



## News Release

**CONTACT:**

Genesis Gonzalez  
760.550.1194; ggonzalez@collegeofthedesert.edu

### **College of the Desert Celebrates 60 Years of Vocational Nursing at Pinning Ceremony**

**PALM DESERT, CA (August 31, 2026)** — College of the Desert will celebrate the next generation of local nurses and a significant milestone in the College's history during its Vocational Nursing Pinning Ceremony on Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, at 2 p.m. at the McCallum Theatre.

This year's ceremony marks the 60th anniversary of College of the Desert's Vocational Nursing Program, recognizing six decades of preparing students for careers in nursing and supporting the healthcare needs of the Coachella Valley.

"For 60 years, College of the Desert's Vocational Nursing Program has provided students with the education and hands-on training needed to enter a profession that is essential to the health and well-being of our community," said Superintendent/President Val Martinez Garcia. "I am confident our program has equipped the students with the necessary skills and knowledge to be outstanding nurses."

As the region continues to grow, so does the need for qualified healthcare professionals. College of the Desert's Vocational Nursing Program helps strengthen the local healthcare workforce by preparing students with the knowledge, clinical experience and skills needed to provide quality patient care.

The 60th anniversary also provides an opportunity to recognize the generations of students, faculty, staff and healthcare partners who have contributed to the program's success and lasting impact on the Coachella Valley.

The pinning ceremony is a nursing tradition that celebrates students' successful completion of their program and transition into the nursing profession. Students invite their friends and family to attend this ceremony, and joining them in the celebration is the nursing faculty and college officials.

**WHAT:** College of the Desert Vocational Nursing Pinning Ceremony 60<sup>th</sup> Program Anniversary Celebration

**WHEN:** Friday, Sept. 4, 2026, at 2 p.m.

**WHERE:** McCallum Theatre, Palm Desert, California

###

## **About College of the Desert**

College of the Desert serves more than 20,000 students across five campuses in Palm Desert, Indio, Mecca/Thermal, Desert Hot Springs, and Palm Springs. Founded in 1958 and opened in 1962, College of the Desert is governed by the Desert Community College District Board of Trustees. Through the pLEDGE program, the college offers eligible students two years of tuition-free education, removing financial barriers and expanding access to higher education in the community. College of the Desert provides the Coachella Valley with affordable degrees, certificates, and transfer pathways, offering in-demand programs that prepare workforce leaders and strengthen the local economy.