SAN MATEO COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGES FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT 2018-2019

FROM PURPOSE TO IMPACT

STUDENTS FIRST
I am delighted to share the outcome from the efforts of the Foundation Board of Directors and especially thank its supporters this past year. As a CSM alumna, it gives me great satisfaction to report that with all of your support the Foundation helped fund over $1 million in scholarships and program support. I would like to commend the SMCCCF Board of Directors and those who have provided counsel, professional guidance, financial support and personal time to the Board during this past year. I also extend my sincere appreciation to our San Mateo County community, which continues to support the Foundation and the colleges with its generosity. Without this dedication, our work would not be possible. The SMCC Foundation Board and I remain committed to providing the necessary tools and resources, so more students can continue their education and succeed in their future endeavors. The Foundation’s objectives include increasing the Board’s role in fostering student success, expanding Board membership, and continuing a high level of participation from our members. The Foundation Board appreciates your support of Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College, and we look forward to what the future holds as we focus on our goal of enhancing student success.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of the San Mateo County Community Colleges District, the SMCCC Foundation wishes to thank all of our generous donors and volunteers for their investment and leadership throughout 2018-2019. Through the Foundation, private and corporate donors play a key role in helping to open the doors of opportunity and success for students at the San Mateo County Community College District. This philanthropic support assists the District colleges in their goal of providing a first-rate education to all who want it. We are truly grateful to all of the donors who have given so generously to the colleges, and we proudly acknowledge them within the pages of this publication. As we honor the accomplishments of the last fiscal year, we also look boldly forward to an ambitious road ahead on which private support for our students, faculty, research, and outreach will be more critical than ever before. Education is a gift that creates hope for a better future. It is a gift with a face on it. Community colleges are America’s greatest higher education innovation. Community colleges like Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College open the door for students who would have been denied an opportunity of pursuing higher education. In this report, we hope that you will discover how SMCCCF is working to strengthen the economic, social, and cultural life of our community.

Reliable transportation, a home, food, and childcare are basics for which many of us who live and work in this and the surrounding counties are able to comfortably pay. However, for some students at the San Mateo County Community College District, the inability to afford these necessities poses a significant barrier to higher education and ultimate achievement. The SMCCC Foundation works on the front lines, putting students first by raising funds to alleviate these barriers. Thanks in great part to the financial help provided by our Foundation scholarship and program donors, students are able to embark on an education that can profoundly change their lives and the lives of their families.

The ongoing generosity of our donors has ensured that thousands of students have been able to attend the District’s colleges and have realized a better life.
**AT A GLANCE: FISCAL YEAR END 2019**

- **Programs Supported**: 100+
- **Scholarship Funds Distributed**: $1,445,390
- **Number of Students Who Received Scholarships**:
  - Cañada College: 168
  - College of San Mateo: 443
  - Skyline College: 248
  - **Total**: 859

**Degrees and Certificates Awarded**: 4,221

**Students Who Received Financial Aid**: 36%

**STUDENTS**

- **31,172 LEARNERS IN THE DISTRICT**

**AGE**

- under 20: 30.4%
- 20-24: 31.8%
- 25-29: 13.4%
- 30-34: 7.3%
- 35-39: 4.9%
- 40-49: 5.7%
- 45-54: 6.4%
- 50+: 6.4%

**ETHNICITY**

- Hispanic/Latino: 32.8%
- Asian: 18.9%
- White Non-Hispanic: 23.5%
- Unreported: 3.9%
- American Indian/Alaskan: .1%
- Pacific Islander: 1.6%
- African American Non-Hispanic: 2.8%
- Multi Ethnic: 6.3%
- Filipino: 10%

*Please note, students may be counted in more than one college.*
Guidance Gunundu, current student at Cañada College

Guidance hails from Zimbabwe and is studying digital art and animation. He has been awarded the Global Beca International Student Scholarship, the SMCCC Foundation’s Dale and Helen Mersereau Scholarship, and the Associated Students of Cañada College Scholarship. He is also involved in the Associated Student Senate and is a Student Ambassador on campus. Guidance is passionate about both digital multimedia and global relations, and would ultimately like to merge the two in his career.

“The scholarships I’ve received have been life-changing. I’ve been given the confidence to know that I would be safe and successful in my college career without having to worry about how I would pay for school. Right now I’m applying to transfer to Cornell, Stanford, and Harvard Universities. I would like to spend time working for either the United Nations or for Google and then to return to Zimbabwe to start my own company. The scholarships I’ve received are helping me realize my dreams. Without them, I wouldn’t have been able to come to the United States and to Cañada College.”

Tania Ventura, current student at Cañada College

Tania, a recipient of the SMCCC Foundation’s Dale and Helen Mersereau Scholarship Fund, is currently pursuing her associate degree in accounting. She attends school full time and works part time for Upward Scholars, an organization providing support to underserved students who wish to embark on a path of higher education. “The scholarships I received have helped me pay for my rent and gas so I can get to school. If I didn’t receive the scholarships I would have to take fewer units, work more hours, and delay my AS graduation and transfer to a four-year college. With my scholarship, I’ll complete my degree and transfer in 2020 and, fingers-crossed, be able to start working in my field in three years!”

Over 850 SMCCCD students receive scholarships annually from the Foundation
before I started at CSM and during my first year of college. I had to tap into every resource available to me at CSM, including financial aid. My car had broken down when I was awarded the scholarships. I work full time while going to school and I can’t live my daily life without it. The scholarships allowed me to fix my car so I can get to school, work, pay my rent, and eat.”

Ashneel Pratap, recent graduate of College of San Mateo

Ashneel, who studied economics at CSM, was raised in South San Francisco. While growing up, the family did not have access to many resources, particularly when it came to higher education. “I didn’t have that much prep coming from South San Francisco.” In his senior year of high school, Ashneel wanted to attend a four-year university, but he was unable to fulfill that hope when his grandmother passed away and he chose to stay at home to emotionally support his family. He chose to attend CSM “because of the great opportunities on the Peninsula. My cousin works in admissions at CSU East Bay and he helped me realize the tremendous experience I could have at a community college and how well it would prepare me for a four-year university.” Ashneel worked as a Student Ambassador and his boss, Estella Garcia, CSM’s College Recruiter, encouraged him to apply for scholarships. He was awarded the Patricia L. Griffin and the Susan Duckworth Memorial Scholarships. “I helped support my family and all the money I made at work went towards all of our expenses. The scholarships helped pay for books and living expenses. If I hadn’t received them, I would have had to work more hours, I wouldn’t have been able to focus on school, and my GPA would have suffered — I wanted to transfer to a good school, so my grades had to be good. I really appreciate the people who gave me the scholarships, they considered everyone and helping students achieve their dreams.” Ashneel recently transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, realizing his dream of continuing his higher education.

Michelle Huang, recent graduate of Skyline College

Michelle was born in the United States and raised in Indonesia. After high school, at age 17, Michelle returned to the U.S. for college. She decided to attend Skyline College to develop her English skills and to integrate into the culture before transferring to a four-year institution. “English is not my first language and I only took an English as a Second Language course when I first came to the U.S. I was very shy and didn’t know a lot of students. Everyone at Skyline College helped me so much: with my English, with getting a job at TRiO Student Support Services, and clearing my residency through the Dream Center. I didn’t think I was qualified for a scholarship and Lavinia Zanassi in Career Services encouraged me to apply. She even wrote a recommendation letter for my first scholarship.” Michelle was awarded
was unable to go to school to take her exams because of death threats against her family. An aunt in the United States had initiated the process of sponsoring the family and, while Claudia and Carlos had already begun their higher education in architecture and industrial engineering, respectively, in El Salvador, the Acunas received word that they could come to the United States. With few resources and no English, the family grasped the opportunity for a new life in this country. Carlos and Claudia worked in a burrito factory with their parents while Mario finished high school. All three siblings knew the importance of higher education. Claudia started out in the South San Francisco Adult School where she learned about the English and pronunciation classes at Skyline College. Her professor introduced her to SparkPoint, where she was directed to the Financial Aid office. Carlos learned about Skyline College through his uncle who has a certificate in solar technology. After deciding to attend, he was encouraged to apply for scholarships by his career services counselor. In turn, Mario finished high school through Skyline College's Middle College program at Carlos's suggestion. Like his siblings, Mario subsequently enrolled full-time at Skyline College where his many friends inspired him to apply for scholarships.

All three siblings have received scholarships. Claudia and Carlos received the Dale and Helen Mersereau Scholarship and the Osher Scholarship. Claudia also received a scholarship from the Jihan Abdel Gawad Memorial Fund and Carlos was awarded the Krueger International Osher Scholarship. Mario is the recipient of the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation and the San Mateo County Community College District Bookstore Textbook Scholarships. “I needed money for my commute and to buy food,” says Claudia. “If I didn’t have the scholarships, I would have had to work more and I wouldn’t have been able to focus on school. I might even have had to take a year off and then try to come back.” Carlos adds, “I’m so happy to receive these scholarships. Back home there is little chance for students to receive monetary help. I’m glad there are people who want to help students do well — education is a great equalizer and helps create a better country and a better future.” Mario says, “I work at Skyline College — without the scholarships, I’d have to find a second or third job somewhere else and commute more. I wouldn’t be able to focus on my studies as much; it would take me longer to finish and I wouldn’t do as well in school.”

Claudia recently transferred to Cal Poly Pomona to pursue her architecture studies. She eventually wants to specialize in renovating old buildings. Both Carlos and Mario attended a Base 11 STEM fellowship at UC Irvine; Carlos is planning to transfer to a UC to study mechanical engineering and robotics when he finishes his program at Skyline College. Mario would like to eventually study engineering at University of California, Irvine, UCLA, or UC Davis with a focus on biotech or robotics.

“We’re all so grateful for the help we’ve received. Thank you so much to all the donors.”
The scholarships allowed me to fix my car so I can get to school, work, pay my rent and eat.

We’re all so grateful for the help we’ve received. Thank you so much to all the donors.

I help support my family and all the money I make at work goes towards all of our expenses.

The scholarships I’ve received have been life-changing.
The San Mateo County Community College District is dedicated to ensuring student success by providing the tools necessary to increase college persistence and graduation rates. The Promise Scholars Program provides new full-time students with comprehensive support that includes a full scholarship for up to three years, textbook support, academic support, dedicated counseling, and career development. The program is open to all incoming, first-time students who enroll full-time and agree to meet program requirements.

The Promise Scholars Program (PSP) was started at Skyline College as a replication of the City University of New York Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) model, which has more than doubled community college graduation rates. The program is in the process of being expanded to both Cañada College and the College of San Mateo. Since the program’s inception two years ago, the persistence rate at Skyline College among Promise Scholars Program students has increased nearly 20% over full-time students not in the PSP. Based on the success at Skyline College, the District has also received a $3 million Award for Innovation in Higher Education from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to replicate the Promise Scholars Program at Cañada College and College of San Mateo, as well as selected community colleges across the state.

The Promise Scholars Program has the potential to dramatically increase college graduation rates, improving the lives of the students we serve, their families, and the communities of San Mateo County. With a dedication to student success, the SMCCC Foundation has pledged to support this important program Districtwide.
Donors gave to our students this past 2017-18 academic year.

College of San Mateo’s Project Change

Youth involved in California’s juvenile justice system are some of the state’s most academically at-risk students. The College of San Mateo’s Project Change program serves this population, giving them a pathway to success through community college.

Bridging the gap from incarceration to education, Project Change is the first community college-supported program in California to provide comprehensive services to these young people from which our society often turns away. With the help of Project Change, these young people excel academically and become leaders in their colleges and the community. Many transfer to four-year universities and continue on to professional careers.

