CSM to Remain Mainly Online for Spring 2021 Semester

The three colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District—Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College—will continue to hold courses in online and distance education modalities, as well as provide most student services remotely, through the end of the Spring 2021 semester. The SMCCCD District Board of Trustees formally ratified the decision in their meeting on Sept. 23.

The Board’s decision was based on the recommendation of the Chancellor and supported by a recommendation from the District Academic Senate. Faculty, staff and students have expressed a need to have as much time as possible to plan for the spring term.

Most employees will also continue to work remotely through May 2021. In-person instruction will continue for certain essential infrastructure sectors—healthcare, emergency services, and transportation fields, as well as critical STEM labs in key transfer areas, and to meet licensing requirements for career education programs—in order to train first responders and healthcare workers to address urgent community needs and to provide direct pathways to employment. Due to criteria set by the State that include requirements for social distancing, classroom/lab sanitation procedures, and other health precautions, the number of people at SMCCCD campuses will be kept at a minimum.
Film Faculty Make Their Mark

CSM's film program is full of talented faculty who are making their mark locally, nationally, and globally. Here are a few of their recent accomplishments:

Erin Persley produced a music documentary, *Bleeding Audio*, that just won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Dances with Films Festival in Los Angeles. The film was the closing night film at the San Francisco Documentary Film Festival where it also won the Audience Award.

Recently, Erin has lead summer documentary filmmaking expeditions for students from around the world, to places like Morocco and Vietnam. She is also a resident filmmaker at the San Francisco Film Society FilmHouse, directing a feature documentary titled *Human Shield*.

Meanwhile, Rafael Flores has a new feature narrative film in the Oakland International Film Festival, which just concluded. Titled *E. 14*, the docudrama about displacement in Oakland received “Best Narrative Film” at the Latino Market in New York. It is touring in other festivals in Chicago, North Carolina, London, Detroit and Los Angeles. It was also was accepted into the Cannes Independent Film Competition in France and will be screened in October. The film was recently released on Amazon Prime.

Additionally, Rafael’s documentary on his grandmother’s repatriation to Mexico has been invited to the Official Latino Film Festival in Palm Springs this October, to compete for distribution by HBO.

The film, *A Mi Matria*, is currently available to rent on Vimeo.

And if that’s not enough: Ingrid Schulz has done film editing at Pixar, Dreamworks/PDI, and the Sundance Institute Feature Film Lab, as well as on numerous Bay Area shorts and features. Her own short experimental films have screened in festivals in Austria and Bangladesh, as well as closer to home in the Mill Valley, Cinequest and San Francisco International film festivals—the latter awarding her the Golden Gate Award. Her most recent work deals with veterans struggling to readjust to civilian life. Check out Ingrid’s filmography at IMDB.

Indeed, all three of these instructors have a wide range of diverse filmmaking credits in the Bay Area, and beyond; and they all have had their films featured and awarded in film festivals around the world.

If you are interested in learning from these instructors or just want more information about CSM’s film program, visit the CSM Film webpage.
CSU/UC Transfer Filing Period is Now Open

The filing period for students wanting to transfer into the California State University and University of California systems for Fall 2021 is now open!

- The Fall 2021 priority application filing period for CSUs is October 1 – December 4, 2020.
- The Fall 2021 application filing period for UCs is November 1 – November 30, 2020.

For additional information, visit the CSM Transfer Services website.

CSM Virtual Campus: Your One Stop for Online Student Resources

CSM's Virtual Campus website is designed to help students simplify their virtual experience. With three main sections, “My Classes,” “Record & Resources,” and “My Support Center” it’s easy to find the most commonly requested information and links. And if you are also taking classes at Cañada or Skyline, you can switch between each college's Virtual Campus with the drop-down in the upper righthand corner of the page.
Drive-Up Wi-Fi Available at SMCCCD Campuses

Free Wi-Fi available to all SMCCCD students at all three campuses. The “Drive-Up Wi-Fi” service allows students to park in a specially designated parking lot on the campus of their choice, where they can access Wi-Fi to attend online classes or do schoolwork.

Reservations are required. Students can pick the campus most convenient to them, fill out the Eventbrite reservation form, print or download their Eventbrite ticket, and follow the instructions. Restrooms are available. Students have in/out privileges for the Drive-Up Wi-Fi lot between 6 am – 8 pm.

Technology Hardware Request Form for Students

If you need a Chromebook, laptop, Wi-Fi hotspot, or calculator, please complete and submit the Student Technology Request form. After submitting the form, you will receive a response that contains information on whether the equipment is available and instructions for receiving it. Supplies are limited and the Library may not have the exact equipment requested available.

Make Sure your Voice Is Heard! Fill Out Your Census

Census data is used to decide how our community is represented in state and national government. It also decides how much funding we get in our community for education, housing, health, and transportation. The Census asks for your name but it does NOT ask immigration status. Learn why it is so important, and fill out your Census online.
**Are You Registered to Vote?**

If not, register to vote online at registertovote.ca.gov by October 19 (completed by 11:59 pm) to receive a ballot in the mail. You’ll have three choices for how to vote: mail, drop box, or Vote Center.

From October 20 through Election Day, November 3, you can register to vote conditionally and receive a provisional ballot at any Vote Center in San Mateo County. To find locations and operating times for Vote Centers, go to www.smcvote.org.

**Wildfire Relief for Displaced Students**

The San Mateo County Community College Foundation has set up an emergency fund for SMCCCD students affected by wildfires. If you have been displaced or otherwise impacted by the recent fires, please complete this online form.

To qualify for emergency funding students must:

1. Be enrolled in at least one unit for Fall 2020
2. Be able to show that they live in an area affected by the fires (i.e. areas under current or recent evacuation orders)

The online form will remain active through the Fall 2020 fire season.

**Draft District ADA Plan Released for Public Feedback**

The San Mateo County Community College District has spent the past year evaluating compliance of its facilities and services with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. ADA provides comprehensive civil rights protections to qualified individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

The District’s findings and recommendations have been assembled in a draft report that is ready for review and comment by our District community and the public. The draft ADA plan covers all three campuses and the District Office.

Read the report and provide feedback at smccd.edu/ada2020/

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**Become a CSM Student Ambassador**

CSM is looking for current students to assist with College of San Mateo’s outreach and recruitment efforts.

Student ambassadors serve as liaisons between the College, local high schools, and the greater community. They give presentations, assist with College events, and answer questions from current and prospective students.

Interested students should plan to be at CSM for at least four semesters including the current semester if applying for an ambassador position.

Visit the Student Ambassador webpage for more information.

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Apply to be a Student Ambassador
Emergency Food Distribution Continues Through December

The San Mateo County Community College District, in partnership with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, offers free food distribution at Skyline College on Wednesdays, and CSM on Fridays. Those in need can drive to the designated pickup locations at either college from 11 am to 1 pm.

Each family receives a 39-pound box of food worth about $60. The food distribution is open to the public and serves a large number of college students as well as community members.

Both distribution sites will operate into December 2020. See fliers below for full event details.