



President's Report to the SMCCCD Board of Trustees

Acting President Kim Lopez ~ August 21, 2019

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*“Everybody’s
energy is super
high. Everyone is
smiling. It was a
great first day!”*

-Jenna H., new CSM student,
on her first day of classes

Promise Scholars Program Expands to 750 Students



CSM has accepted 325 new students to its Promise Scholars Program for Fall 2019. Combined with continuing students from 2018-19, this brings CSM to its full complement of 750 Promise Scholars.

The new incoming students attended PSP info sessions this summer to learn more about participating in the program and how they will benefit from counseling, career, and academic services related to Promise. Students registered for their cohort classes, such as English, communications, math, and courses related to their major. Students also signed up for their first Promise Scholars counseling appointment of the year.

The Promise Scholars Program is retaining students extremely well. Nearly 70% of Cohort 1 (Fall 2018) students enrolled in courses this summer at CSM. As of the first day of classes on August 14, approximately 79% of Cohort 1 students have gone on to enroll in their second year at CSM as part of the Promise Scholars Program (final numbers will be available after fall census). The PSP team is working actively with both cohorts at the start of school to ensure they are connected to all program services and benefits.

College of San Mateo

CSM Creates New Week of Welcome for Incoming Students



The CSM Welcome Center organized a new immersion program to build community and connections for incoming students. About 60 new CSM students turned out for Bulldog Week of Welcome (B-WOW), from August 5-8.

B-WOW was developed by the CSM Counseling staff to respond to feedback and research showing that students are more successful in community college if they are connected to a community of students, faculty, and staff. Some CSM programs, such as the learning communities and Promise Scholars Program, naturally create student cohorts and social groups. But students who are not part of those programs may not have the same opportunity to build friendships and connections. B-WOW is intended to provide that community.

For four days, the B-WOW students participated in team-building activities, games, campus tours, holistic assessment activities, and information sessions such as a “What’s Your Why?” workshop where students thought about majors and careers. They formed small teams, or “families,” for the week, which culminated with a spirited and fun “show of talent” on the final day of B-WOW. The teams also participated in CSM’s traditional Welcome Day activities with other incoming students.



Photos courtesy of CSM Counseling staff.

The program debuted this year with a small number of students and will be evaluated for its effectiveness this year. CSM Counseling plans to expand the program to include more students in future years. ■

Math/Science Jam Prepares Students for Fall Classes

CSM's Fall 2019 Math Science Jam was a success. It was the first Jam held entirely in Science Building 36, which fostered a strong sense of STEM community among students, staff and faculty. Rachel Cunningham led the METaS and MESA teams in coordinating a week-long learning experience for over 60 students. Math Professor Yvette Butterworth recruited math and science faculty to teach subjects including algebra, calculus, statistics, and physics. Faculty and tutors went above and beyond to make the Jam exciting and engaging.

This Jam featured new components such as the first-ever Night Jam, intended to support students who work or have family obligations during the day. For three nights, faculty were available from 6pm to 9pm to assist students with algebra and statistics. Professor Chris Smith led a Biology Jam in which students gained hands-on experience learning how to use microscopes properly. Lunches were shared with other campus programs and events including Word Jam and B-WOW. Taking advantage of a captive audience during the Wednesday lunch, physics Professor Alex Wong showcased his department's drones to encourage students to enroll in physics courses.

In the middle of the week, the Jam featured a student panel spearheaded by Professor Butterworth. CSM students and alumni were asked to share their experiences in various math classes. They spoke about their experience with their course load and the campus resources that helped them succeed. The panel was recorded with help of our Astronomy Lab technicians and will be part of an ongoing STEM@CSM outreach project to assist CSM students with their math class enrollment.

The Math Jam team is already reflecting on its efforts and has started planning for the Spring 2020 Jam that will be held in early January of next year. ■



Photos by David McLain.

SMCCCD Facilities Team Gives Bayview Dining Room a Makeover

The Bayview Dining Room in College Center Building 10 has been a success from the beginning, serving as a student gathering place and a hub for campus events. However, after a decade of use, its furniture was showing its age. Students were constantly dragging chairs and tables around to create work, study, or social spaces.

