



Chris Graham, Dr. Michael Cunningham and Nancy Rohland-Heinrich (left to right) celebrate the merger of National University and Northcentral University at NU's Kearny Mesa headquarters. Photo by Karen Pearlman

## National University Joining Forces with NCU

**EDUCATION:** Merger Boosts Enrollment, Post-Graduate Programs

■ By KAREN PEARLMAN

San Diego-based **National University** is merging with **Northcentral University**, a fully online university based in Point Loma that specializes in advanced degrees.

The merger, announced last week (July 18), combines National University's experience in providing career-relevant degrees and credentials for adult learners with Northcentral's diverse and well-established master's and doctoral program offerings.

The union of the two institutions is expected to boost enrollment to more than 42,000 students, making National University the second largest private university in California behind the University of California.

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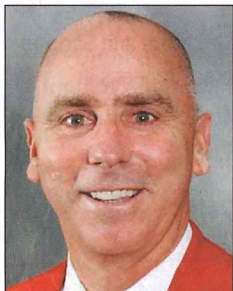
## Olympics-like Event Coming to San Diego

**NONPROFITS:** Transplant Games Include 5K Run, Parade

■ By KAREN PEARLMAN

**Mark Neville**, the 53-year-old CEO of **Sports San Diego** and executive director of the nonprofit **San Diego Bowl Game Association**, has had only two surgeries in his life.

The first was a 2006 procedure which allowed him to share bone marrow with a young Orange County boy in dire need. Neville was discovered through a nationwide bone marrow registration search



Mark Neville  
CEO  
Sports San Diego

— one in which he had entered his name and details 12 years prior.

The second surgery was a 2019 transplant procedure that took place in Houston, when Neville donated one of his kidneys to

the daughter of a woman who used to babysit his children.

Not two months after the successful kidney transplant, a friend of Neville's told him about the six-day **Transplant Games of America** — sporting events held every other year in different cities around the nation in which all participants have either been the recipient of a donated organ, have donated an organ themselves,

► *Transplant page 28*

## New Campus Inspires Creativity

**MARKETING:** Red Door Moves to Sherman Heights

■ By RAY HUARD

**Red Door Interactive**, a San Diego marketing firm, is enticing workers back to the office with a move from a downtown tower to an open campus in Sherman Heights that has more options for where and how people work.

"Being around smart people in a smart space that was thoughtfully designed is what really differentiates this campus for me," said **Madeline Sweeney**, a business manager on Red Door's client services team.

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## Chamber Salutes Business Leaders

**AWARDS:** Ten Honored at Celebration

■ By GEORGE LURIE

The **North San Diego Business Chamber** presented 10 prestigious leadership awards to several individuals and a handful of small, medium and large businesses during their **Celebration of Business 2022 Leadership Awards** event,



Debra Rosen  
CEO  
North San Diego  
Business Chamber

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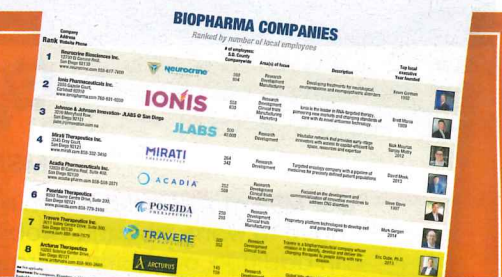
**P.18** **LIFE SCIENCE:** San Diego Is a 'Hotspot' for Sustainability in Research

**P.28** **LEADERSHIP:** Meet the Leaders of Influence in Life Science  
Top 50 Honorees for 2022

## THE LISTS

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## Red Door

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Sweeney had been working from home but said that since Red Door moved to the Sherman Heights open campus, she prefers working in the office and feels “a sense of awe every time I go on campus.”

“It’s been an incredibly productive and inspiring environment because we have the ability to go to spaces that make us feel creative,” Sweeney said. “In every meeting, I’m shifting, I’m going to a different space or I’m going to my desk where I can stand or sit.”

### Building on Experience

Formerly in **Diamond View Tower** overlooking **Petco Park**, Red Door in July moved into the firm’s new headquarters at 2436-2450 Market Street.

Red Door bought the 17,596-square-foot campus property in January 2020 for \$3.2 million.

The company had been leasing space in Diamond View Tower since 2004, but CEO and Founder **Reid Carr** said that when the company’s lease ran out, he decided to buy the Sherman Heights property to avoid rising rents.

Red Door’s new offices are spread over three low-rise buildings that underwent extensive renovations designed by **AVRP Skypoint** architects based in East Village.

Carr declined to say what the renovations ultimately cost, but before work started, he had estimated it would be about \$7 million.

The property included a former single-family home that was remodeled in a craftsman style, a metal sided garage that was gutted and redone to form a central hub of the Red Door campus, and a former storefront that has become a heads-down work area for quite work.

“The west building looks like a house and we really do want to create a home-like environment for our people,” Carr said, adding that the design of the new campus was “an evolution.”

“It was all built on everything we learned over 20 years in five different office spaces,”



Red Door Interactive combined three older buildings in Sherman Heights to create a new campus with a variety of work spaces and an emphasis on openness. Photo courtesy of Red Door Interactive



**Reid Carr**  
CEO and Founder  
Red Door Interactive

Carr said. The metal building is behind the former storefront and is connected to it by an outdoor deck. It was completely gutted and reskinned. The floor was dug-out to give the building higher ceiling height to enable the addition of a mezzanine and pocket balconies.