Program services include: wrap-around student support services, an on-campus support network, and tuition-free, in-person college instruction inside juvenile detention facilities. Project Change also ensures that these underserved students are provided with book stipends, designated counselors, enrollment assistance, and laptops for coursework.

Project Change has won many prestigious state and county awards, including the California School Boards Association “Golden Bell Award,” San Mateo County Probation Department’s “Partner of the Year Award,” and others. Partners for this highly-regarded program include CASA, the San Mateo County Office of Education, and the San Mateo County Probation Department.

In a system where many students drop out of high school and are likely to reoffend, Foundation funding helps ensure a bright future with a college education and career opportunities for students enrolled in Project Change.
Cañada College STEM Center

Great scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematical discoveries enrich humanity, making us healthier and ensuring efficiency and conservation of our resources. The STEM Center at Cañada College was created to foster the study of science, technology, engineering, and math, and to support students pursuing their education in STEM fields.

The Center offers extensive programs, services, and academic support for all students taking STEM courses, as well as a collaborative space for study groups, tutoring, and STEM club meetings. Services include peer mentors, counselors, special classes, and STEM-related “jams.” After their first year, students hone their skills by, in turn, becoming mentors and tutors. Students may also attend the center’s speaker series and have the opportunity to visit potential transfer schools.

Donations from Foundation donors contribute to student success by supporting the STEM Center’s goal of helping students transfer to four-year universities as STEM majors. Cañada College’s STEM participants have been accepted to such prestigious universities as: UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Davis, University of California, Irvine, UC Santa Barbara, Cal Poly, Cal Poly Pomona, San Francisco State, San Jose State, Mount Holyoke College, University of San Francisco, Santa Clara University, Brown University, Cornell University, and Stanford University. In academic year 2017-2018, STEM Center programs reached over 900 students and data shows increased rates of academic success for first-generation students, students in minority groups, and women in a key gateway math course.

Skyline College Veterans Resource Center

The post 9/11 GI Bill® has encouraged thousands of military veterans to pursue higher education, and more are enrolled in postsecondary education than ever before. But military veteran students, many of whom are of non-traditional age, face unique challenges in transitioning to college life, including lack of camaraderie with other students, isolation, mental and physical disabilities, and impatience with situations that are not life or death. These obstacles can prevent veterans from returning to college or make it more difficult for them to finish a degree.

Skyline College serves active-duty service men and women, veterans, reservists, and dependents through the Veterans Resource Center. This center provides students with an opportunity to connect with each other while taking advantage of available assistance, guidance, and support. Services include individual and group study spaces, computers, connection to campus and community resource information, access to a representative from the SF VA Medical Center’s Student Veteran Health Program, and more. The SMCCC Foundation is proud to help our military and veteran students through a fund supporting Skyline College’s Veterans Resource Center.
San Mateo County Community College District
Promise Scholars Program

COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO
PROJECT CHANGE
BRIDGING THE GAP FROM INCARCERATION TO EDUCATION

Skyline College
Veterans Resource Center

Student success, innovation, and our mission of access to equitable education drive our programs.
Thank you to all of our donors.

In fiscal year end 2019, donors contributed $2,214,094 to support student scholarships and college programs.

Without your support many of our students would not be able to attend college and reach their dreams of a better life for themselves and their families. You have made a difference in the lives of many students and their families. The Foundation and the students you have helped are truly grateful.

Endowment Donor

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

The goal of AAUW is to advocate for women and equality, which includes education, particularly higher education. The local AAUW chapter maintains both annual and endowed scholarships through the SMCCC Foundation. According to Jane Bradley, co-president of the San Mateo AAUW chapter, “It’s very rewarding to connect with the students, especially listening to first generation college students speak about their experiences. I know so many of the applicants have said that without the support, they wouldn’t be at school. I’m fulfilled by seeing these young people take advantage of the opportunity to go to school. We read the applications and look for students who are fulfilling their goals, who have need, and who are working. We hope the scholarship will allow them to focus more on their studies. I just wish we could give out more scholarships. Being on this committee has made me very optimistic about the job our community colleges are doing. We have great community colleges in San Mateo County and I’m impressed that they are reaching kids in high school, so they know that college is an option.”

