Hello, CSM Community,

We begin the sixth week, and I hope everyone has settled into the semester.

September has always been a special month for me because of my mother’s and grandmother’s birthdays. This month my family celebrated my grandmother’s 90th year. Born in Mississippi and raised in Memphis, Tennessee, she is the mother of nine, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and a great-great-grandmother. I often draw inspiration from her courage to thrive despite all she has seen and lived through. And that ties into what someone reminded me of the other day: it can take generations for a family to improve its economic position in society.

We are fortunate to share the opportunity to improve our institution for the sake of students and their families while meeting students’ needs day in and day out. As an institution of higher learning and a collective of like-minded educators, we empower and inspire generational change. Howard Zinn, one of the most influential historians of our time, describes the power of collective action: “Small acts, when multiplied by millions of people, can transform the world.”

This year we have several things to look forward to:

**Professional Development**

If you have not yet met Dr. Susan Khan, our new Professional Development Coordinator, please take the opportunity to introduce yourself. Dr. Khan has been meeting with our college constituents and recently met with our executive leadership team. A comprehensive vision for professional development, which includes training for classified employees, faculty, and administrators, is critical to the success of our students. To build upon the wonderful August Flex Day with author Heather McGhee, dialogue about how we might apply what we learned from *The Sum of Us* will continue at the October 12 Flex Day. And wellness will be a continued theme throughout the year.

**CSM Forward 2028**

Thank you, college community, for your input, observations, and feedback on *CSM Forward 2028*, our Education Master Plan, which will guide us over the next five years. The plan articulates how the college
plans to fulfill its mission, so your input is vital to our success. If you have not yet included your thoughts on CSM Forward 2028, please do so by midnight tonight: collegeofsanmateo.edu/emp.

Enrollment Sustainability and Growth
Enrollment sustainability and growth are primary focuses. A working group will form this semester; more information to come in October. If you are interested in strategic enrollment management, please consider being part of this effort. Although we are still slightly down in student headcount compared to last year, enrollment is relatively stable as we see patterns of increase in different areas. Shout-out to the deans and faculty for working together to meet student needs in a variety of scheduling ways.

Academic & Career Communities
The Pathways Team provided an update on the rollout of Academic & Career Communities (Guided Pathways) at Wednesday’s Institutional Planning Committee. The team has been doing an outstanding job bringing this multi-year process to fruition. Information about the communities is now easily accessible through a card on the CSM homepage. The purpose of these communities is to help our students identify a preferred program of study and give them the support they need to reach their academic goals.

Call Out: Academic Excellence 100
In our centennial year, we are launching Academic Excellence 100, an acknowledgment and celebration of employee achievements. I recently enjoyed an enlightening presentation by English instructor Jill Kolongowski on overcoming writer’s block and the inspiration one can draw from even mundane things. Jill has recently published *Life Lessons Harry Potter Taught Me: Discover the Magic of Friendship, Family, Courage, and Love in Your Life*.

We have many colleagues with notable achievements. Soon we will launch a website to facilitate submissions. In the meantime, please send David McLain and me educational degree or professional awards, national presentations, academic research, publications, fellowships, grants, leadership in organizations, and leadership or achievements in community service. College leadership is also looking at developing an award system to further acknowledge service, achievements, and milestones.

In-Person Family Science Day Returns Saturday, September 24
I am excited about the return of Family Science Day to the campus tomorrow afternoon. This has been a popular community event that draws families from throughout the region. With workshops, planetarium shows, star viewing, Makerspace activities, and more, it’s a day full of wonder, excitement, and education.

Tomorrow night’s keynote will feature Dr. Thomas Greene, an astrophysicist in the Space Science and Astrobiology Division at NASA’s Ames Research Center. Dr. Green is a co-investigator on some James Webb Space Telescope science instruments and serves on the Telescope’s User Committee.

President’s Vlog
With the help of Community Relations and Marketing, I am launching a President’s Vlog to provide short, monthly updates and observations (of about 3 minutes) on matters concerning the campus. This month, for example, I will discuss expectations in the context of the resource request process. Resource requests are an essential part of program review and help the college determine resource needs—budget, personnel, facilities, technology, and equipment. Resource requests are due September 30. Please check out the vlog below:
Thank you for your commitment and dedication to serving CSM students.

Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza
College President