



SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGES
FOUNDATION

IMPACT REPORT YEAR-END 2020



STUDENTS
FIRST

YOUR IMPACT IS MORE IMPORTANT THEN EVER BEFORE.

OUR LEADERSHIP

SMCCC Foundation was built as an organization of hope. An organization that can help students imagine a brighter future through access to higher education.



Patricia Siguenza

Chair of the Board of Directors

2020 was challenging on many fronts, from the COVID-19 pandemic to the racial injustices we all witnessed. The struggles our students faced were real, and through it all, you, their supporters, were able to make a positive impact on their lives.

I am proud of the efforts made by the Board of Directors over the past year, and I am particularly in awe of the outpouring of support from our donors and the outcome of those efforts for our students. It gives me great satisfaction to report that with all of your support, the Foundation's generous donors helped fund over \$1.7 million in scholarships and emergency funds in FYE 2019-2020. The Foundation's donors once again supported over 100 programs such as the Promise Scholars Program Districtwide, The STEM Center at Cañada College, Project Change at College of San Mateo, and the Surgical Technology Program at Skyline College.

In a year where everyone's lives were upended, I celebrate and appreciate our San Mateo County community. In the most trying circumstances, your sustained generosity towards our students, our three colleges, and the Foundation was essential to our success. I sincerely thank the members of the SMCCCF Board of Directors, who were committed to devoting their personal time to address our students' pressing needs. My appreciation is extended to those who provided counsel, professional guidance, financial support, and personal time to the Board this past year.

The SMCCC 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. As the pandemic continues to impact the lives of our students, faculty, staff, and greater community, your support will remain a cornerstone, ensuring that our students' future and the vitality of our community is one of hope and bright outcomes. Today's students are our future leaders, healthcare workers, teachers, and other contributors to society. They will carry the torch to help others who come after them succeed.

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. We look forward to what the future holds as we focus on our goal of enhancing student success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patricia S".

Patricia Siguenza
Chair of the Board of Directors



Tykia Warden

Executive Director

This last year straddled two different realities. The “before” when life was “normal.” When we had events, enjoyed in-person instruction, and met to exchange ideas and knowledge. And the “after” of the pandemic, economic crisis, and physical distance. While the time we are in has been difficult, the Foundation team and I have looked for the gifts and opportunities to be found within our challenges.

As a Black woman, I was distraught by the racist events surrounding the African-American community. The brutality of the justice system that led to several deaths is not new for Black families. Neither is the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 economic fallout, illness, and death on people of color. Yet, I am hopeful that the heinous nature of racism as well as economic, health, and educational inequities have finally caught the attention of America. That this latest spate of unrest has highlighted the need to implement true change in a way that will finally help us overcome the glaring legacy of systemic racism that affects so many of our students throughout their careers as well as our faculty and staff. In that vein, the District has spent much of the last year educating our community about the need for social justice and equity in higher education.

The past year has brought worldwide change like no other period in our lifetimes. Aided by our outstanding Information Technology Services Department, our college and Foundation community has made difficult adjustments to working remotely. However, it is our students who have experienced the most disruption in their lives, unable to meet their basic needs and impacted by a devastating fire season this past summer.

The majority of our students represent the populations most affected by systemic racism, and economic educational, and healthcare inequality. I am proud to say that the San Mateo County Community College District and the Foundation moved quickly, early in the Pandemic, to ensure our students could meet their basic needs while realizing their educational dreams. Starting last March, the Foundation team has come together to meet our students' immediate and long-term needs. Just a few of the Foundation's achievements during this time include:

- Establishing and raising money for a Student Emergency Fund, an Undocumented Student Emergency Fund, for our students unable to access federal help, and Wildfire Relief Fund, to help students, faculty, and staff affected by the devastating wildfires this past summer.
- Providing funds for Skyline College Respiratory Care students to pay their licenses so they could treat patients early in the pandemic.
- Raising new grant funds to support students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Telling alumni and student stories through video, on our website, and in social media.

As I have mentioned before, SMCCC Foundation was built as an organization of hope. An organization that can help students imagine a brighter future through access to higher education. In this time of great fear and anxiety, the Foundation remains dedicated to our mission of providing the philanthropic support that ensures students have access to life-changing higher education at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. We are here to do our part in diminishing systemic racism and economic inequality by helping break down barriers to higher education through philanthropic support. I look forward to continuing the work with you, and I thank you for your ongoing support of San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation.