Folding bleachers and a kitchen also were added as were small-booths similar to those used in restaurants, although these are semi-enclosed to create private meeting areas.

Sweeney said that she’s particularly fond of large floor-to-ceiling garage-style doors in the metal building that open to give an outdoor feel to the space.

“People are always in and out. It feels like there’s this energy,” Sweeney said.

An exterior east wall has a mural by **Paul Mericle**, a visual arts and design teacher at **Francis Parker School**, meant to reflect the many cultures found in Sherman Heights.

### Offering Choices

**Chris Veum**, president of **AVRP Skypoint**, said that Red Door’s new headquarters is an example of how aging buildings can be brought back to life instead



**Chris Veum**  
President  
AVRP Skypoint

of tearing them down to build something new.

“We’re just taking what’s there and elevating or enhancing it so it still becomes part of the fabric of the neighborhood without dramatically changing it,” Veum said.

Part of the appeal of the campus is its openness – a move that both creates outdoor work spaces and helps Red Door become a friendly neighbor.

“It faces the community. It doesn’t turn its back on the community. It doesn’t put up a wall to say, ‘we’re inside and you’re going to be outside and the rest of you kind of figure out what we’re doing beyond the walls,’” Veum said.

Veum said the design was meant to evoke the feelings that Sweeney expressed about creating a welcoming environment where people are happy to be in the office.

“We’re in a world today where people are making their own choices as opposed to companies prescribing how you should work. We’ve learned through the (COVID-19) pandemic that you can’t prescribe. It has to be about choice,” Veum said. “Red Door is a smart enough organization where they do give people choices.”

**Tyler Hustwick**, Red Door director of marketing, called the new campus “literally a breath of fresh air” because it is so open with multiple outdoor patios and

decks.

With the campus variety of work spaces, “you’re really able to switch up your day.

No day is the same and that really, to me, sort of brings sort of fresh creativity day in and day out,” Hustwick said.

“What brings me back each day is really the energy,” Hustwick said. “You really can’t replicate that in the work from home environment.” ■



**Tyler Hustwick**  
Director of Marketing  
Red Door Interactive



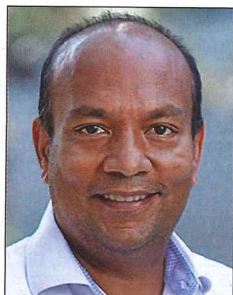
**Madeline Sweeney**  
Business Manager  
Red Door Interactive

## Salk

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Scripps scientists discovered that the innate immune system requires a two-step security check for it to activate against HIV-1 – a similar concept to technologies that use two-factor authentication, such as requiring users to enter a password and then respond to a confirmation email.

The first step involves an essential protein – polyglutamine binding protein 1 (PQBPI) – recognizing the HIV-1 outer shell as soon as it enters the cell and before it can replicate. PQBPI then coats and decorates the virus, acting as an alert signal to summon cGAS. Once the viral shell begins to disassemble, cGAS activates



**Sumit Chanda**  
Professor  
Scripps Research  
Department of  
Immunology and  
Microbiology

additional immune-related pathways against the virus.

“While the adaptive immune system has been a main focus for HIV research and vaccine development, our discoveries clearly show the critical role the innate immune response plays in detecting the virus,” said

**Sunnie Yoh**, PhD, first author of the study and senior staff scientist in Chanda’s lab. “In modulating the narrow window in this two-step process – after PQBPI has decorated the viral capsid, and before the virus is able to insert itself into the host genome and replicate – there is the potential to develop novel adjuvanted vaccine strategies against HIV-1.”

By shedding light on the workings of the innate immune system, these findings also show how our bodies respond

to other autoimmune or neurodegenerative inflammatory diseases. For example, PQBPI has been shown to interact with tau – the protein that becomes dysregulated in Alzheimer’s disease – and activate the same inflammatory cGAS pathway. The researchers will continue to investigate how the innate immune system is involved in disease onset and progression, as well as how it distinguishes between self and foreign cells.

### Growing Market for HIV Therapies

These breakthrough HIV studies come at a time when the global HIV drug market is expected to gain traction from increasing developments and improvements in antiviral therapies.

Last year, New York-based **Evergreen Health** received FDA approval



**Sunnie Yoh**  
Staff Scientist  
Scripps Research

for Cabenuva – the first complete and injectable regimen for HIV-1 infected adults that can be registered once every month.

According to a report by **Fortune Business Insights** titled, “HIV Drugs Market, 2021-2028,” the market for drug therapies like Cabenuva – or the kind that might come from the Salk and Scripps teams’ research – stood at \$28.79 billion in 2020 and is projected to grow

from \$30.46 billion in 2021 to \$45.58 billion in 2028 at a CAGR of 5.9%.

There are an estimated 40 million people worldwide with HIV and the cases are growing rapidly in regions such as Africa and other developing areas that are expected to drive the market for new HIV drugs, according to research by the **World Health Organization**. ■

### Red Door Interactive



**FOUNDED:** 2002

**CEO/FOUNDER:** Reid Carr

**HEADQUARTERS:** Sherman Heights

**BUSINESS:** marketing firm

**EMPLOYEES:** 90+

**CONTACT:** 619-398-2670

**SOCIAL IMPACT:** working with Sherman Heights Community Center to offer after-school workshops.

**NOTABLE:** Red Door has been named a “best places to work” 14 years in a row. With offices in San Diego and Denver, Red Door is planning to expand an already has people working in Tucson, New Orleans, Tijuana and Manila.