The SMCCCD Facilities Planning Team, led by Maria Mejia and Lisa Roecks, worked with Luis Caranza and the CSM Facilities team to study the space and come up with a plan. They worked with the furniture manufacturer-design team of Steelcase | One Workplace, which spent hours observing students in Bayview Dining room during peak hours.



Among the observations made were:

- Students need to be able to make themselves at home, on furnishings that encourage a variety of physical postures.
- The space needs to support individual and group work space
- Students tend to collaborate in groups of 2-6
- Flexible layouts and configurations are critical
- Access to power and charging stations are a must
- Heavy use demands high-performance, durable furniture
- The space should support social “buzz”



Photos by David McLain.



The result is a new “workcafé” concept, which gives students a variety of options such as standing height tables, traditional desks, and lounge space. The new furnishings encourage students to change postures throughout the day, which is physically and cognitively beneficial. This space enables users for choice and control of how they work, with various degrees of privacy, collaboration, and wellbeing spaces. Furniture on casters and stacking chairs are easily moveable to accommodate different settings and allow for stowing away while another event is being held.

The CSM B10 Bayview Furniture Refresh was made possible with \$275,000 funded by Measure H. As the photo below shows, it seems to be an overnight success. ■



Faculty and Staff Prepare for the New Year with Flex Day Workshops

CSM faculty and staff had a wide variety of professional and personal enrichment opportunities in this year's opening Flex Day sessions, held on August 13. After an engaging and spirited workshop on guided pathways and how to "map" the path to an associate degree for transfer, people broke up into specialized workshops. The many choices included topics like student homelessness, supporting LGBTQ+ students in the classroom, assessment planning, supporting student veterans, personal self-care, managing your CalSTRS membership, and more. ■



Photos by David McLain and Richard Rojo.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CSM Volleyball Doubleheader

Tuesday, August 27

3:00 pm vs. De Anza

5:00 pm vs. Taft College

CSM Gymnasium, Building 8

Come out and support the Bulldogs!

CSM Transfer Day

Wednesday, September 4

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Bayview Dining Room, College Center Building 10

CSM students will be able to meet representatives from UC, CSU and private universities (both in California and out of state) at CSM's annual fall Transfer Day. Universities will answer questions about transfer admission requirements, major preparation courses, minimum GPAs for high-demand majors, student housing, financial aid, and more. CSM Financial Aid staff and the Scholarship Office will also be present to answer questions.

CSM Football vs. Siskiyous

Saturday, September 7 • 1:00 pm

College Heights Stadium

Come out and cheer on the Bulldogs!

“What Can I Do With a Liberal Arts Major?” Workshop

Major Mondays Presentation and Discussion with George Anders, Senior Editor at LinkedIn

Monday, September 9

11:45 am – 1:15 pm

CSM College Center Building 10, Room 468, College Heights Conference Room

This workshop kicks off the “Major Mondays” series, in which faculty and professionals

representing a given major are available to meet with students to provide information and answer questions.

The series starts off with an inspiring presentation by George Anders, senior editor at large at LinkedIn, journalist, and New York Times bestselling author. Mr. Anders will speak on the remarkable power of a liberal arts education and the ways in which it can open the door to thousands of cutting-edge jobs.

CSM Volleyball vs. Sierra

Wednesday, September 11 • 12:00 pm

CSM Gymnasium, Building 8

Come out and support the Bulldogs!

My Journey from a Liberal Arts College to Aerospace Engineering - Charlotte Kiang, SpaceX

Wednesday, September 11 • 5:30–6:30 pm

Science Building 36, Planetarium

Charlotte Kiang is a space systems engineer and management consultant specializing in human spaceflight. Most recently, she has been a member of the Mission Management team at SpaceX, where she led cargo integration and customer certification activities for the first crewed flight of the Dragon 2 spacecraft. Prior to joining SpaceX, she worked as a software engineer at Boeing and interned at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

Part of CSM's Science-in-Action Speaker Series