
- Invested more than \$7 million in facility construction, renovation and development at all four campuses.
- Planned for the college's first graduate programs in 2013.
- Developed online programs.

San Pedro

The plan for the college's residential campus in San Pedro, at 1600 Palos Verdes Drive North, allows for the development of classroom facilities, with classes beginning in 2013. More classrooms and residential, dining and recreational facilities will be built in phases over 20 years. Ultimately, this campus location will serve 1,500 students.

On Sept. 3, Diana Nave, president of the Northwest San Pedro Neighborhood Council, presented a document to Marymount President Michael Brophy reflecting support of the campus on Palos Verdes Drive North and its proposed expansion project. In this commendation, Nave appreciated the college's "early presentation, openness to substantive recommendations and collaborative approach to the planning process."

The college has established an advisory group of San Pedro leaders. The Marymount College San Pedro Advisory Council will guide the college in its continuing development at all San Pedro locations. The members of this group are:

Arley Baker, Director of Community Affairs, Port of Los Angeles

Yvonne Bogdanovich, Independent Philanthropy Professional

Eric Eisenberg, President and CEO, Renaissance Group; President, San Pedro Historic Waterfront Business Improvement District

Mitch Harmatz, Owner, Plaza Automotive Center

Alan Johnson, President, Jerico Development Inc.; President, Crail-Johnson Foundation

Marlyn Klaus, CEO, Grand House Management

Michael Lansing, Executive Director, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Los Angeles Harbor

Gary Larson, Managing Member, The Aurelius Group, LLC, and member of the San Pedro Art and Academic Alliance

Deborah Lewis, Executive Director, Angels Gate Cultural Center

Anthony Pirozzi, Chief Engineer, Boeing; Chairman of the Board, San Pedro Chamber of Commerce

Stephen Robbins, Executive Director, San Pedro Historic Waterfront Business Improvement District

Liz Schindler Johnson, President and Executive Director, Grand Vision Foundation

Camilla Townsend, President and CEO, San Pedro Chamber of Commerce

Rancho Palos Verdes

In Rancho Palos Verdes, Marymount is not proposing to construct any additional facilities beyond what the City of Rancho Palos Verdes has already approved, but Marymount is asking that the original eight-year plan be extended to 20 years to allow sufficient time to raise funds and construct the facilities.

Approved in 2010, a new library and improved classroom and recreational facilities are slated for the campus's future, to enhance the educational experience of Marymount's students and provide the community with additional resources. Marymount will also be seeking approval to increase its overall enrollment from 943 to 1,200, due to the strong demand for four-year degrees.

In keeping with the concept that education is a lifelong endeavor, and as a way of involving the community more in campus life, Marymount is developing a program to offer tuition-free classes for local senior citizens who wish to return to college and audit Marymount courses.

Commenting on the response the college has received from each community, President Brophy said, "We are pleased with the considerable support we have received in San Pedro, and we hope that the RPV city council elected this November will further their predecessors' decisions for these very same facilities."

The Harbor and South Bay have been home to Marymount College for more than 50 years. The college has awarded thousands of degrees and served local families with special programs for children enrolled in pre-K through 12th grade.

Today the college is a Catholic liberal arts college devoted to sustaining the values of its founding order, the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, whose mission is to “serve others so that all may have life.”

Besides providing high-quality higher education, the college has a \$40 million annual economic impact on Los Angeles County and generates at least 1,500 jobs in the local community. The proposed comprehensive long-term plan for the college’s campuses allows for adequate financial and fundraising planning for Marymount to become an even larger contributor to the region’s economic growth and vitality.

“We believe our 20-year vision brings educational, cultural and economic benefits to local communities for generations to come,” said Marymount College President Dr. Michael Brophy. “Since our founding, Marymount College has been a good neighbor, providing students from all backgrounds with a transformative educational experience.”

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