



Perris News

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Perris Recognizes Moreno Valley College

The Riverside Community College Moreno Valley Campus became its own college in March and the City of Perris was one of the first communities to recognize the achievement and wish the new institution well as it charts its way into the future.

Moreno Valley College President Monte Perez and Daria Burnett, Dean of Student Services at the newly minted college, took center stage at the March 30 Perris City Council meeting. The pair received a Certificate of Recognition read by Mayor Daryl Busch.

"We are so delighted to be your college of choice," Perez told the City Council and public. "We are serving the needs of this community."

Moreno Valley College opened in 1991 to 3,000 students. It has since quadrupled in size and offers a full complement of liberal arts, science and humanities programs. The campus also is home to a nationally recognized Allied Health Program, which trains dental hygienists, speech pathologists, certified nursing assistants, physician's assistants and paramedics. The program will soon add radiologists and bio-technology specialist certificates.

"And with the recent passage of health care reform, there will be even more pressure to train more nurses and physicians' assistants," Perez said.

Perez said that 95 percent of Moreno Valley College graduates pass their certification exams and 100 percent of those find immediate employment in well-paying jobs with excellent benefits. The college's nickname is the Lions. Long-range plans call for expanded classrooms, faculty offices, parking spaces, athletic fields and an amphitheatre.

The road from satellite campus to college was not short or easy.

In March 2004, the California Post Secondary Education Commission (CPEC) approved proposals from Riverside Community College District to convert its Moreno Valley and Norco education centers to full college status.

In January, following a second comprehensive evaluation, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) acted to Grant Initial Accreditation to the Moreno Valley Campus to become Moreno Valley College. On March 1, the Board of Governor's for the California Community College system approved the establishment of Moreno Valley College as the 111th college in the California Community College system.

"That number has a nice ring to it—1-1-1," the Mayor said.

Mayor Busch noted that his granddaughter attends classes at Moreno Valley College and at Riverside Community College. In the City's proclamation, the Mayor pointed out the "Perris recognizes Moreno Valley College as an independent college of the Riverside Community College District and congratulates the entire college community."

City Councilman Al Landers said Perris welcomes the new college. The City Council understands the importance of higher education as the best way to improve the lives of Perris residents.

"It's a quality-of-life issue," Landers said. "We want all our residents to be more successful in their lives."

 [Read the official proclamation...](#)



Perris Mayor Daryl Busch reads a certificate of recognition for Moreno Valley College while President Monte Perez and Dean of Student Services Daria Burnett look on.