Veterans Resource & Opportunity Center Celebrates Five-Year Anniversary

On February 15, the Veterans Resource & Opportunity Center (VROC) marked its fifth year of service and opened its doors to the campus community for a celebration. The attendees included current student veterans, alumni, faculty, staff, and campus administrators, who came together to have lunch and share stories about their experiences. VROC Program Services Coordinator Luis Padilla says, “I’m extremely happy because it’s been difficult to get veteran centers established. To have the CSM VROC going for five years is truly a remarkable feat. We’ve turned into a one-stop shop that assists student veterans with everything from providing a quiet lounge to personalized counseling to help with veteran benefits.”

The VROC began after seeing other community colleges forming their own veteran centers. This inspired Army veteran and former Dean of Enrollment Services Henry Villareal to create a similar hub at CSM. Since its inception, Villareal says he’s proud to have “made a space available for student veterans.”
“I wanted to acknowledge student veterans for their military service,” says Villareal, “and create a space where these individuals could regain the comradeship they had experienced in the military.”

VROC student staff member Everardo “Junior” Garcia is a testament to Villareal’s vision. Garcia began attending CSM while he was wrapping up his military service and sought out the VROC’s assistance in transitioning into civilian life. The second-year student credits the VROC as a place that acts as a home away from home. “I advise other student veterans to check it out,” says Garcia. “We have access to great resources, like quiet study hours and tutoring sessions. Additionally, the VROC has helped me a lot by providing me a sense of belonging—I feel like I’m able to speak my mind freely and connect with people that have similar mind sets. When it’s time, I’ll be sad to move on from CSM because the VROC is amazing, to say the least.”

To learn more about the VROC, visit collegeofsanmateo.edu/veterans.

CSM Jazz Ensemble Lauded as “Inspired” at Next Generation Festival

Students in the CSM Jazz Ensemble had the experience of a lifetime at the Monterey Jazz Next Generation Festival in early March. The ensemble was selected for the festival as one of just six college and university ensembles nationwide. The CSM band did not win, but received rave reviews from the adjudicators. Renowned New York trumpet artist Ingrid Jensen commented, “This is an incredible group.” Composer and jazz artist Alan Ferber wrote, “The students emitted great energy from the stage...Inspired.”

CSM Students Join National Walk-Out Protest on Gun Violence

On Wednesday, March 14, students, faculty, staff, and administrators from CSM joined people across the country in coming together to show solidarity with the victims of the Parkland high school massacre and to make a statement against gun violence. The on-campus rally, which coincided with walkouts and rallies throughout the nation, highlighted the importance of the issue of gun violence at schools, colleges, and universities. Students from the CSM Middle College program, students visiting
the campus from San Mateo High School, and students participating in the Mana program’s preview day joined the rally. ASCSM President Colby Riley addressed the crowd and led the group in a moment of silence to recognize all the victims of recent gun violence. CSM President Claire then spoke to those assembled and highlighted need for safe and secure learning environments. Afterwards, the microphone was made available to anyone who wished to speak. Students and faculty made powerful statements about the need for gun control as well as the importance of building community and addressing issues of mental health.

Student Beca Perez Meets 49ers Assistant Coach

Beca Perez, current CSM sophomore and Student Manager in Football Operations, attended the San Jose State football clinic last Friday. Beca had the opportunity of meeting Coach Kate Sowers, San Francisco 49ers Assistant Coach, who is the first female coach in the NFL. Coach Sowers spoke to many of NorCal’s top coaches about leadership and culture, but she also took the time
to give Beca some words of advice for a young woman in the football profession. Beca has been accepted to SJSU and has already been offered a position in their football operations department. In addition to SJSU, Beca is also evaluating transfer options at places like University of Oregon, Cal Poly, and University of Kansas. (Submitted by Tim Tulloch)

CSM Holds Leadership Retreat

CSM leaders — a coalition of administration, faculty, staff, and student representatives from the Institutional Planning Committee (IPC), Academic Senate, and Classified Senate and the Associated Students — met for a retreat at the Cañada Vista clubhouse on Friday, March 16. Led by Academic Senate Chair Jeramy Wallace and Classified Senate President Fauzi Hamadeh, the theme of the leadership meeting was “Creating a Vision for CSM.” It included how best to serve students going forward in a new era for the College. Leaders engaged in rich discussions about equity, student concerns, and challenges, as well as brainstorming workshops on how best to tackle opportunities and challenges moving forward. There were also presentations by PRIE and President Claire opened a discussion on what CSM is doing now to promote its vision. The retreat was a first of its kind in recent history, and was well-received by its attendees. The leaders all agreed that more of this type of collaborative effort will be helpful in the future.

Spring Flex Day a Huge Success

This year’s Flex Day included most of the faculty and staff at CSM. The day’s first session was opened by representatives of Escala (Spanish for “striving”), a consortium of higher education consultants who are committed personally and professionally to increasing the retention and graduation rates of underrepresented students in higher education. Escala also held a workshop entitled “What’s My Role in our HSI?” later in the day,
which helped faculty and staff understand where CSM’s equity gaps are. They also held another workshop, “Applying Principles of Equity to Concrete and Visible Strategies in the Hispanic Serving Institution Classroom,” which focused on pedagogical strategies to equitably serve our Hispanic and Latinx students.

