



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Dec. 21, 2017

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

James Meier 760.773.2589 (office)  
760.848.8230 (cell)  
Interim Director,  
Community Relations

## **College Named a Finalist for Two Bellwether Awards**

**PALM DESERT, CA** — College of the Desert has been named one of 10 finalists for the prestigious 2018 Bellwether Award in two different categories.

The annual Bellwether Awards are part of the Community College Futures Assembly, established in 1995 and sponsored by the Institute of Higher Education at the University of Florida. The awards – given in three categories – focus on innovative programs that other colleges might consider replicating.

College of the Desert was the only college nominated in two categories.

- **Instructional Programs & Services category:** The college's submission was "Breaking Down the Basic Skills Barrier: Creating Pathways through the Basic Skills Sequence to Support Student Success, Equity, and Completion." The entry focused on EDGE (Engage, Develop, Grow, Empower), the college's 3-week summer bridge program that offers a fast-paced review of basic skills in mathematics and English, incorporating student success strategies and exercises to ensure a smooth transition into college life.
- **Planning, Governance & Finance category:** The school submitted "Moving Towards Excellence and Student Success: Using simple, data-driven technology tools to enhance shared governance within a culture of inquiry and a transparent integrated planning and resource allocation model."

"We are extremely proud of this recognition of the efforts of everyone at College of the Desert," said Superintendent/President Joel L. Kinnamon, Ed.D. "We have a really great story to tell and can't wait to share it with the Assembly in January."

As a 2018 Bellwether Finalist Winner, College of the Desert will present at the Community College Futures Assembly in January 2018 at the Hilton Walt Disney World in Florida. The award winners will be announced at the event.

In October, College of the Desert was named one of 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. The school was selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 public two-year colleges nationwide to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize.

**About College of the Desert:**

Established in 1958, College of the Desert (COD), located in Palm Desert, is an accredited community college serving eastern Riverside County, California. The College leads the region in providing quality, higher education, technical training and lifelong learning

43500 Monterey Avenue, Palm Desert, CA 92260  
760.346.8041 — [www.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu)

opportunities, in response to the dynamic needs of our diverse community. The College serves more than 15,000 students each year and is the number one source of transfer students to California State University, San Bernardino Palm Desert Campus. For more information, visit [www.collegeofthedesert.edu](http://www.collegeofthedesert.edu).

###