Dear College of San Mateo Community,

As the new academic year begins, College of San Mateo will welcome new and returning students, classified professionals, faculty, and administrators to our campus community, both remotely and in person. As part of that welcome, I’d like to share letters from our student, faculty, and classified senate presidents:

- Welcome Letter from Andrea Morales, ASCSM President
- Welcome Letter from Teresa Morris and Arielle Smith, Academic Senate Co-Presidents
- Welcome Letter from Fauzi Hamadeh, Classified Senate President

I’m excited to start the academic year next week with the District Opening Day on Monday, August 16, followed by CSM’s Flex Day on Monday, August 17. Materials are attached, including a letter from Chancellor Michael Claire, regarding the District Opening Day. Also attached is a District Academic Senate Welcome Letter and 2021-22 Flex Memo for faculty.

During CSM’s Flex Day, the morning sessions will be held in person and live streamed through Zoom. After that, I will be hosting an in-person meet and greet and that will followed by a full slate of synchronous and asynchronous virtual sessions for the remainder of the day. Individually packaged breakfast and lunch will be provided outdoors for in-person participants.

Check out the schedules and RSVP:
- August 16-17 Schedule-at-a-Glance
- August 16 District Opening Day and RSVP
- August 17 CSM Full Flex Day Schedule and RSVP

This year brings an abundance of new ways of knowing and being. I look forward to bringing together our talents to provide students the best educational experience on the Peninsula. I have been working from my office for over a month now, reacquainting and refamiliarizing myself with our campus. Each day has been an enjoyable experience, and I am honored to serve as your president. I want to offer a special thanks to the student, classified, and faculty senates for a wonderful welcome reception last week.

I want to take time also to acknowledge the fantastic work of our College Facilities, Maintenance, and Operations team at CSM. Thank you for your diligence in maintaining the campus throughout the pandemic and into our recovery. Our facilities team is present, never complacent, and intently focused on supporting CSM to serve students best.

During my first 100 days, I have embarked on a listening tour. My goal is to reestablish rapport with the campus community and review key operational and planning documents with the leadership team to meet college and district priorities. We’ll also be developing a communication plan to ensure timely, effective communication between administrative leadership, faculty, students, and classified
professionals. As president, I will engage college constituencies to ensure active involvement in event planning, marketing, and connections to the community. Communication connects us.

We’re On It
Undoubtedly, we will experience a year of transition as we progress through the COVID recovery and anticipate a total return to campus for Spring 2022. However, in-person or online, we will remain steadfast in meeting our educational goals and priorities laid out in our Educational Master Plan and central planning documents as we further incorporate our aspirational “radical reimagining” of educational services and instruction. I am excited about the many opportunities before us to partner in promoting our shared CSM vision. Through collective action, engaged leadership, and clear direction, we will forge ahead as one team to meet our institutional objectives in the following areas:

- **Student Focused Recovery**: Student need takes priority in all college operations across student services, academic support, and instruction.
- **Centennial Celebration**: The centennial planning committees are in full swing. Mark your calendar for the Centennial Gala on March 31, 2022, at the historic Kohl Mansion.
- **Antiracism/Equity Action**: The Educational Equity Committee leads will be actively soliciting feedback to finalize the Student Equity Achievement report, informing future college action.
- **College Communication Plan**: To coordinate communication across campus and engage external stakeholders, as a campus community we will discuss ways CSM can adopt effective strategies to enhance transparency and participatory governance.
- **Comprehensive Enrollment Management**: The enrollment decline is real. In this COVID transition year, we will review and assess current strategic enrollment management strategies to inform college planning for the next three to five years.
- **Center for Academic Excellence**: I look forward to working with the academic and classified senates to build robust professional development support scaled to need.
- **Integrated Planning**: To better serve the students, the college realizes its responsibility to align all planning documents and budgets to meet completion outcomes.

Connect, Reflect, and Inspire
In this year of recovery, we all must make time to connect, reflect on our individual and collective purpose, and inspire one another. Therefore, I will hold weekly open office hours on Thursday afternoons beginning August 19, from 3–4 pm. This first session will be virtual, and from there, they’ll alternate between virtual and in-person sessions each week. Please email Edna Letran to reserve a 15-minute block of time.

As we embrace our shared reality, we rely on each other to provide students’ succor. To support students, we need to maintain our well-being, so please take the opportunity to care for yourself. While sometimes we may have to live with ambiguity, I will continue to provide direction and clarity as information or safety protocols change. Finally, I will rely on the collective wisdom of our college leadership team to make effective decisions in support of our college’s mission, as we continue our work in transforming students’ lives.

Thank you for your continued dedication and service to the College, students, colleagues, and communities we serve.

In unity and strength,
Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza
College President