Sincerely,

Tykia Warden
Executive Director



Michael Claire

Chancellor, SMCCCD

To say that the last year has been a once-in-a-career milestone would be an understatement. As the world has grappled with the health, societal, economic and personal impacts of the pandemic, we have faced both surprising norms and harsh realities together. For the San Mateo County Community College District, through the heroics of our amazing faculty and staff and with the resilience of our incredible students, we have

continued the District's tradition and fulfilled its mission of providing world-class teaching and learning opportunities for students, supporting them at every step along their educational journeys.

This year has been marked with many moments of celebration and heartbreak. We have learned together, struggled together and grown together. The commitment of all District employees and students to not only survive but attempt to thrive in our new operating environment has been inspirational. So many supporters, advocates and donors have stepped up to ensure that students continued to get the services and support that they need. While many of us knew the inequities – social, legal, economic, educational, technological – that are faced by many in our community, this pandemic has laid bare those stark realities and forced us to confront those issues to ensure that those barriers are not ones that preclude access to and success at the District's colleges.

That's why we partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank to open two community emergency food distribution sites – first at College of San Mateo and later at Skyline College – to serve student and community needs. To date, nearly 3.5 million pounds of food valued at more than \$6.5 million has been distributed to more than 68,000 families. That's why the District has distributed hundreds of pieces of technology, such as Chromebooks, hotspots and calculators to students who do not have access to those resources and provided drive-up Wi-Fi services. And that's why, through the federal pandemic funding plans, the District distributed two-thirds of funds received (\$12.5 million to date) to directly support students with cash payments to offset financial hardships due to the pandemic. With this, the District actually allocated significantly more funds than was required by federal programs, because the SMCCCD is dedicated to ensuring that those students most in need get the assistance necessary to continue their education and provide for their basic needs, such as food, housing, course materials, technology, healthcare and child care.

Through this all of the uncertainty of the last 14 months, the Foundation's donors have remained loyal to our mission of ensuring that all students are able to realize their educational dreams, regardless of the economic barriers they may face. Through the Emergency Fund and Undocumented Student Emergency Fund, our generous supporters have also helped our most vulnerable students meet their basic needs while pursuing their educational goals, and for that, we are all so grateful.

Our donors, faculty, and staff have made a decision to serve others and there is nothing more noble in my opinion. You exemplify the core of my beliefs each and every day. I am so proud of our community's amazing work and I am grateful and honored to work with you all. I look forward to the day when we can once again greet each other in person.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Claire". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name and last name clearly distinguishable.

Michael Claire
Chancellor, SMCCCD

2020 SMCCCF HIGHLIGHTS

For more than 50 years, the San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation and the District have helped millions of students realize their educational dreams. **Here is a 2020 overview.**

SCHOLARSHIP

funds donated to our students across the District:

\$1.7
MILLION

100+

PROGRAMS

supported throughout our school District

OUR STUDENTS | DEGREES & CERTIFICATES: **3,488**

34,961

students attended our colleges

17,240 attended Skyline College

15,561 attended College of San Mateo

11,349 attended Cañada College

PROGRAMS of study: **386**

STUDENT DEMOGRAPHICS:

34%

Hispanic/
Latino

18%

Asian

6%

Unknown

3%

Black,
Non-Hispanic

23%

White,
Non-Hispanic

9%

Filipino

6%

Multi-Ethnic

2%

Pacific
Islander

.2%

Native
American/
Alaskan Native

49%

FIRST GENERATION
college students

1,120

INTERNATIONAL
students

39%

of students
were age

18-22

OVER

10K

LOW-INCOME
students

SMCCC FOUNDATION STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Aimee Kanadjian, student at Cañada College

Aimee Kanadjian describes her high school experience as really tough. "I didn't have the support I needed and I didn't succeed academically at all. I didn't have any big

plans or dreams for the future and I didn't get into any of the colleges where I applied." Feeling aimless and unsupported, she decided to give community college a try thinking *as it turns out, correctly* that she would have better opportunities and better success.

The daughter of immigrants — her father is Armenian and grew up in Ethiopia and her mother is originally from Japan — Aimee was raised locally in San Carlos "My dad was sponsored to come to the US for his education and lucky enough to go to UC Irvine as a first-generation college student. Growing up, he always told me that an education was the best investment that anyone can make." Her experiences at Cañada College have shown Aimee the truth in her father's value for education.