Retiree Donor

Gus Petropoulos, SMCCCD, Skyline College, and College of San Mateo

Gus has been an integral and dedicated member of the San Mateo County Community College District family since 1968, when he started teaching philosophy part time at CSM. When Skyline College opened, nearly 50 years ago in 1969, he was hired as a full time professor, teaching philosophy. Over the years, Gus served at Skyline College as Dean of Instruction (called Vice President of Instruction today) and Interim President, and at the District as an Assistant Chancellor (called Vice Chancellor today). After over 30 years of service, he officially retired in 2001 yet continued to work part-time for several more years on Districtwide projects. Involvement with the District turned out to be a Petropoulos family affair — Gus’s sister studied journalism at Skyline College in the 1970s, which lead to a 40-year career in the printing business.

Gus joined the Retirees Committee in 2001. That year, the Retirees Scholarship Program provided two $600 scholarships for each
District college. Gus has remained involved and has led the committee since 2004. Today the work of the Retirees Committee members and the generosity of many retirees from throughout the District result in four $2000 scholarships at each college, or $24,000 awarded annually. “It’s easy to overlook the needs of people in San Mateo County, when those needs are not readily visible. I have interviewed students for scholarships, and have seen the tremendous need first-hand. That’s why I donate. It’s a satisfying feeling, believing that you are making a difference — and the best feeling is the one I get at the Scholarship Awards Ceremonies each May when I see the joy on the faces of the students and their families, and the lives that have been changed. We need the SMCCC Foundation to support these programs and I believe strongly that it is doing wonderful work.”

Faculty Donor

Danielle Powell, Professor of Communication Studies, Skyline College

Danielle, a faculty payroll donor, has taught Communication Studies for the past 23 years, the last six years at Skyline College. Throughout her career, she has been dedicated to supporting her students. At Skyline College, she coordinates ASTEP, a learning community that is a transfer and support program designed to provide culturally-relevant curriculum and programming focused on the African American experience. She also started the Women’s Mentoring and Leadership Academy (WMLA), which is supported by the President’s Innovation Fund. WMLA aims to provide women from disproportionately impacted groups with social and academic support via individual, group and peer mentoring, and through leadership development opportunities.

“After hearing story after story from many of my female students about the personal, academic and financial barriers that they face, and how these barriers often keep them from succeeding in school and in life, I felt I needed to do more to support them. What I discovered through these conversations is that some of the young women were struggling with self-esteem and confidence issues. Many don’t apply for scholarships or access other resources on campus that they need because they are anxious about their ability to write or they feel that they don’t deserve the help. Our goal is to provide academic and social support that will help empower these amazing women to accomplish their goals, to fulfill their academic and career plans, and to one day pay it forward.” Danielle has also been a regular payroll donor since she started teaching at Skyline College. “Donating is another way that I can support the students. I benefitted from scholarships when I was in school and this is my way of paying it forward. I’m a firm believer in giving to others and being a donor is one of the ways I choose to give back. If we all donate collectively, no matter the amount, it adds up and allows us to create more scholarships and opportunities to help our students.”
The Importance of Endowment

An endowed scholarship provides a permanent and personal way for you to make a life-changing difference for students, their families, and your community.

Scholarships are a lifeline for many students. Often they make the difference as to whether or not a student is able to attend an SMCCCD college.

Named endowed scholarships also provide donors with the important opportunity to preserve the memory of loved ones while helping students realize their dreams in perpetuity.

Endowed scholarships help turn dreams of higher education and career success into reality for generations of students — the gift of a lifetime.

For more information about establishing an endowed scholarship, visit the SMCCC Foundation website: foundation.smccd.edu/scholarships/index.php or call Tykia Warden, Executive Director, at 650.358.6860.

