Dear CSM Community,

Happy New Year! 365 new days bring us 365 new chances.

The *Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr. Volume III: Birth of a New Age, December 1955-December 1956* reminds me of the personal transformation we all experience individually and collectively. King's papers trace his evolution as his role transforms from that of Dexter Avenue Baptist Church pastor to civil rights leader—in the process, he assumes new yet related responsibilities. The papers frame a personal narrative in which he shares historic events and current conditions of the happenings of the civil rights movement. In his memorable speech at a crowded meeting on the first day of the Montgomery bus boycott, he insists "we will have to rise up in protest" to usher in this "new age." King spoke to the nation about our need to move away from individualism to community. In our endeavors, we must strive to be excellent and persevere through new yet related hardships, to reach for love, and to remember our humanity is our common ground.

King's words and wisdom inspire me as I reflect on our centennial as ushering in a new era. But, whether it is a new year, new age, or new era, what I am proud of the most as the college president is the elasticity, compassion, hope, and grit you have all shown these past almost four years. I am honored to be in this work together with you day in and day out as we continue to serve our students and the communities they live.

In observance of the 2023 MLK Holiday on Monday, January 16, and as we bring on a new year, have a conversation with a student, colleague, or someone close to you. Ask them how they have coped or what they aspire to. Let us remember King's legacy and be inspired!
Permanent Vice President of Administrative Services
In thinking of new beginnings, I thank the recent Vice President of Administrative Services screening committee for their time and commitment in identifying three excellent final candidates. After thoughtful deliberation and feedback from the committee and campus forum surveys, I have invited Anthony Djedi to permanently join our college leadership team pending Board of Trustee approval on January 25.

Anthony Djedi has served as the Interim Vice President of Administrative Services since June 2022. He came to CSM from the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation (SMCCCF), where he was responsible for the SMCCCF’s business and financial systems for the past five years.

Anthony previously served as a Financial Analyst for a diverse group of companies, including Peterson Dean, Stanford Management Company, and BDO, USA. Anthony also worked as a Teaching Assistant in Business Law and Corporate Taxation at UCLA Anderson School of Management. He graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles, with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and economics. He also received his master's degree in financial engineering from the University of Southern California.

Originally from Belgium, he is passionate about multiculturalism in education. Fluent in French, English, and Spanish, Anthony has lived on three continents, Europe, Africa, and North America. Anthony has done a fantastic job in the interim role over the last six months. I am excited to continue building a diverse leadership team with various backgrounds, perspectives, and education.

Flex Day
I look forward to seeing you at our college's Flex Day tomorrow. As Friday's weather forecast calls for more heavy rain and wind, we have added a hybrid option to the morning sessions. If you can commute to campus safely, we encourage you to do so. You will find updated Zoom links for all sessions on the CSM Flex Day Schedule. The morning program will be held in College Center Building 10, Room 195. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Welcome Messages from Senate Presidents
As the spring semester begins, College of San Mateo will welcome new and returning students, classified employees, faculty, and administrators to our campus community. As part of that welcome, I would like to share letters from our student, faculty, and classified senate presidents:

- Welcome Letter from Andrea Morales, ASCSM President, and Enzo Marini Ferreira, ASCSM Vice President
- Welcome Letter from Arielle Smith, Academic Senate President
- Welcome Letter from Fauzi Hamadeh, Classified Senate President

These letters from our senate leaders highlight the shared compassion and responsibility it takes to support our students and each other. As we move into the college's next era, let us
continue building on King’s legacy by leveraging our bonds of solidarity to strengthen and uplift our communities.

Let’s all have a great semester,

Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza