

Miramar College Opens Career and Life Design Center

September 2025

In August, San Diego Miramar College officially opened the doors to its new [Career and Life Design Services Center](#), a space created to equip students with the tools, perspectives and opportunities to shape purposeful futures and careers. The grand opening marked both the culmination of a carefully planned initiative and a significant shift in how the college approaches student success.

Formerly known as Career Services, the newly named Career and Life Design Services Center reflects a broader educational philosophy that acknowledges a student's path is rarely linear. Many Miramar students manage work, family responsibilities and academic commitments, and this center recognizes those complexities by encouraging them to view career development as part of a holistic process of life design. The goal is not simply to help students secure employment but to empower them to align their ambitions with their values, interests and lived experiences.

The center serves as a hub where learning meets application. Students engage in internships and projects that expand professional networks, earn credit for prior learning acquired through military service or employment, and gain hands-on work experience that integrates classroom concepts with real-world practice. In every case, the emphasis is on fostering resilience, agency and lifelong learning.

Miramar's leadership in this initiative extends beyond the college itself. The institution played a pivotal role in piloting a regional framework to strengthen career services across community colleges, helping adapt the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) assessment to better reflect the unique context of community college students. With the support of the regional Strong Workforce Program, Miramar's own Career Services Strategic Plan became a guiding framework for the new center, prioritizing equity, access and innovation.

"This new space embodies Miramar's commitment to preparing students for meaningful careers and lifelong success," said Dr. Claudia Estrada-Howell, Dean of the School of Business, Technical Careers & Workforce Initiatives at Miramar College. "By prioritizing equity, access and innovation, we have created a place where students can explore pathways, engage in work-based learning and connect with industry partners."

President P. Wesley Lundburg added that by broadening the mission from career services to life design, Miramar is positioning students to imagine and achieve futures that are both practical and aspirational.

The Career and Life Design Services Center is now fully operational, advancing Miramar College's mission to ensure every student has the support, resources and community needed to design a life of purpose and achievement.