I’m excited to write this message to you, our San Mateo County community, as College of San Mateo’s new president. I’ve been in this role since July 1, 2021, and am humbled and honored to have been selected as the College’s 10th president, its third female president, and its first president of color.

I’ve been an educator and a longtime leader in the San Mateo County Community College District, serving most recently as the Vice President of Instruction at Skyline College in San Bruno for the last four years. Before that, I was the founding Dean of Academic Support and Learning Technologies and the founding Director of the Learning Center at College of San Mateo. I’m a longtime San Mateo County resident and currently live on the Coastside.

**Strengthening Our Partnerships**

During my first 100 days as president, I embarked on a comprehensive listening tour to reestablish rapport with the campus community and collaborate on ways to meet our college priorities. In addition, I’ve also been meeting with our external community partners and seeking out connections with new ones. Through building and strengthening these local partnerships, we will ensure College of San Mateo stays responsive to our community’s academic and career training needs while continuing to provide affordable educational opportunities and a vibrant culture.

It’s what we’ve been doing for almost 100 years. Institutions that survive and thrive for this long do so only with the strong support of its constituents and community. That’s not to say that we haven’t had missteps in the past; we have. However, reflection on lessons from the past helps us imagine and shape our next 100 years as we work towards providing more equitable academic opportunities and support for our students—your family members, friends, neighbors, employees, customers, and colleagues.

**College of San Mateo’s Centennial**

As we prepare for a total on-campus return in spring, we are looking forward to March 31, 2022, as a momentous milestone in the College’s history. On that evening, College of San Mateo will celebrate its 100th birthday with a Centennial Gala at the historic Kohl Mansion in Burlingame. Following that, for the next full year, we’ll be hosting, supporting, and partnering with the community for a string of celebratory events and activities. More information will be coming soon, but until then, I encourage you to visit our [Centennial website](#), where you can sign up for updates, read our expanding collection of [Centennial Stories](#), and see our winning student-designed [Centennial Logo](#).

**We Are Stronger Together**

Our Centennial is a bright spot in what has been a challenging time for many. Our faculty and staff have adapted to new methods of teaching, supporting, and counseling students since the start of the pandemic. Likewise, our students have adapted to new ways of learning, studying, and achieving. Still, many have also been disproportionately affected by the economic, racial, and health impacts that COVID-19 set into motion.
These students and their families are not the only ones to feel these impacts; they ripple through communities and future generations, further exacerbating growing inequality. If there’s one key thing we’ve learned from the pandemic, it’s that we’re all in this together.

CSM stands alongside our community partners, businesses, and leaders to bolster and further enhance our holistic system of education, from kindergarten to College of San Mateo and beyond. Our work begins in recognizing the humanity of those we serve and celebrating the many social, cultural, and fiscal contributions that those who came before us left behind to benefit us all.

In unity and strength,

Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza

Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, Ph.D.
College of San Mateo President