

NORCO COLLEGE



35-YEAR ANNIVERSARY BENEFIT DINNER

Thursday, March 12, 2026
Norco College Amphitheater

WELCOME MESSAGE



Monica Green, Ed.D.
Norco College President

On behalf of Norco College, it is my distinct honor to welcome you to our 35-Year Benefit Dinner.

This evening is a celebration of legacy, leadership, and the enduring Mustang spirit that has shaped our College since its founding. For 35 years, Norco College has remained committed to expanding access to higher education, advancing equity, and transforming lives through opportunity. What began as a bold vision has grown into a thriving institution fueled by innovation, collaboration, and a deep sense of community.

Tonight, we gather not only to reflect on our journey, but also to invest in what comes next. The Mustang Scholarship Fund and the generosity of our supporters directly empower students to pursue their educational and career goals. Your partnership strengthens our mission and ensures that opportunity continues to grow for future generations of Mustangs.

As we honor the milestones, memories, and individuals who have shaped these past 35 years, we also look ahead with confidence and purpose. The future of Norco College is bright because of the collective belief, commitment, and community represented in this room.

Thank you for being part of this historic celebration and for standing with us as we continue to inspire what comes next.

With pride and gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dr. Monica L. Green".

Monica L. Green, Ed.D.
President, Norco College

PROGRAM

DINNER SERVICE

WELCOME

Monica Green, Ed.D., President, Norco College

MUSTANGS IN MEMORIAM

Monica Gutierrez, Ph.D., Professor of Biology, Norco College

HISTORY OF THE SILVER MUSTANG SCHOLARSHIP

Paul Parnell, Ed.D., Past President of Norco College (2012–2016)

GROWTH AND TRANSFORMATION

Sarah Burnett, Ph.D., Professor Emerita, Norco College

STUDENT PERFORMANCE

Norco College Studio Arts Ensemble (SAE)

NORCO COLLEGE EXPANSION

Michael Collins, Ed.D., Vice President of Business Services, Norco College

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Ruben Aguilar, Associate Professor of Kinesiology / Health Science, Norco College

ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF NORCO COLLEGE (ASNC)

Hussam Mobin, President of ASNC, Norco College

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Monica Green, Ed.D., President, Norco College

CLOSING REMARKS

Monica Green, Ed.D., President, Norco College

SILENT AUCTION

Michael Collins, Ed.D., Vice President of Business Services, Norco College

FEATURED SPEAKERS



Emcee: Michael Collins, Ed.D., Vice President of Business Services

Dr. Michael Collins is Vice President of Business Services at Norco College, overseeing fiscal and operational functions that support the institution's mission and long-term sustainability. He holds degrees from Syracuse University, California State University, Long Beach, and an Ed.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Finance from the University of Southern California.



Monica Green, Ed.D., President

Dr. Monica Green serves as President of Norco College, providing strategic leadership in support of student access, equity, and success. She has worked with Norco College since 2001 and leads our campus community in advancing academic and student-centered priorities as part of the Riverside Community College District.



Monica Gutierrez, Ph.D., Professor of Biology

Dr. Monica Gutierrez is a Professor of Biology at Norco College in the School of Natural Sciences, Health & Kinesiology, where she teaches and supports student success in the biological sciences. She is committed to fostering scientific literacy and helping students prepare for future careers in science and health-related fields.



Paul Parnell, Ed.D. Past President of Norco College (2012–2016)

Dr. Paul Parnell served as President of Norco College from 2012 to 2016, advancing student success initiatives, strengthening community partnerships, and improving campus resources and support services. Following his leadership at Norco, he accepted the role of Chancellor at the State Center Community College District, continuing his commitment to equity, access, and excellence in California community college education.

FEATURED SPEAKERS

Sarah Burnett, Ph.D., Professor Emerita



Dr. Sarah Burnett is Professor Emerita of Early Childhood Education in the School of Human & Public Services at Norco College, where she has dedicated over a decade to teaching and advocating for young children and their families. Her journey into education spans international and interdisciplinary experience, and she is known for her deep commitment to student success and transformational teaching.

Ruben Aguilar, Associate Professor of Kinesiology / Health Science



Ruben Aguilar is an Associate Professor of Kinesiology / Health Science at Norco College and a United States Army veteran and Purple Heart recipient. After serving in the military, he enrolled at Norco College and became a pioneer in establishing the Veterans Resource Center. A proud alumnus who later earned a master's degree in Kinesiology from California Baptist University, Aguilar now teaches at his alma mater and is deeply involved in student programs and community initiatives, including launching Norco's first Women's Flag Football club and mentoring through the Puente Program. He also co-owns a CrossFit gym and volunteers with his nonprofit to support local youth.

Hussam Mobin, President of ASNC



Hussam Mobin is the 2025–2026 President of the Associated Students of Norco College, where he leads student government in representing and amplifying the voices of his peers. A first-year Electrical Engineering major, Hussam has served in ASNC in multiple roles and is dedicated to increasing student engagement and visibility of campus activities and services.

MUSTANGS IN MEMORIAM

Exploring the Horizon

by Michael Cluff
March 1, 2010

Nearly nineteen years ago
this campus at Norco
this pedagogical prairie schooner
set off through arid acres
of elusive education
dispensing wisdom on its way west
an oasis welling up
with possibilities.

The front, the leader
of a wagon train of three,
Riverside in the center,
Moreno Valley the furthest east,
we allow mustangs
of any reasonable sort
to remain free to form
their own souls, spirits
their own goals
under gentle guidance,
no reins of repression tolerated.

Today,
we will establish our own college
in a collegial group of equals
a troika, a trio cantering to the same tune
but being the unique equines
we at Norco are
our movements will be
a shared innovative,
a shared collective
prance and a trot
precedent settings
in this section of the state
and always
all our own.

Tonight's performers come from the Music Industry Studies course MIS-11: Studio Arts Ensemble, part of the NOMU program and directed by Brady Kerr.

Studio Arts Ensemble is a hands-on performance and production course where students don't just rehearse songs — they build full live experiences. From arranging and rehearsing to running sound, managing stage flow, and supporting one another as artists, these students learn by doing.

What you're about to see represents collaboration, leadership, and real-world training in action. This is NOMU — students stepping into their artistry, taking ownership of the stage, and bringing their work to life.

nomu

"Ain't It Fun" by Paramore & "Can't Stop the Feeling!" by Justin Timberlake

Andrea Toledo (backing vocals) | Anthony Lim (backing vocals) | Chris Clampitt (guitar)
Cody Scott (drums/bass) | Devon Groves (guitar) | Elizabeth Kim-Rastello (live sound)
Francis Flores (lead vocals) | Jack Martin (guitar) | Lucy Sherrett (bass)
Marty Sanchez (drums/live sound) | Oscar Arana (drums) | Santiago Yanez (lead vocals)



Norco Music (NOMU) just released its 30th album, *Vertigo* — a major milestone for the program since its inception in 2010.

Now available at norcomusic.com/music and on all streaming platforms, *Vertigo* features 20 new tracks from emerging student artists, along with 10 interludes that connect the project into one complete listening experience.

Rather than a collection of separate songs, the album flows as a single journey, balancing energy and reflection. It captures both where NOMU has been and where it's headed.

Thirty albums represents 15+ years of students writing, recording, and producing original music while developing their artistic voices. With *Vertigo*, Norco Music honors its legacy and steps confidently into its next chapter.



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NORCO
COLLEGE



MUSTANG SCHOLARSHIP FUND

OUR MISSION:

Norco College is an open-access college that supports every learner on their educational path. We help diverse students grow, succeed, and change their lives through education.



The Mustang Scholarship Fund provides direct support to Norco College students for essential learning materials such as textbooks, lab kits, technology, and classroom tools.

YOUR IMPACT:

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	\$1000	A FULL SEMESTER OF MATERIALS AND SUPPORT FOR ONE STUDENT

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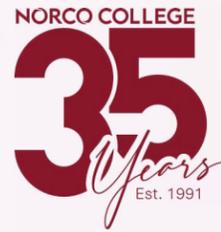


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Joyce Pavez



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HONORING OUR JOURNEY, INSPIRING WHAT'S NEXT.

For 35 years, Norco College has stood as a place of opportunity, transformation, and community. What began as a bold vision to expand access to higher education has grown into a dynamic institution defined by innovation, inclusion, and an unwavering commitment to student success.

This milestone represents more than the passage of time. It reflects decades of dedication from students, faculty, classified professionals, administrators, alumni, trustees, and community partners who believed in the power of education to change lives. Each building constructed, each president appointed, each program launched, and each symbol unveiled tells a story of growth and forward momentum.

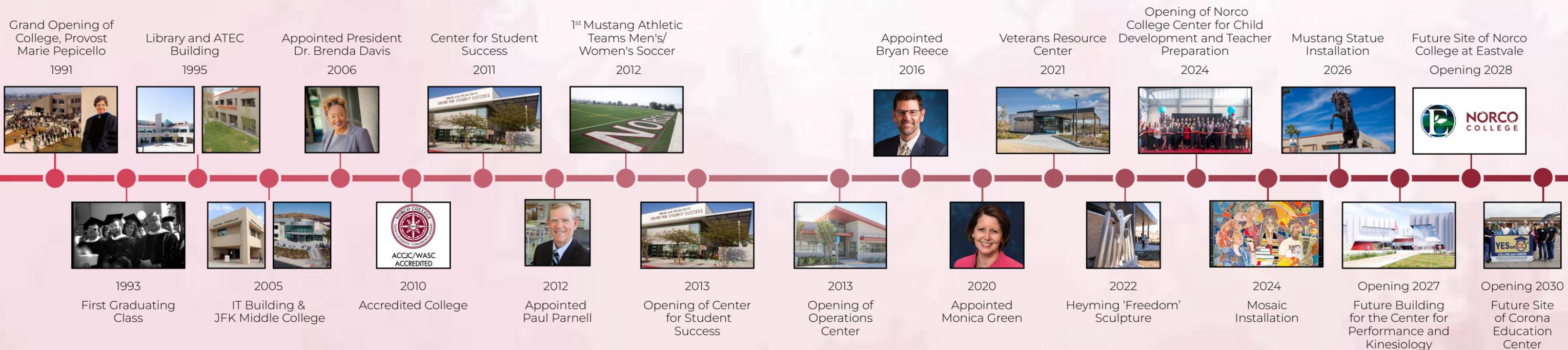
The timeline within these pages commemorates defining moments in our history, from the opening of our campus and the appointment of presidents, to the construction of transformative facilities and the unveiling of enduring campus landmarks. Each milestone reflects resilience, ambition, and the collective spirit that continues to guide the College forward. As we honor our journey, we also look ahead.

The same Mustang spirit that carried the College through its formative years continues to inspire what's next; expanding opportunity, advancing equity, and strengthening the impact of Norco College for generations to come.

Together in Celebration



Photographs from this evening's 35-Year Benefit Dinner, along with highlights from anniversary celebrations throughout the year, may be viewed at norcollege.edu/35years.



CELEBRATING

YEARS

NORCO MUSTANGS



YEARS



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Norco College gratefully recognizes the members of the 35-Year Anniversary Committee for their leadership and service in commemorating this historic milestone. Their efforts ensured that this celebration honors the College's legacy while inspiring continued growth and opportunity for the future.

THANK YOU

35-Year Anniversary Planning Committee Members:

