In 1987, the engineering program at USD had two faculty members and a few students. Flash forward to the Fall of 2012 when philanthropist Darlene Marcos Shiley announced that she was presenting USD with a $20 million gift to create the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering.

Under the guidance of inaugural Dean Chell Roberts, the Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering has been ranked #14 in the nation for 2015 for engineering schools that do not offer a doctorate degree by U.S. News and World Report. This ranking is up from #22 in recent years. The faculty has been expanded with the addition of 5 new full-time members which include: two in mechanical engineering, two in industrial engineering and one in software engineering.

The School of Engineering has also expanded into renovated space in Loma Hall. The first phase of the newly created spaces include Ideation Space with flexible furniture and white boards available for students to create, brainstorm and collaborate on new ideas. Another new space is Donald’s Garage. This area, named after Donald Shiley, is a prototyping space for students to bring their new ideas to life, test them and rebuild. The designated Build Space is where students can put their tested ideas together.

The next phase of the expansion will renovate the 9,000 square feet where the bookstore currently resides. This space will house four new studios/classrooms, eight faculty offices, a Dean’s conference room and four industry meeting rooms. This will begin in the summer of 2015 with a slated completion date of January 2016.

In December of 2014, the USD Board of Trustees approved a new engineering degree, the BS/BA in Engineering. This is a more flexible engineering degree that allows students to develop different pathways according to their interests. This non-specific engineering discipline joins the current engineering majors of Electrical, Industrial and Systems Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. The Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering will also add specializations in embedded software and sustainability in the Fall of 2015.

"With this combination of great faculty and students, state-of-the-art facilities and a progressive vision for engineering education, we are on our way to creating a world class engineering school," Dean Roberts stated.