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Student Voice

The Year One Promise really helped me connect with faculty and staff and gave me a platform for networking with other new students right out of high school.

- Catherine, 2017-18 Year One Promise student

District and CSM Ring in a New Academic Year

The College started off its new academic year with two days of opening speakers, workshops, luncheons and other events to welcome back faculty, staff and students. On Monday, August 13, CSM was proud to host the annual San Mateo County Community College District Opening Day. Hundreds of employees packed the CSM Theater for greetings by Chancellor Ron Galatolo, Board Chair Richard Holober, and representatives of District organized labor groups. The highlight of the morning was a pair of keynote speakers.
Dr. Frank Harris of San Diego State University gave an eye-opening presentation on equity and factors affecting underrepresented and underserved student populations. He was followed by the legendary San Francisco civil rights leader and educator Tom Ammiano, who delivered a candid, funny, passionate talk on his experiences in public policy advocacy. SMCCCD employees then had a chance to catch up with each other in an all-District luncheon overlooking San Francisco Bay.

CSM kicked off its year on Tuesday, August 14, with an engaging student panel discussion on the student experience at CSM. Faculty, staff and administrators heard first-hand about the challenges students face: choosing classes, getting help, commuting, planning their careers, and managing daily life. Students praised the teaching and support systems at CSM, and recommended asking questions and getting involved to be successful.

Faculty and staff then chose from a wide range of Flex Day activities on supporting students, equity, pedagogy, assessment, building communities, and many other topics. Students from Tatiana Irwin’s California history courses gave a presentation on the CSM student uprising of 1968; Luis Padilla showed how we can advocate more effectively for student veterans, and the Fire Academy mounted demonstrations with the jaws of life and fire hoses. Bulldog Athletes and coaches participated in an orientation featuring motivational speaker Mark Potter.
More than 500 new students, parents and siblings descended on CSM’s campus Thursday, August 9 for a sneak-peek before fall classes begin. The students learned about academic planning, counseling services, student organizations, athletics, and the many places they can go for help when needed. Free food and entertainment helped make the day a terrific experience for the newest members of the CSM community.
CSM Welcomes New Faculty

College of San Mateo is thrilled to welcome 11 new full-time faculty members for Fall 2018. Along with another four faculty hired for special/temporary teaching, this marks a dramatic increase in the teaching and support resources available to students this year. The new faculty come from institutions from across California and the nation. They represent the top candidates from among candidate pools that often number more than 100.

CSM welcomes Lydia Chen (counseling); John Dao (chemistry); Jennifer De La Cruz (counseling); Evan Kaiser (ESL); David Lau (English); Michael Marcial (men's basketball); Elisha Polomski (astronomy); Hansen Sekona (football); Keira Travis (English); Todd Windisch (ESL); Lale Yurtseven (business). The four new full-time, temporary faculty members are Kazumi Tsuchiyose (math); Hema Nadkarni (math); Gil Perez (counseling); and Patrice Reed-Fort (counseling).
Year One Promise Reaches Capacity in its Third Year

CSM’s Year One Promise has ballooned to its full capacity of 500 students. The Year One Promise combines a full scholarship, credit for books and food, and intensive counseling and planning support to help students succeed in their first year at CSM. The College developed its first-year experience programming over the past two academic years. Now, with the benefit of experience and an expanded staff, the program can serve a full cohort of students.

The Year One Promise team has been holding new student orientations all summer, guiding students on program requirements, completing their student contracts, and beginning the process of counseling and career planning for the students. Students are now setting up counseling appointments and creating goals for the academic year.

Cybersecurity Summer Camps Teach Essential Computer Skills to Bay Area Youth

This summer, CSM hosted Cyberpatriot: The National Youth Cyber Education Program, dedicated to training future computer security experts. Two cybersecurity camps were
hosted on campus, one during the week of July 16 and the advanced camp during the week of July 23.

The computer industry recognizes there are too many cybersecurity threats and not enough trained professionals to thwart them. That's where Cybersecurity Camp enters the picture. Its goal is to train new workers who will have top-notch cybersecurity skills. Students from over 14 area schools attended the camps, which were taught by industry professionals and covered major security threats and methods used to stop them. The entire curriculum was designed by the Air Force Association.

Students put their newly-acquired knowledge to the test at the end of each week, with competitions between teams at other community colleges in the Bay Area, and consisted of defending themselves against attacks from other teams. The CSM team had great success in the competitions.

CSM has developed an Associate of Science degree in Cybersecurity and will begin rolling out the program in 2019.
Meet CSM’s New Dean of Academic Support & Learning Technologies

Tarana Chapple is on board as CSM's new dean of academic support and learning technologies. She oversees a range of student support services including the Library, Learning Center, equity, first-year experience, learning communities, and many others. Previously, Tarana served as the associate dean of instruction at Metropolitan Community College in Kansas City, Missouri. There, she was a member of the college’s executive leadership team where she provided support to the vice president of instruction for all academic programs. Tarana led a number of initiatives, working collaboratively with faculty and staff. Tarana holds a master of arts in education from Seton Hall University and a bachelor of arts in sociology from Hampton University. She joined CSM in late July.

[Image of Tarana Chapple]