In August 2019, Aimee started on her journey in higher education as a Promise Scholar at Cañada College. She learned about the program from a Cañada College representative who spoke to her high school class, and through word of mouth from a friend who had started attending the college the year before. Aimee's tuition, fees, and books are paid through the Scholars Promise Program, partially funded by Foundation donors. She also has access to counselors to help ensure she is on the right path graduation and transfer to a university. "I don't want to imagine a world without Promise — no one is ever going to love me as much as the Promise Scholars Program does! I don't have to stress about classes or books and I have more time to purely focus on school, which is amazing!"

Thanks to almost two years at Cañada college, Aimee now has an academic and career path, and dreams for the future. "Having so much support, and having such a good time and career resources, I am prepared to do the things I want to do and have a career." As a result of her time at Cañada College and the Promise Scholars Program, she is preparing to transfer to a four-year university to make her dreams happen. She plans to study psychology at a UC and continue on for her Masters Degree in speech pathology.

After a rough time in high school, Aimee has been on the Dean's List every semester at Cañada College. She is in the honors program and is a Student Senator with the Associated Students of Cañada College. In that role, she plans and hosts events, meets with faculty members, is on the professional development and task force committees, and is part of the campus inclusion initiative. "I'm really excited about my future and my dreams. I have succeeded today because of all the resources that were available to me at Cañada College, and through the Promise Scholars Program and other help I received. I am grateful for all the help I received and to my parents, who taught me to value education and hard work."

ANNUALLY, OVER

850 students at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College receive scholarships from Foundation Funds. Our donors' generosity in providing this financial assistance helps our students achieve their academic and career dreams.



**Mario Guzman,
student at Skyline
College**

At the age of 16, Mario Guzman had to rebuild himself. He had just moved to the United States and in this new and unfamiliar country he had to attend high

school, learn English, find friends, and imagine a future for himself. It was a challenge for him to start over. He had to regain confidence in himself and figure out what he was going to do with his life.

Mario was born in El Salvador and raised by his mother, a teacher. He had a happy early childhood until the gangs came to his city. He and his mother moved to another city, until the gangs arrived there too and it was no longer safe. “We did this another three or four times — we would move somewhere smaller and safer and then the gangs would show up in our town or city, so we moved again. It was really important for my mom that we avoid conflict areas. She wanted to make sure I got a good education and didn’t join a gang with a dead-end future where I could get killed.”

By the time he reached high school, Mario and his mother were living in relative safety with his aunt and cousins. “I loved high school in El Salvador. I enjoyed learning, did well academically, and I was president of my class. I also traveled around the country playing volleyball. I felt really great.” High school was also where Mario fell in love for the first time — with art and visual communication. “I took a graphic design class and it was an amazing experience to know at age 15 what I wanted to do with the rest of my life.”

Mario’s idyllic time in high school ended abruptly at age 16, with the murder of his cousin Francisco. “I was close with Francisco. When he wouldn’t join a gang, they shot him and other people at the car wash where he worked. I was really scared because I was the next target.” When the gangs told him he was next if he didn’t join and then threatened his family, the Guzman

family decided it would be best for Mario to come to the United States and live with his aunt.

“I graduated Oceana High School in Pacifica, but I was overwhelmed with the college system here and my grades were not as good as I would have liked. Once I turned 18 I didn’t want to be a burden on my aunt financially and I didn’t know how I was going to pay for college.” Mario had heard about Skyline College through his high school counselor and representatives from the college, who also shared information about the Promise Scholars Program. Within a couple of months of starting at Skyline College as a Studio Art major, he had taken further steps towards his career goals by applying for a position as a student graphic designer in Skyline College’s Marketing, Communications, and Public Relations office.

“The Promise Scholars Program was one of the best things for me. I don’t have to worry about the financial part of college and I can meet with the counselors who have been very helpful. I feel like I’m not alone.” Mario’s Promise counselors and his peers in the marketing office encouraged him to apply for other scholarships. He has been awarded the David E. Fisher, Skyline Student Success, and SMCCC Foundation scholarships.

