

# Introduction

Higher education for many high school students begins at community college. Even though the typical community college student is older than students from four-year universities, students coming directly from high school still make up a significant proportion of first-time students. Furthermore, research has shown that the first semester experience for many students is a strong indicator of their future performance in college. Therefore, it is important for community colleges to understand the characteristics of this particular population in order to provide the appropriate services needed to ensure successful first semester retention and persistence in subsequent semesters.

The Annual High School Feeder Report provides administrators, faculty leaders, and the San Diego Community College District (SDCCD) community a comprehensive and descriptive analysis of recent high school graduates from local area high schools attending one of the district colleges for the first time. In addition, information on concurrently enrolled high school students (students attending college while still in high school) is presented. Future reports will contain data on transfer student performance as the Office of Institutional Research and Planning continues to develop data sharing agreements with local area colleges and universities and other resources.

This report is presented in four volumes; Volume 1 provides data for the entire district and the remaining three volumes contain information specific to the district's three colleges: City College, Volume 2; Mesa College, Volume 3; and Miramar College, Volume 4. Each volume contains four chapters. The first chapter provides a descriptive profile of the feeder high schools included in the report. The second chapter focuses on the pre-college characteristics of the high school feeder students, while chapter three examines their college entry characteristics. Finally, utilizing the high school feeder student cohort from the previous year, first year performance in the district is assessed and reported in Chapter 4.

In May 2002, a data sharing agreement was established between SDCCD and the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). As a result, SDCCD was able to obtain various high school characteristics of the recent high school graduate enrolled in the district. These additional characteristics, which include high school GPA and course completion in various types of high school courses, are presented in Chapter 2 (section 2.3) of this report.