



MAY 2026

As the academic year draws to a close, May is a time to celebrate achievement and connection at College of DuPage. Across campus, students, alumni, and retirees continue to come together through the arts, learning, and shared experiences.

Your connection remains an important part of this community, and we're glad to keep you connected to the campus you helped shape.

Spotlight: Connie Canady Howard: Inspiring Generations Through Theater and Teaching

From ballet dancer to actor, director, and longtime College of DuPage professor, Connie Canady Howard has made a lasting mark on COD's arts community.

During her 34 years at COD, Connie inspired students to think differently, embrace new perspectives, and grow through the arts. As the Artistic Director of Buffalo Theatre Ensemble for 24 seasons, she helped build a professional Equity company known for powerful, ensemble-driven storytelling. Her passion for teaching and learning alongside her students continues to influence generations. [Read more.](#)



Join us to see Connie perform in **Birthday Candles, May 7 – June 7**
[Get Tickets](#)

Campus Highlights

A couple of updates from College of DuPage:

- COD generates a \$1.3 billion economic impact each year, supporting nearly 15,000 jobs in the community.
Read the full report: <https://cod.edu/news/2026/april/economic-impact-study.html>
- COD students earned top honors at the National Horticulture Competition
Learn more: <https://cod.edu/news/2026/march/nclc-competition.html>

Upcoming Events & Opportunities to Reconnect

Fine Arts Faculty: Spotlight Exhibitions (through May 2)

Annual Student Exhibition (May 7 – 23). Awards reception: May 7 from 5-6 pm

Both exhibitions: **Cleve Carney Museum of Art at the McAninch Arts Center**

Spring Plant Sale: May 7-8 – 8 am to 5 pm Technical Education Center (TEC)

2026 COD Graduation, May 22

Two Ceremonies: 10:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

Streamed on [YouTube](#) or the Physical Education Center (PEC) Arena

Looking ahead

Lakeside Pavilion Summer Concert Series Begins July 8

MAC 40th Anniversary Festival August 23

Chaparral Alumni Network Golf Outing August 24

Continue Your Impact

Many of you dedicated your careers to helping COD students to succeed. As we prepare to celebrate the Class of 2026, we invite you to continue that legacy.

Your support helps today's students reach graduation and beyond. **"Make a Gift"** and support future graduates.



Wide Offerings through Continuing Education

Return to Campus to Take a Class: Continuing Education Offerings News

Spring, Summer Courses & Youth Academy Summer

Programs For Every Age & Interest!

Stay Connected to COD: **COD Now** is COD's quarterly e-newsletter.

Sign Up to Receive COD NOW

You remain an important part of the College's story, and we enjoy sharing updates about the campus you helped shape. If you have news to share—travel adventures, volunteer work, professional updates, or milestones—we would love to feature you in a future spotlight.

Please email Ellen Farrow at farrowe535@cod.edu or for additional information or resources by emailing: foundation@codfound.org