During the pandemic, Mario also received Foundation Emergency Funds, and Mario now has options and is clearer about steps he needs to take to move forward in his education and professional career. He plans to transfer to a UC (he has already been accepted to UC Santa Cruz) to study web and interactive design. His dream is to work in high tech, in a startup, or in a community college marketing office. Eventually he would like to own his own design studio and teach college classes. “I am grateful for the scholarships I have received and for the Foundation’s donors who have helped me achieve my dreams. Their help really allows students to dream big and get comfortable with what they are going to do with their lives. I was lost and I found my place and I got to the point that I’m comfortable with myself and the things I’m doing and the path I’m taking.”





Adrian Afif, student at College of San Mateo and Cañada College

Adrian Afif is a true testament to the power and effectiveness of the San Mateo County Community College District and, indeed, the community college

system in California.

Adrian had a typical upbringing in a Middle Eastern family — his mother is Persian and his father is Lebanese. A native to the Peninsula, he attended Carlmont High School in Belmont. “I wasn’t into education in high school so I didn’t work very hard. I didn’t understand my own potential. I didn’t feel like I had a lot of support at school.” Both of Adrian’s parents are college graduates, who had moved to the U.S. right before high school. While they tried to motivate him to do well in high school and continue his education, their experiences as immigrants were so very different from Adrian’s and they had a hard time supporting him in the way that he needed.

After applying to several colleges, Adrian was disappointed when he wasn’t accepted at any of his choice schools. “I wound up going to California State University, Chico for college because it was the only school where I was accepted. I wasn’t sure what I was doing.” Following a year of uncertainty, Adrian realized he wasn’t on the right path and he returned home to the Bay Area.

When he left Chico State and moved back to the Peninsula, Adrian and his partner decided to live together independently of his parents. He chose to attend College of San Mateo (CSM) and Cañada College. “I needed to figure out my direction, what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I chose CSM and Cañada College because they were close to home and there were so many job opportunities and I wanted to make sure I could be independent. CSM also had the program I was interested in.”

Once Adrian had made his choice to attend CSM and Cañada College, he knew he had made the right decision for his life and his future. “There is this amazing support system here. They want students to succeed. From the day I applied, I started getting emails about jobs.” As a member of the Associated Students of Cañada College, Adrian was encouraged to apply for scholarships by his advisor, Michiko Kealoha,

who also wrote a letter of recommendation for him. “This was the first time I ever received scholarships! It gave me confidence and showed me that my hard work really paid off. I felt recognized and the scholarships helped support my education. Receiving scholarships encouraged me to apply to my dream universities for transfer. I’m really grateful to the donors!” Adrian is the recipient of the Lois Mueller Memorial Scholarship and the GB & HB Endowed Scholarship.

Adrian also works on campus as a Promise Scholars Program Ambassador, which gives him the opportunity to reach out to high school students, host virtual events, and connect with students to ensure they are meeting with their counselors and receiving necessary information. Even though he is not a Promise Scholar himself (the program is only open to first time college students), Adrian has expressed gratitude for the support he receives from the program because of his role as an ambassador. During the current pandemic, Adrian was also hired as a Peer Mentor for the iESO! Adelante Program which supports Latino and low-resourced students in their transfer pathway to San Francisco State University.

When asked about his plans for the future, Adrian now feels hopeful. He is studying filmmaking and will be transferring to a four-year institution in the fall to focus on screenwriting. “So far I’ve gotten into every college where I have applied, including UC Irvine, UC Davis, CSU Long Beach, and Chapman University. I’m still waiting on UCLA, USC, and Stanford. I’m so grateful to CSM, Cañada College, and the Foundation’s donors. I couldn’t have done this without all the help and support I received.”

One last note, Adrian has been hired by the Foundation to create a series of videos highlighting our scholarship recipients!



“Adrian Afif is a true testament to the power and effectiveness of the San Mateo County Community College District and, indeed, the community college system in California.”

DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

Thank You to All Our Donors! In year-end 2020, our donors contributed nearly \$3 million to support student scholarships and college programs. Without our donors' 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.



**Genentech | Kristin
Campbell Reed,
Executive Director,
Genentech
Foundation**

Genentech is one of the Foundation's newest corporate supporters.

Kristin Campbell Reed,

executive director of the Genentech Foundation shared the company's corporate giving philosophy and why they've chosen to support SMCCCD students and the Foundation:

Can you share a bit about Genentech's philanthropy?