Corporate Partner

San Mateo Credit Union
Wade Painter, CEO

San Mateo Credit Union (SMCU) has been a long and valued partner of the San Mateo County Community College District and the Foundation — a bond that extends over more than two decades. The partnership goes much deeper than corporate giving; community involvement and support is part of SMCU’s DNA. The pillars of their community philosophy include supporting nonprofits that provide access to local affordable education, providing financial education and scholarships, supporting affordable housing, and contributing to the community where members reside. These pillars have shaped SMCU’s relationship with the District and the Foundation. “It’s really part of our strategy as a business to support the community, and the objective of that support is increasing financial wellness,” says Wade Painter. “Supporting the county’s community colleges is key, as higher education is a gateway to achieving long-term financial security.” SMCU’s support of the county’s community colleges takes many forms, including partnering with the SparkPoint Centers on all three campuses to provide affordable financial services for students and the community, offering direct deposit and ATM fee waivers for...
financial aid recipients and bank accounts for international students, awarding Districtwide scholarships, supporting district employees with the Down Payment Assistance Program, and providing ATMs on all three campuses. Moreover, the credit union’s employees volunteer their time with the colleges including involvement with Skyline College’s President’s Council and Cañada College’s Awareness Summit and President’s Advisory Group. “Supporting the District touches all pillars of our community philosophy — supporting students for a better community today and in the future – it just makes sense,” says Michele Enríquez Da Silva, Community Relations Manager. “We foresee our relationship with the District and the Foundation extending long into the future,” adds Wade. “Based on the District’s needs and SMCU’s community and financial wellness goals, we are constantly looking for opportunities that will have the greatest impact, including support of the Promise Scholars Program — helping ensure sustainability so that students can attend college without worrying about finances.”

Memorial Endowed Scholarship Donor

The Dr. Steven J. Shire Memorial Scholarship, established by the Yang-Shire family

Dr. Steven J. Shire (“Steve” to his family and friends) was a renowned scientist and a lover of digital art. Steve fulfilled his childhood dream of becoming a chemist and worked at Genentech for over 30 years, achieving over 10 patents, and publishing 90 reviews and 100 scientific articles. His knowledge was celebrated at the many universities where he taught throughout his career. He specialized in monoclonal antibodies, which provide the most promising treatment for many cancers. Steve also had another life-long passion. His photography hobby began in childhood and was realized when he took multimedia classes at Cañada College’s Digital Art and Animation department after retirement. When Steve passed away in 2017, his family chose to honor his artistic passion by creating an endowed scholarship in his name at Cañada College’s Digital Art and Animation department. The scholarship will help a student who would like to expand her/his knowledge and skill in digital photography. “Growing up, there were seven in my family. Five of us came to this country initially. We were lucky because my parents were able to help us, college was not that expensive, and we were all able to get scholarships,” says Maria, Steve’s wife. “Today, it’s very hard for students, particularly in the Bay Area. It’s so expensive. It’s not easy. Our family would like to provide a little bit of help and something by which to remember my husband. The last few years of his life, he took a class with Hyla Lacefield and he really enjoyed it. We want to honor that in addition to helping students.”

Annual Campaign Donor

Anthony Yuen

An alumnus of College of San Mateo, Anthony has fond memories of his time on campus. During his senior year of high school, Anthony did not yet know what his next steps in life would be. Based on what his family could afford and the experiences of his siblings at the SMCCCD colleges, Anthony chose to attend College of San Mateo. He eventually transferred to UC Berkeley and now works as a project/policy analyst in the office of the Vice Chancellor for Undergraduate Education at UC Berkeley. Anthony has chosen to give back to CSM by joining the Alumni Council, helping to reach out to fellow alums. He also gives back to his community college alma mater as an annual donor. “Being involved with the Council has been a rewarding way to reconnect with the great experience I had at CSM. I also know how important scholarships can be, especially for students at community colleges. My annual donation, aggregated with thousands of other annual donations, can make a life-changing difference in a student’s life and experience.”
SMCCCD ALUMNI

The San Mateo County Community Colleges Alumni Association is proud of the District’s alumni and recognizes their many accomplishments. Below are just a few examples of Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College alumni achievements. To join the Alumni Association, visit foundation.smccd.edu/alumni and sign up. To share your alumni story, email Melissa Rohlfs at alumni@smccd.edu.

