Countdown to Riverside City College's 100th Anniversary

On March 13, 1991 Riverside City College celebrated its 75th Anniversary. It was one of the most ambitious celebrations of an RCC Anniversary because it involved the opening of two new campuses in Norco and Moreno Valley. A March 13, 1991 special edition of the “Viewpoints” student newspaper reported the day’s events. The front page and headline article are reproduced below.

"Riverside Community College’s 75th Anniversary celebration today will center on:

*Separate ceremonies opening two new campuses, in Moreno Valley and Norco.

*A symbolic torch relay run, bringing the flame of the Lamp of Learning from the original Riverside City Campus to the new campuses."
A black tie 75th Anniversary Dinner in the Bradshaw Center of the city campus.

The new campuses will make RCC a multi-campus single college. They will provide convenient access to higher education for students living in Norco and Moreno Valley. The college’s birthday will be long day. The celebration will begin at 6:30 a.m. outside the city campus Tiger’s Den with a Kickoff Continental Breakfast just before torch relay starts. The last event of the day, the dinner, will end 14 and one-half hours later, at 9 p.m. with the singing of RCC’s Alma Mater. Right after the breakfast, the participants will gather in the A.G. Paul Quadrangle at 7 a.m. to observe the lighting of the torches. At 7:15, two runners will start the relay to the new campuses. They will run together from the Quad through the archway to Fairfax Avenue, then along Fairfax to Magnolia Avenue where they will separate to head for Norco and Moreno Valley. A number of sponsors — local businesses, campus clubs, college departments and local high schools — have bought legs of the relay at $75 each, to support the college’s Endowed Scholarship Fund. Dr. Linda Lacy, Dean of Student Activities, said the relay made its goal of raising $10,000 for the fund. She said more than 200 runners will participate. The relay, she said, is a ‘symbolic gesture to unite the two (new) campuses into one college.’ The first campus to be dedicated will be Norco. Ceremonies, under the direction of Marie Pepicello, Provost of the Norco Campus, will begin with an academic procession at 11 a.m. Faculty members, the college president’s cabinet and college trustees will participate. Music will be provided by the RCC Wind Ensemble and the Norco Mounted Posse will post the colors. When the last of the relay runners arrives with the torch, a Lamp of Learning for the Norco Campus will be lit by Dana Mosley, President of Associated Students of RCC and Linda Howard, Student Provost for Norco. Dr. Dorothy Gates, president of the Board of Trustees, will welcome the guests. A seedling from the Heritage Oak in the city campus Quad will be presented by history Professor James Hill. Norco Mayor Richard McGregor and Corona Mayor Al Lopez will offer congratulations to the college. RCC President/Superintendent Dr. Charles A. Kane will give a presidential address and preside at the investiture ceremony. The ceremony will close at noon with a ribbon cutting by Kane, Pepicello and the Board of Trustees. Just two hours later, at 2 p.m., the dedication of the Moreno Valley Campus will begin, with Provost David Richardson presiding. Music for the Moreno Valley ceremony will be provided by the RCC Marching Band and the colors will be posted by the Color Guard from nearby March Air Force Base. Mosley and Kevin Gormon, Student Provost for Moreno Valley, will light a lamp of learning for the campus from the torch relayed from the city campus. The Moreno Valley ceremony will resemble the Norco dedication, with Roger Silva, president of the faculty association presenting the Heritage Oak seedling and with congratulations from Judy Neiberger, Mayor of Moreno Valley and Norton Younglove, Fifth District County Supervisor. Kane will again give the presidential address and preside at the investiture ceremony, followed by a ribbon cutting by himself, Richardson and the Board of Trustees. The dedication is scheduled to end by 3:30. The dinner will begin at 6:30 with a reception in the Bradshaw Center patio. A runner with a torch from Quad will arrive and Mosley will light a third Lamp of Learning for the city campus. The dinner will begin at 7 p.m. with presentations by Patsy Martin McCoy, Secretary of the Board of Trustees; Joyce Black, Vice President for Student Services; Mosley, John Matulich, Deputy Superintendent, and Richard Stover, Vice President for Academic Services. Garrett Short, Coordinator of Media Services, will present a multi-media history of RCC. Kane will give an address, which will be followed by the last event of the day, singing the Alma Mater.”

RCC President/Superintendent Charles Kane told of his feelings about the impending 75th Anniversary in the article reproduced below.
Kane wrote:

"Riverside Community College Is in the final countdown for our new campuses in Moreno Valley and Norco. The palpable current of excitement flooding through classrooms and offices at the college continues to grow stronger as the March 13 celebration looms closer. RCC’s reputation as a leader in higher education is widely known. Back in 1979, when we began striving to be ‘the best,’ we stated four simple values. One, we would promote teaching excellence. Two, we would dedicate ourselves to student centeredness. Three, we would build a great learning environment. And, four, we would honor traditions. Through the ensuing years, these values have formed the cornerstone upon which we’ve built new programs and services. RCC today is not the RCC of yesterday, nor the RCC of tomorrow. At 6:30 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13, the first torch relay runners will leave City Campus for the new campuses. At that moment, we will become a single college, multi-campus organization. By constantly reaffirming our values, we can make sure that the future generations of faculty, staff and students can make informed choices to guide the college along its mission of being the ‘leader among community colleges.’ March 13 also marks the 75th Anniversary of the College. As a community college, RCC has been the focal point for many changes that have occurred in Riverside and surrounding cities. For nearly eight decades, we have educated students who have gone on to serve their communities and country. RCC graduates can be found in concert halls, theaters, professional sports, hospitals, research laboratories, classrooms and boardrooms. This year, we are celebrating
that rich heritage through special reunions and community events. Please join us for the opening celebrations at the new campuses. The festivities begin with the Torch Relay and continue at 11 a.m. with the opening ceremony at the Norco Campus, and at 2 p.m. for the opening of the Moreno Valley Campus. RCC is your community college. We are proud to have served you for the past 75 years and look forward to continuing that tradition.”

The Moreno Valley and Norco Campus site maps below were in the newspaper. The maps illustrated the buildings to open and proposed future development.

![Moreno Valley campus map](image)

The two photos below showed the pre-dedication look of the new Moreno Valley and Norco campus buildings:
Next week, post-event coverage of RCC’s 75th Anniversary.

There are 50 weeks until RCC’s 100th Anniversary on March 13, 2016.

The Riverside City College Instructional Media Center is bringing you this five year countdown to RCC’s 100th Anniversary. Our intention is to give everyone a weekly glance at the many people and events that have been a part of the college. Our thanks go to the RCC Digital Library Archives and the District’s Office of Strategic Communications and Relations for allowing us to use their photo and newspaper collections. Thanks as well to all of the RCC students and Faculty Advisors that were a part of the yearbook and newspaper staffs. Thanks also to Tom Johnson and Gilbert Jimenez who wrote “the book” about RCC’s history. “Riverside City College 1916-1981- A 65 Year History” is available in the RCC
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