



# President’s Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

President Michael Claire ~ June 26, 2019

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## CSM Celebrates 1,200 Graduates at 97th Annual Commencement



College of San Mateo awarded 1,918 degrees and certificates to 1,193 graduates in its 97th Commencement Ceremony on May 24. The CSM Gymnasium was packed with friends and family members as graduates marched one by one across the stage to be recognized for their accomplishments.

Graduates heard words of advice from keynote speaker and CSM graduate Alfredo Aguirre '73, LCSW, a leader in mental healthcare who served as director of Behavioral Health Services of San Diego County.



2019 CSM Commencement Speaker Alberto Aguirre. Photos by Gino de Grandis.

Aguirre spoke about the influences of faculty and staff who mentored him during his time at CSM.

*“ I now realize that community college is a path to success. ”*

2019 CSM grad Ashneel Pratap, who transferred to UC Berkeley to study economics

The Class of 2019 featured incredible students from across geographic regions, ages, and backgrounds.

First-generation college graduates	561
Veterans	74
Foster Youth	5
International Students	158 students from 28 countries
DACA/Dreamers/AB540 Students	21
Oldest graduate	71
Youngest graduate	16
Graduates with honors	303
Cum laude	168
Magna cum laude	239
Summa cum laude	14

Photos from the event, as well as the complete Commencement video, are available for purchase at [collegeofsanmateo.edu/commencement](http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/commencement).



*Photos by Gino de Grandis.*



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## Graduates Celebrate With Year-End Ceremonies

CSM celebrated in style with its annual series of events for special achievements. Some of the highlights included the Scholarship Awards Ceremony (May 10), Mana Graduation and Recognition Ceremony (May 15), Honors Project Student Showcase (May 17), Stepping Up: A Transfer Tribute (May 23), and many others. ■



Photos by Gino de Grandis, Julio Ruggiero, and David McLain.

## Retirees Honored with Reception

The CSM community honored its 2018-19 retirees with a reception on May 16 in the Bay View Dining Room. Each retiree was recognized in remarks by her or his supervisor, and friends, family and colleagues had the opportunity to mingle. This year's retirees include:

- Melanie Berzon, KCSM
- Janet Black, Art/Art History
- Sandra Comerford, Vice President of Instruction
- Mike Galisatus, Music
- Cheryl Gregory, Math
- Lewis Kawahara, Ethnic Studies
- Rob Komas, Math
- Kate Motoyama, Language Arts
- Michele Muller, KCSM
- Julene Rhoan, Enrollment Services
- Jan Roecks, Vice President of Administrative Services
- John Sewart, Dean, Planning, Research and Institutional Effectiveness
- Carlene Tonini, Biology



*Photos by Julio Ruggiero.*



## CSM Classified Staff Recognized in Years of Service Luncheon

Each year, CSM marks work anniversaries for its classified staff who have major milestones with the District. This year's celebration took place on June 5. Nearly 100 staff and faculty gathered on the Terrace to enjoy a barbecue lunch and remarks about each honoree.

This year, CSM employees celebrating work anniversaries include:

### 10 Years of Service

John Dao

Joyce Meyer

Aaron Schaefer

Valerie Tyler

Carol Ullrich

Eric Utsumi

Clara Valdez Chon

### 20 Years of Service

Karen Chadwick

Russell Cunningham

Theresa Vigilia

### 30 Years of Service

Jane Wong



Photos by Julio Ruggiero.

## Mike Galisatus Delivers Rousing Final Night of Jazz at CSM

Bay Area jazz legend and longtime CSM educator Mike Galisatus presided over his final concert as director of the CSM Jazz Ensemble on May 17 in the CSM Theater. Galisatus retires this year after a long teaching career at South San Francisco, El Camino, and Aragon High Schools as well as CSM.

The evening was highlighted with tributes from Aragon High School band director (and incoming CSM jazz director) Kevin Gallagher, CSM President Mike Claire, and Galisatus' son Jason. The CSM Jazz Ensemble and the Aragon High School Jazz Ensemble played to a full house.

Galisatus has earned many accolades over the years, including CMEA Bay Section Outstanding Jazz Educator Award for 2015-2016, the Peninsula Arts Council Arts Educator of the Year for 2007, the Otter Distributors 2004 Jazz Educator Award for the state of California, the California PTA Honorary Service Award, and the CMEA Bay Section Gil Freitas Memorial Award for music education. A well-known professional trumpeter, he has recorded with Pete Escovedo and Queen Ida, and has performed with a variety of artists, including Louis Bellson, Natalie Cole, Frank Sinatra Jr., Mary Wilson, Kenny Washington, Jamie Davis, Frankie Valli, Kenny Loggins, Gladys Knight, Johnny Mathis, Mel Torme, The Temptations, Michael Feinstein and a host of others. ■



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## San Mateo Farmer's Market

Every Saturday, Rain or Shine • 9 am – 1 pm  
Galileo Lot 6

Enjoy one of the Bay Area's finest farmer's markets, with the best view in town!

## Jazz Under the Stars

*Free Stargazing on CSM's Rooftop Observatory*

Saturday, July 6 • 9–11 pm  
Science Building 36, Rooftop Observatory

Come see craters on the first quarter moon, Jupiter's moons, the rings of Saturn, star clusters, and more through our telescopes while listening to KCSM Jazz 91 FM! Dress warmly and come by anytime between 9:00 pm & 11:00 pm. Parking is free.

## The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show

*Secret Lives of Stars*

Friday, July 12  
7:30–8:20 pm and 8:30–9:20 pm  
Science Building 36, Planetarium

Come for a live presentation about what's visible in the night sky tonight, followed by a full-dome immersive movie about fascinating topics in astronomy! The first 50-minute show begins at 7:30 pm in the CSM Planetarium, and is repeated again at 8:30 pm.