San Mateo County Community College District Alumni Association

Alumni of Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College illuminate and reflect the superior education and student camaraderie of the three District colleges. Collectively, they carry the positive experiences they’ve gained throughout their lives, and their academic and work careers. The Alumni Association celebrates and honors the District’s alumni, and connects them to their colleges as well as each other. This past year’s Alumni Association events can be found in the Year in Review section on pages 18 and 19.

Jeremy Morales Madrigal

Cañada College Alumnus and Scholarship Recipient, associate maintenance engineer for Hormel Foods

“I attended Cañada College in Redwood City from 2007-2010 after taking a year off from school and living in Mexico in order to fix my legal status. At Cañada College, I credit the MESA (Math, Engineering & Science Achievement program for educationally disadvantaged students) program for helping me get my head around college and applying for scholarships. It was my goal to graduate debt-free and I was able to do that at Cañada College and when I received my bachelor’s degree. During my time at Cañada College, I served in the student government as a College Senator, became a member and officer of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society, tutored for physics and chemistry courses, and was co-president of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) chapter for two years. Cañada College provided me with a strong foundation for the rest of my life – both school and career. After having attended a very large high school, I really appreciated the strength of a small college with so much personalized attention and services. Help was always available. I was so happy with my experience that I returned to Cañada to work for the Upward Bound program as an instructional aid. It felt like going home.”
In 1969, a year of tumult, activism, and excitement, Skyline College was born and Patricia Pittman Mitchell was one of the first students to attend the newly established school. “Students...held food drives for the hungry and disenfranchised, and distributed food from the student union building. Skyline College was the environment where I learned to live freely, passionately, and authentically...It was a real educational and social experiment. At Skyline College, everyone had access and opportunity — it wasn’t about where you came from, it was about where you were going...It’s safe to say that Skyline College transformed the trajectory of my life. As I sit here today at Skyline College, and look at where it all began for me, I feel this is my sacred space.”

“Thanks to my time at CSM, my life was transformed — that’s the power of education.”

David Evans, the Dean of the College of Science at California State University, Stanislaus, credits his time at the College of San Mateo for changing the course of his life and describes the experience as “transformative.” A first generation college student, Dave grew up in a household unfamiliar with academia. “The classes at CSM helped me realize that I had the chops for higher education. It made me realize I had the capability of doing college-level work and caused me to commit to pursuing a degree. My career and my life were forever changed by people who mentored me, starting with [calculus] Professor Burke. He planted of seed of curiosity and excitement about math that carried me through my Ph.D. He took a personal interest in my education. I am where I am today because he saw something in me.”

“Thanks to my time at CSM, my life was transformed — that’s the power of education.”

The San Mateo County Community Colleges (SMCCC) Alumni Association offers services, resources, and programming to promote professional development, personal enrichment, career growth, and networking opportunities for nearly one million alumni. Membership is free.

For more information, contact Melissa Rohlfs at rohlfsm@smccd.edu or 650.358.6873.

“THANKS to my time at CSM, my life was transformed — that’s the power of EDUCATION.”
A bit of Cañada College History:

Grading of the college’s construction site began in 1966, and the building construction contract was awarded in April, 1967. The first classes — for 2,000 students — were held in September 1968.

Cañada College published its very first annual report in the 2018-2019 academic year. For half a century, Cañada College has proudly offered great events and open houses, such as the award-winning JAMS, Connect to College night, and the STEM speaker series, free of charge to the community. The annual report covered these events, news of student and faculty achievement, career opportunities and more. Over the course of the next 50 years, the annual report will serve to strengthen the college’s connection with Redwood City and greater San Mateo County.