"Giving back has been a core element of Genentech's culture since our founding 45 years ago. Our approach to giving is guided by our vision to improve the health and wellbeing of all patients and create a future of science that is more diverse, inclusive, and equitable. Through charitable contributions, strategic partnerships, and employee volunteerism, we aim to build a more representative scientific and medical workforce, address disparities in healthcare, and tackle critical issues in the communities where we live and work."

How does SMCCC Foundation reflect Genentech's values/priorities?

"The Genentech Foundation is committed to creating sustainable career pathways into the scientific and medical fields for communities who have historically lacked access. We recognize the vital role that the San Mateo County Community College District plays in supporting underrepresented groups, particularly low-income students of color, many of whom are first generation college students.

In addition to the efforts of the Genentech Foundation, Genentech believes in investing in the next generation of scientists, innovators, and critical thinkers here at home. Helping current or aspiring community college students in San Mateo County is a natural extension of

Futurelab, our STEM education initiative that supports all 9,000 K-12 students in the South San Francisco Unified School District and gets them excited to learn about science, improves their college readiness, and inspires them to pursue careers in STEM fields."

***Why did you want to invest in SMCCCD students?
How will your contribution help support academic/
professional success?***

"Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, up to 50% of local community college students faced food insecurity and 17% experienced homelessness. We know that these numbers have only been exacerbated by the devastating effects of the past year. Efforts like SMCCCF's emergency fund are crucial to helping students continue in their educational pathways as they provide critical support to meet their nutritional and housing needs. For us, it was imperative to support this type of high impact intervention."

In considering your contribution, what are you most proud of (or hopeful about)?

"Community colleges play an integral role not only in California's postsecondary education ecosystem but in the state's workforce—particularly in STEM fields and emergency service positions like nurses, police officers, firefighters and EMTs. Providing community college students with the support they need to stay on track is critical for COVID-19 recovery efforts and our state economy. We're so impressed with the SMCCC Foundation's commitment to helping students realize their academic and career dreams, and we are very proud to be a partner in their emergency fund with the goal of supporting 1,500 students, including DACA students, to address emerging equity gaps and build resiliency in our communities."

How do you see the future of your relationship with the Foundation?

"We recognize the critical role the SMCCC Foundation plays in ensuring that students who face multiple barriers to college completion are able to persist and succeed. We look forward to exploring additional opportunities to partner with the Foundation to continue to support these students."

SMCCCD Trustees on the Foundation Board of Directors



Every two years, two members of the SMCCCD Board of Trustees are appointed to sit on the Foundation's Board of Directors. This enduring relationship enhances the connection between the District and the Foundation, and reinforces SMCCCF's mission of serving the students and Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. These trustees also help strengthen the bond between the two entities, illustrating strong support for the Foundation's mission.

This year, Maurice Goodman and John Pimentel serve on the Foundation's Board of Directors.



Maurice Goodman

Maurice Goodman was elected to the District's Board of Trustees in November 2015 and served as Board President in 2019. He is the first African American to serve on the Board and, as a former student leader and

product of the District, brings a unique perspective to the already progressive and student-centered team. Maurice is a father and husband, and worked as a legal paraprofessional for nearly a decade prior to turning to a career in educational leadership and youth development.

After completing degrees in Administration of Justice and Paralegal Studies at Skyline College, Maurice went on to California State University, East Bay and received a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. He currently works as an educator and was elected to two terms of office on the South San Francisco Unified School District Board of Trustees, where he served as President twice. Maurice's volunteer experience includes work with the Red Cross, South San Francisco Host Lions Club, North San Mateo County Boys & Girls Club, and Operation Genesis. He is a passionate advocate for all students, with a focus on the underserved students and families in our community.



John Pimentel

John Pimentel co-founded and managed several businesses in the renewable energy and sustainability field. His companies built over \$1.5 billion in renewable energy infrastructure that annually displaces the

equivalent CO₂ of over 100,000 cars. Prior to being an environmental entrepreneur, John worked with Bain & Company, a strategic management consulting firm.

In the 1990's John was California's Deputy Secretary for Transportation overseeing Caltrans, Highway Patrol/State Police, and parts of the DMV. In that role he helped manage the rapid rebuilding of Southern California's freeways after the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, served on the Bay Conservation and Development Commission, and was Director of the Executive Fellows Program.

John was the Governor's Higher Education Advisor providing analysis on legislative and budget matters related to UC, CSU, and community colleges. He began government service as an Assembly Fellow. He was the student body president and Student Trustee for San Joaquin Delta Community College District.

