Midsummer Message
July 7, 2022

Dear CSM Community,

As I reflect on Juneteenth and Independence Day, I cannot help but think about what “independence,” “freedom,” or “constitutional rights” truly means. The Supreme Court’s recent landmark decision to overturn Roe v. Wade ends for half of our population the right women have had for nearly 50 years. Regardless of the circumstance or political vicissitude of the time, as an institution of higher learning, we affirm human rights and the rights of women to determine their futures, to achieve full economic, political, social, and educational equity.

Indeed, we have no time for complacency. This decision (or others perhaps to come) may seem to take us back 50 years or attempt to undo decades of progress. I celebrate and draw strength from the long histories of overcoming so many of us share, whether these be embodied in Juneteenth or Independence Day or any number of milestones along the long road of social, cultural, and gender progress inspired by so many visionary leaders—from the civil rights movement, to the achievements of the United Farmworkers, to the establishment of marriage equality. Freedom lies in the emancipation of the mind.

When we return to greet students in fall, we will continue as the model for civil discourse, as the purveyor of education, enrichment, and wisdom. The anthropologist Margaret Mead reminds us that our responsibility is to teach students how to think, not what to think, and in so doing we encourage students’ interest in a variety of perspectives, inspire empathy, and invite understanding through active engagement with others. We remain undeterred in our mission: to facilitate learning and to empower students, who in realizing the power of their voices may advocate for a more just and equitable world.

Please read below for midsummer campus updates:

Vice President of Student Services and Executive Leadership Team
I would like to acknowledge and thank the recent Vice President of Student Services screening committee for their work in identifying two excellent final candidates. After careful deliberation and feedback from the committee and campus forum surveys, I have invited Dr. Joshua Moon-Johnson to join our college leadership team pending board of trustee approval July 27.

Dr. Joshua Moon-Johnson has served as the dean of student services at American River College (ARC) in Sacramento for nearly five years. During his time at ARC he has overseen departments and led initiatives focused on equity and access, outreach and recruitment, student life and leadership, academic support services, International Students Program, TRIO Upward Bound, TRIO Educational Talent Search, TRIO Student Support Services and the AANAPISI Grant. Additionally, Dr. Moon-Johnson has served as the Title IX Coordinator and the College Grievance Officer at ARC. He also led the institution in creating an Institutional Equity Strategic Plan and led the implementation of the UndocuScholar Resource Center, Pride Center, and the Beaver Food Pantry and Basic Needs Center. This is just a snippet of Dr. Moon-Johnson’s impressive background, you can read his full bio here.

As we welcome Joshua, I also want to take a moment to thank Kristi Ridgway for serving in the acting vice president of student services role since August 2021. Her dedication to serving students, colleagues, and the community is inspiring.

The entire executive leadership team is excited and committed to serving the campus community and San Mateo County. Each of us has plans to engage our areas and the campus this academic year in meaningful ways. Stay tuned.

**Education Master Plan Timeline**

We kicked off our education master planning at the summer leadership retreat in June. Topics included designing the classroom of the future, health and wellness, *The Sum of Us*, strategic direction, and what uniquely distinguishes CSM from other institutions. Forty-five participants engaged in thoughtful reflection, inquiry, and fun.
Here is a timeline of the work ahead.

**Summer 2022**

- Summer Leadership Retreat—Kick-Off Education Master Plan
- Create Structure for Enrollment Sustainability and Growth Plan Work Group Recommendations for Work Group Composition
Fall 2022

- Fall Flex Day Activity to Identify Action Steps for the Next Five Years
- Draft Education Master Plan through Participatory Governance Process
- Education Master Plan Finalized for Board Consideration in October
- Kick-Off Enrollment Sustainability and Growth Plan Work Group

Spring 2023

- Enrollment Sustainability and Growth Plan Finalized and Implemented

Campus Climate Survey
The last campus climate survey was conducted in 2017. The institution has experienced much transition in the last five years. As president, I felt it was necessary to conduct a climate survey right away. Campus climate is an essential part of our planning and wellness at CSM. As we look forward to next year and how the college will best serve the community, as “the community’s college,” we want to note what is working well and consider ways to improve.

All members of the CSM community were invited to participate in Spring 2022. With a participation rate of 42%, CSM faculty, classified employees, and administrators shared their perspectives.

In Fall, we will present an overview of the survey and discuss details at the Institutional Planning Committee. Please join us for this dialogue; we would like the meeting to be engaging and interactive. The results of the survey will inform our Education Master Plan and strategies outlined in our integrated plans. This survey will be administered again in two years.

Here are the ten areas the survey focused on: Collaboration, Communication, Confidence in Senior Leadership, Diversity, Inclusion, and Belonging, Faculty and Staff Well-Being, Job Satisfaction and Support, Mission and Pride, Performance Management, Professional Development, and Supervisor/Department Chair Effectiveness.

Promise Scholars Program Moves to Building 10 (Summer 2022)
In collaboration, Counseling, Promise Scholars team, and college leadership, relocated the Promise Scholars Program to building 10 to meet programmatic needs. This will allow for further alignment with student services and instructional support programs as Promise expands. Other considerations for space planning and allocation will happen during the fall and as part of the resource request process.

President’s Walking Open Office Hours
As many of you may know, I love to walk the campus. So I am excited to continue the summer walking, open office hours into fall. We will announce the fall hours in August.

President’s Advocacy Council
In September, we plan to launch the President’s Advocacy Council. This council brings together public and private sectors in economic development, health and wellness, faith-based organizations, social services, education, civic engagement, housing, and transportation to identify the needs of the community.
**Jazz on the Hill**

On Saturday, July 23, we celebrate the return of Jazz on the Hill as part of CSM’s Centennial Celebration. This year’s event takes place from 12:00 noon to 6:00 p.m., and is a collaborative effort between the Foundation, KCSM, and CSM that continues the centennial fundraising goal of supporting CSM’s Promise Scholars Program.

The Marcus Shelby Orchestra featuring Tiffany Austin headlines the festival, along with Lady Bianca, College of San Mateo Faculty Alumni Sextet, The John Santos Jazz Sextet, and DJ Harry Duncan.

There will be food and beverages, arts and crafts vendors, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the sun, the music, and the spectacular views. The stage will be located on the lower mezzanine in front of the library steps, with seating alongside the fountain and plenty of lawn seating. Bring your picnic blanket and umbrella, and come early to claim your spot. Learn more and see the full schedule at the Jazz on the Hill webpage. I hope to see you there.

**CSM One Book: The Sum of Us**

We are thrilled to have author and racial justice advocate Heather McGhee deliver the college opening day keynote address in the theatre on August 16, 2022.

“Heather McGhee’s specialty is the American economy—and the mystery of why it so often fails the American public. From the financial crisis to rising student debt to collapsing public infrastructure, she found a common root problem: racism. But not just in the most obvious indignities for people of color. Racism has costs for white people, too. It is the common denominator of our most vexing public problems, the core dysfunction of our democracy and constitutive of the spiritual and moral crises that grip us all.”

The college will discuss and reflect on the book for the academic year as we come together to realize how best to express and integrate true solidarity into our college system. Copies of The Sum of Us are available for free in the Community Relations & Marketing Office or the President’s Office. Please pick up a copy at your earliest convenience.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Jennifer