At its first ever “Awareness Summit,” Cañada College shared with Bay Area leaders the most critical issues facing students at community colleges. The summit brought Cañada College and community constituents together to discuss such dire problems as food and housing insecurity, and transportation challenges. Soon after the summit, quick action was taken, as the college established a free shuttle service from East Palo Alto to campus. The SparkPoint food pantry’s contribution was also acknowledged and it continues serving members to this day since opening its doors to the public in 2015.

To round off a special year of events, Cañada College hosted 250 community members at its Inaugural President’s Luncheon at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos on October 23, 2018. The President’s Luncheon presented the college’s new Promise Scholars Program to the community in order to raise funds for the program, which provides vital assistance and support to ensure students graduate college on time. Multiple departments highlighted student achievements, including Digital Art & Animation. Students Ivy Wooldridge and Elizabeth Birdwell were recognized for their short film Heroism that won awards at the Campus Movie Festival and was featured at the Cannes Film Festival in France.

The success of the President’s Luncheon would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Cañada College’s employees, generous donations from event sponsors and many others throughout the community.
July

Cañada College joyously celebrated its 50th Golden Anniversary in downtown Redwood City’s 4th of July parade. Out of the 74 groups who participated in the parade, Cañada College received 2nd place in the Group Category and 3rd Place in the Float Category. Dancers were choreographed in shimmering gold outfits around a golden birthday cake. Celebrating this time honored tradition for the sixth year in a row, Cañada College was proud to show off 50 years of celebrating student achievement in San Mateo County.

August

The SMCCC Foundation’s annual Golf Tournament raised over $200,000, a record amount, for college programs and scholarships. The event took place at the beautiful Stanford Golf Course.

September

Skyline College hosted its sixth annual Success Summit, featuring thought-provoking conversations that enabled participants to take part in interactive discussions on major issues facing the North San Mateo County region.

October

In celebration of its 50th Anniversary, Cañada College hosted 250 community members at its Inaugural President’s Luncheon at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos on October 23. The President’s Luncheon served as a way to spotlight the Promise Scholars Program to the community and raise funds for future student scholarships.

November

SparkPoint, a collaboration between the SMCCCD, United Way, and the Second Harvest Food Bank, celebrated its grand opening at College of San Mateo on November 14th, 2018. SparkPoint provides financial coaching, access to the on-campus food pantry, and more.

December

The entire SMCCCD community was invited to the Foundation’s second annual Holiday party at Devil’s Canyon Brewery.
Chancellor’s Circle Reception and Dinner hosted by the Foundation allowed the SMCCCF to thank the highest-level donors over the past fiscal year.

The Skyline College President’s Council Donor Appreciation Reception, hosted by Chair, Ron Derenzi and the President’s Council, was held in the Art Gallery.

Cañada College held its 2nd annual Awareness Summit addressing housing and food insecurity.

The Foundation was proud to support and participate in Skyline College’s 19th annual President’s Breakfast, which was once again held at the Lake Merced Golf Club. The event raised funds for the Promise Scholars Program and Innovation Fund projects. The guests were treated to a delicious breakfast and a presentation about Skyline College and the impact of their contributions.

Cañada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College, and District retirees met at CSM’s Bayview Dining Room for their annual spring luncheon which included good food and conversation, and fundraising for the retirees scholarship fund.

The SMCCC Foundation distributed over $1 million in scholarships at the scholarship and student recognition awards ceremonies at the three colleges.

The College of San Mateo hosted its “Jazz Under the Stars” on June 23. It offered free stargazing on CSM’s rooftop observatory to students, employees, and the campus community, while listening to KCSM Jazz 91 FM.

3,095 students graduated with a degree or certificate from Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College.
2018-2019 FISCAL IMPACT

TOTAL ASSETS OVER $22 MILLION

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS

$2,214,094
**DIRECT SUPPORT TO SCHOLARSHIPS**

$728,319

**TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

$1,445,390

TO OVER 850 STUDENTS
Thank you to the SMCCC Foundation’s donors who provide life-changing support for the District’s students through donations for scholarships and programs.

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