

The Bulldog Bulletin

September 30, 2013

Making the High School Connection

The truth about our high school graduates

Two weeks ago CSM hosted 60 high school counselors at the *Student Success at College of San Mateo Conference*.

Congratulations to Krystal Romero who came up with the conference tagline: **“You PLANT - We WATER -They GROW.”**

Krystal won a free breakfast from Jennifer Hughes as a result.

If you know Jennifer at all, you would know that a simple gift card would not do. Jennifer (aka: Wanda LaBelle) dressed as a waitress and personally delivered a homemade breakfast to Krystal.



The conference was a complete success and I want to personally thank Marsha Ramezane and everyone who had a role in the event. Building on a strong foundation set by Steve Morehouse, student support services, and others, we have worked hard to improve our high school outreach over the last several years and our efforts have paid dividends. In fact, we have reversed the trend of declining high school enrollment. I shared the following with the high school counselors:

Top 5 Destinations for San Mateo County High School Graduates 1995-2010 (source: CPEC, 1995-2010; total SM County high school graduates = 50,135)

Rank	College	Total Enrolled	% of Total
1	College of San Mateo	10,540	21.0%
2	Skyline College	6,178	12.3%
3	Canada College	4,108	8.2%
4	San Francisco State	3,405	6.8%
5	City College of San Francisco	2,557	5.1%

Facts:

- CSM is the single largest destination for San Mateo County high school graduates.
- Almost 42% of all San Mateo County high school graduates attend one of the three colleges in our district.
- 56% of all San Mateo County high school graduates attend a community college.
- CSM alone has enrolled 3 times the number of San Mateo County high school graduates than SFSU, which is the highest ranking CSU destination, and 4 times the number of San Mateo County high school graduates attending UC Davis, which is the highest ranking UC destination.
- These statistics do not include reverse transfers or students who are concurrently enrolled at our local universities. Our numbers are even higher when these two student populations are included.

I share this data whenever I speak with our high school partners because it is important to dispel the myth about college attendance patterns. I know that the focus of most high schools is on colleges and universities. It's just part of the culture. In fact, if you visit the career guidance office at most high schools, you will find the walls plastered with pendants and posters for four-year universities and colleges. At the same time, I would be remiss if I did not mention that there are some high schools that do a wonderful job in presenting students with all options.

I understand why high schools feel the pressure to focus on the four-year institutions. However, I believe that a significant number of students are not as well-served as they should be. Worse yet, the extreme “social pressure” that is associated with college choice sends the wrong message to community college-bound students.

I made the following point when I spoke with the high school counselors: *if over half of your students are attending a community college and if CSM is the single largest destination for high school graduates, shouldn't we be working together more closely?* This is a message that I will be taking to every high school official that I meet with this year.

I am very pleased with our outreach and counseling efforts and I hear nothing but praise from high school principals and counselors



about CSM. However, we need to do more. Close to 800 high school graduates begin their college career at CSM each fall. We need to work actively with our high schools and develop a comprehensive approach to make the transition more seamless for students. I want to make sure that not a single student falls through the cracks. I look forward to working with all of you on this very important issue this academic year.

Get to Know:

Norma Vasquez

Norma has worked for our district as a custodian for 11 years. Fortunately for us, Norma has been assigned to CSM for the last 8 years. Norma has worked in just about every building at CSM and is currently assigned to the College Center and to the Gym during the day. She lives in Hayward with her husband and their two daughters. Because her shift starts so early, Norma is on the road to CSM long before the sun comes up.

Norma's husband, Alphonso, is also custodian at CSM. Alphonso works the evening shift and the two literally pass each other going in opposite directions on the San Mateo Bridge. This arrangement has allowed Norma and Alphonso to care for their young daughters.



In the afternoon Norma begins her second, and most important "shift" as a mom. She is home in time to pick up her daughters when they get out of school. Norma loves spending time with her children and her husband. They enjoy going to the park and doing other family activities. A stop at "Chuck E. Cheese" is a special treat for the girls.

Norma enjoys working at CSM very much. She loves to help students and others. In particular, Norma says that our security officers "are good people to work with." I don't know how she finds the time, but Norma has made working out at the gym a priority. Norma feels better than ever as a result. Given all of the demands on her, she needs all the energy she can get!

Meetings and Events:

Date	Meeting/Event
9/30	Student Senate Meeting College Heights (10-468) 2:15-4:15
10/1	Diversity in Action Group Meeting College Center (10-390) 12:00-1:30
10/2	Transfer Success Presentation Theatre 10:00-11:30
10/2	All-College Meeting: Accreditation Visit College Center (10-195) 2:15
10/2	CSEA Executive Board Meeting CSEA Office (1-115) 5:00-6:00
10/4	Institutional Planning & Budgeting College Heights (10-468) 2:15-4:00
10/7	Student Senate Meeting College Heights (10-468) 2:15-4:15
10/8	Academic Senate Gov Council North Hall (18-206) 2:30-4:30
10/9	AFT Meeting Canada College (3-142) 2:15
10/9	Foster Forward Workshop Central Hall (16-102) 1:00-3:00
10/9	Teaching a Hybrid Class Workshop College Center (10-435) 2:00-3:45

Meetings are open to all unless stated otherwise. For a listing of all college events, please refer to the CSM Event Calendar: collegeofsanmateo.edu/calendar