Rosio Becerra, Interim Dean of Student Life

Kasey Boyer, Educational Resource Advisor

Kylie Campbell, Interim Associate Dean, Educational Partnerships

Eileen Cechini, Administrative Specialist, Office of Instruction

Michael Collins, VP Business Services, Fundraising efforts

Gaby Cortez, Administrative Specialist, Special Funded Programs

Sean Davis, Associate Professor, Counseling

Karina Gigliotti, Director, Grants

Nidia Gonzalinajec, Assistant Professor, Mathematics

Ruth Leal, Media Production Specialist

Virginia Perez, Health Services Specialist

Edwin Romero, Associate Professor, Student Activities Coordinator

Armando Saldana, Electronics: PCB Design Instructor

Lindsey Sweeney, Public Affairs Officer

Marie Thermidor, Development Officer, RCCD Foundation

Kimberly Thomas, Manager, Basic Needs and Wellness and Fresh Success

Denise Terrazas, Executive Administrative Assistant, Office of the President

Dominique Voyer, Professor, Spanish

Desiree Wagner, Administrative Coordinator, Planning & Development

Lisa Quilan, Office Technician, Library/Learning Resources

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96.4%
Graduation Rate

49,487
Student Population

1,377
Dual Enrollment Students

13
CTE Pathways

Our partnership with Norco College reflects our shared commitment to student success. By working together, we are opening doors to higher education and empowering the next generation to achieve their goals. We are proud to collaborate in creating meaningful pathways that prepare our students for college, careers, and lifelong success.



-Dalia Gadelmawla, Superintendent, CNUSD



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AMR Riverside congratulates Norco College on celebrating its 35th Anniversary and is proud to sponsor Norco College's efforts in providing critical financial support to students as they pursue their educational and career goals.

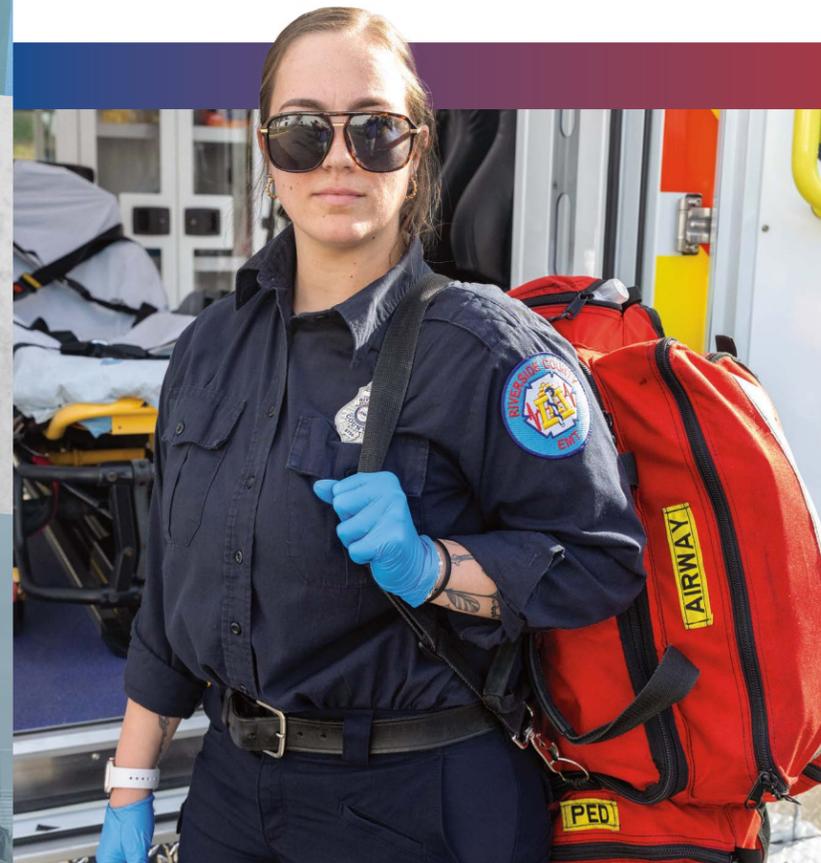


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Programs that align with community college



Career Technical Education



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AVID



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Innovation | NURSE NAVIGATION: A 911 support service where a GMR nurse screens low-priority callers and guides them to the most appropriate level of care — such as urgent care, telehealth or self-care — before an emergency response is dispatched.

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT TRANSPORT TEAM (CATT): A program in partnership with Riverside University Health System, CATT responds to behavioral health calls to provide an on-site mental health assessment to determine the best resources for the patient and navigate directly to appropriate care.



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Congrats on
35 Years
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Norco College Library Learning Resource Center & Student Services

Building Tomorrow's Workforce - Together



Building Corona's Workforce. Building Corona's Future.

The future of business in Corona depends on the strength of our workforce.