Another workshop, “Strategies for Reducing Textbook Costs,” was held to continue the discussion about textbooks, their costs, and faculty and student experiences with alternatives to traditional textbooks. The second “Campus Connections: An ongoing series designed to inform, engage, and inspire” also had an impressive attendance.

The session on CSM Student Experience was highly attended and helpful in highlighting areas for improvement and realizing obstacles, which will assist the inquiry stage of the Guided Pathways process.

Of particular note, the Educational Master Plan (EMP) presentation was well-attended and received by many staff and faculty who participated and were eager to provide feedback to the PRIE department. There was overwhelmingly positive feedback from the staff who felt enriched and appreciated by the opportunity to participate.

This flex day had the highest participation by classified staff by far in recent history, thanks to Vice President of Student Services’ Kim Lopez’s recommendation to close the campus for the day in order to allow classified staff to attend. (Ellen Young contributed)

Jane McAteer, Director of Nursing, Announces Retirement

Jane McAteer will be retiring at the end of June after a 31-year career with CSM. Jane started at CSM as a nursing faculty member in 1987. She became the Director of the Nursing program in 2003, and since then, has led the program with a steady hand for the last 15 years. CSM’s nursing program has a higher National Council Licensure Exam (Nclex) pass rate than many 4-year university nursing programs. Additionally, the Nursing program has received several full accreditation reaffirmations from the California Board of Registered Nursing. These are both indicators of the quality of CSM’s Nursing program. Jane’s contributions to the Nursing program and to CSM have been extensive and the college has benefited greatly from having Jane as an integral part of the community.

CSM Welcomes Dr. Enna Trevathan

President Michael Claire will be recommending Dr. Enna Trevathan to Chancellor Galatolo and to the Board of Trustees as CSM’s new Director of Nursing. Dr. Trevathan holds a doctor of nursing practice from the University of San Francisco (USF), an MBA from Holy Names College, a master’s in nursing administration and management from Holy Names College, a bachelor of science in nursing from University of Phoenix, and an associate of
Dr. Trevathan currently serves as the associate dean for educational outreach at USF. Prior to her current position, she served as the co-chair of RN graduate programs at USF. Dr. Trevathan also served as assistant professor and director of the RN to MSN online program at USF. Dr. Trevathan has also taught nursing at Holy Names College and CSU-Dominguez Hills. Finally, Dr. Trevathan has held nursing and nursing management positions in a number of medical facilities, including the Veterans Administration Hospital in Palo Alto, Kaiser Permanente, Watsonville Community Hospital, and the UCLA Medical Center, among others. When asked why she wanted to join CSM, Dr. Trevathan said that she has an associate’s degree in nursing from a California community college. She felt that it was the time in her career to “give back” to the system that gave her such a great start. Enna will start at CSM in June so that there is some overlap before Jane retires.

Did you know?

**CSM is an Official Bee Campus USA Program Member!**

- College of San Mateo is the third institution of higher education in the nation to be certified as an affiliate of the Bee Campus USA program, designed to marshal the strengths of educational campuses for the benefit of pollinators.

- **Recent project:** The Biology 220 Botany labs are surveying the landscaping plants and drafting an Integrated Pest Management strategy to protect local pollinators.
UPCOMING EVENTS

San Mateo 101st Airborne 50th Anniversary Parade
Join us for a weekend of community-wide activities and special events!
Friday, March 23 - March 25
Downtown San Mateo
Ellsworth Ave, between 1st & 4th
San Mateo, CA 94401
Join us for a weekend of community-wide activities and special events to commemorate the 50th anniversary of San Mateo’s adoption of the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. Army.

CSM Baseball vs. Monterey Peninsula College
Tuesday, March 27 • 2:30 pm
CSM Baseball Field
Come out and support the Bulldogs!

‘Hell and Back Again’ Film Screening
Pizza and Documentary on Veterans & PTSD
Monday, April 2 • 6:30 pm - 9 pm
CSM College Center Building 10, Room 195
The CSM Republicans will be screening the Oscar-nominated documentary film, ‘Hell and Back Again’, regarding American veterans suffering from PTSD. Pizza will be served prior to the film with a discussion will follow after the screening!

Annual MESA Leadership Retreat
Saturday, April 7 - 8 • All Day Event
Happy Valley Conference Center
2150 Branciforte Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95065
The MESA Student Leadership Retreat is a fun-filled weekend comprised of guest speakers, workshops, activities and competitions.

CSM Baseball vs. De Anza College
Tuesday, April 18 • 2:30 pm
De Anza College
21250 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Come out and support the Bulldogs!

CSM Softball vs. Foothill
Tuesday, April 10 • 3 pm
CSM Baseball Field
Come out and cheer on the Bulldogs!

The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show
Phantom of the Universe
Friday, April 13 • 7:30-9:30 pm
CSM Science Building 36, Planetarium
Come for a live presentation about what’s visible in the sky tonight, followed by a fulldome immersive movie about fascinating topics in astronomy!