De Anza College announced today that it had effectively closed 2 gaps in academic and community education. In 2006, the College actively began pursuing closure to the academic gap that keep underserved African American, Latino and Pacific Islander students from attending and succeeding in college. A major element was an improved mentoring program that exposed middle school students to college and allowed high school students at their actual high school campuses as well as that of the main Cupertino site. At the same time, the College began a major program to serve older citizens and their learning and life goals, focusing on the massive technology change of the last 10 years.

The college narrowed the Town & Gown gap by becoming the effective Community Center for Cupertino and surrounding communities becoming the host of many community events, supplanting Memorial Park, now completely a duck pond.

De Anza College’s first step was to upgrade Faculty & Staff global composition to better reflect the incredibly diverse nature of the community. Other assets included a cooperative with the new Kanter Senior Housing Center at the former Oaks Shopping Center for off-site De Anza programs and residential learning.

Light Rail was instrumental in increasing success to the College for East County residents. Last year, the College announced it had achieved the coveted and rare “Unseen Footprint” award for having a minimal environmental impact solar panels and 100% recycling participation and achieved sustainability. The College also is developing the closed Hansen Mine for Student, Faculty and Staff housing.