The Workforce Development Committee brings together educators, business leaders, and community partners to ensure our talent pipeline meets the needs of today—and tomorrow.

Through collaboration between educational institutions and industry, we're creating pathways to opportunity, resilience, and long-term economic success.

MEETING DATES:



Register now on the Chamber calendar. >>>



Be part of the solution. Join the Workforce Development Committee.



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The Norco College President's Circle sustains vital operations, enabling the RCCD Foundation to secure funds for scholarships, student initiatives, and various programming.

Your support plays a crucial role in strengthening Norco College's educational landscape and fostering connections with community partners, businesses, funding sources, alumni, and employees.

Join this select group with an annual commitment of \$1,500 or more, making a significant difference for our students. To make your commitment today, visit: norcollege.edu/presidentscircle.



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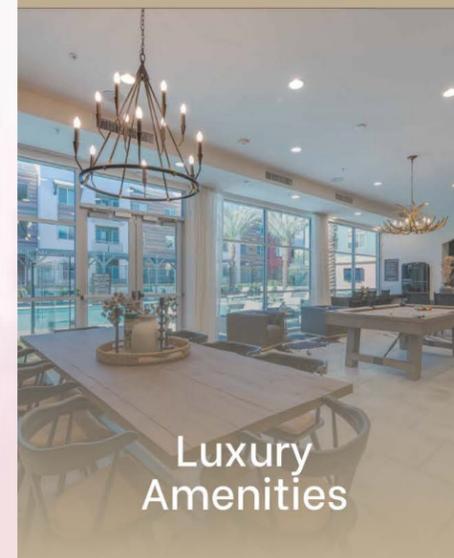
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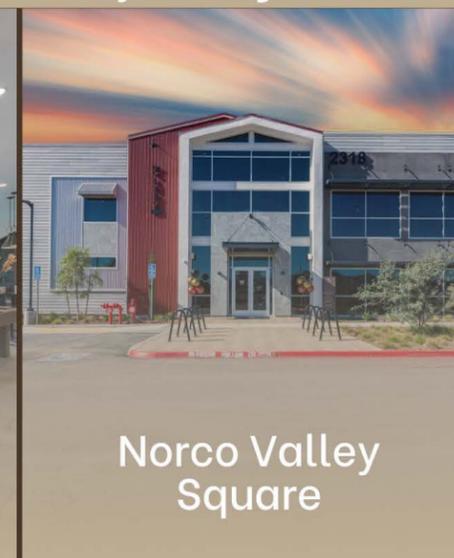
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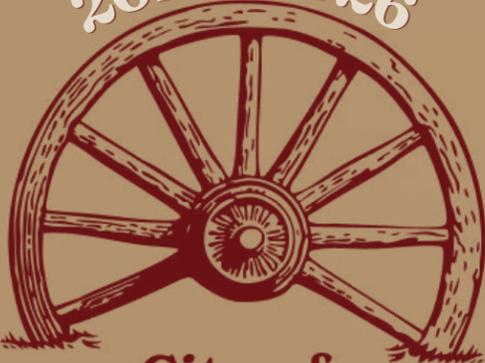


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EDWIN GOMEZ, Ed.D. | County Superintendent of Schools

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our community!**



Learn more by visiting:
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Edwin Gomez, Ed.D.
Riverside County Superintendent of Schools

35 YEARS OF STUDENT SUCCESS



AND CONTINUING THE JOURNEY.

A Message from the RCCD Foundation

On behalf of the Riverside Community College District Foundation, thank you for celebrating Norco College's 35-year anniversary and for supporting our students.

Every contribution made tonight directly supports scholarships, programs, and resources that empower Norco College students to pursue their goals and achieve lasting success.

Your generosity helps remove financial barriers and expand educational opportunities for students throughout our region. We are grateful for your partnership and your commitment to student success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeffrey Kaatz'.

Jeffrey Kaatz

Executive Director, RCCD Foundation

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Star Rivera-Lacey, Ph.D., Deputy Chancellor and Provost

Monica L. Green, Ed.D., President, Norco College

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!

www.norcocollege.edu

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