In 2020, John was elected to represent Area 5 (including Redwood City, East Palo Alto, North Fair Oaks and Menlo Park) on the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees. Currently John serves on the boards of the Redwood City Police Activities League, the Ravenswood Education Foundation, the Delta College Foundation, and the Ravenswood Little League. John is also on the City of Menlo Park's Housing Commission and he serves as an alternate on the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee.

He has been a mentor at Menlo-Atherton High School, a parent representative at the Castilleja School, a volunteer at Encinal Elementary School, a Big Brother, and a youth sports coach in Menlo Park and East Palo Alto.

A first-generation college student, John graduated from Harvard Business School, University of California, Berkeley, and San Joaquin Delta Community College. He lives in Menlo Park with his wife of 20 years and 3 children.



**Jay Paul Company | Maia Harris,
Special Projects Manager**

Jay Paul Company has been a perennial supporter of the Foundation's Golf Tournament. Maia Harris, the company's Special Projects Manager, shared why philanthropy is central to Jay Paul Company's culture and how that has influenced support for SMCCCD students and the Foundation:

Can you share why philanthropy is important for Jay Paul Company?

"Jay Paul Company is committed to positively impacting the communities where we live and work. Our support is primarily focused on transformative programs, activities, and educational outcomes for local youth. Our biggest contributions have been made in support of education initiatives through organizations like SJ Aspires, Reading Partners, Boys & Girls Club of the Peninsula, The Peninsula College Fund, Magical Bridge Foundation, Redwood City Education Foundation, and SMCCCF."

How does SMCCC Foundation reflect Jay Paul Company's values/priorities?

"The Foundation's programs and scholarships help students with access to and financial support of a post-secondary education. These opportunities are foundational to a person's well-being, quality of life, career progress and societal progress."

Why did you want to invest in SMCCCD students? How will your contribution help support academic/professional success?

"We know many students do not lack ability—they lack access. Seeing students inspired to achieve their dreams and overcoming financial barriers with the support of SMCCC aligns with our mission. Education is an important step in staying competitive and enhancing your skills. Whether you are starting out in your career or returning to continue to build upon your years of experience, pursuing educational instruction

helps you keep moving forward."

In considering your contribution, what are you most proud of (or hopeful about)?

"Knowing that scholarship support gives community members the opportunity to prosper, and our entire community thrives as a result. This quote from a scholarship recipient highlighting the Foundation's impact "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," confirms that."

How do you see the future of your relationship with the Foundation?

"We love to cultivate partnerships throughout our community and meaningful contributions. We think the Promise Scholars Program, which provides students with comprehensive support including full tuition for up to three years, textbook support, academic support, dedicated counseling, and career development, is particularly compelling. We want to increase our support of the program."





**Dr. Patricia L. Griffin,
SMCCCD Retiree
Donor, Endowment
Fund Donor, and
SMCCCF Board
Member**

Patricia Griffin has dedicated much of her career and all of her

retirement years to supporting students in the San Mateo County Community College District. Starting in 1990, she spent 16 years as the Vice President of Student Services at College of San Mateo. During that time, every CSM senior administrator shared a common “students first” goal. “I felt very supported in pursuing and developing a vision for student services around access, support, and success. I am pleased that I was given a free hand in expanding and developing student services at CSM.”

Leading and expanding the Student Services division at CSM naturally led Patricia to examine student support holistically. Through that lens she came to understand the fundamental importance of providing financial support for community college students. She became a donor herself soon after she began her position at CSM and continues to be a keen advocate for helping students overcome the financial barriers to completing community college.

“At community colleges we welcome everyone. The main focus of our faculty and staff is supporting our students in a variety of ways so that they can complete college. Many students are first-generation students, need financial support, or leave college to work and come back when they can. For a lot of these students, financial support makes all the difference. If they have to worry about putting food on the table, supporting their families, paying rent, caring for children, etc., education falls far down on the list of concerns. It is not enough that students come to community colleges. They have to stay in order to succeed.”

The community college system is a thread that has been woven into Patricia’s life since childhood. Her dedication to community college students, indeed, has historic roots. Patricia came to know the value of a community college education through her mother, Marie Sexsmith Griffin, who graduated high school during the Great Depression. Community college (or “junior college” as it was known then) was the only avenue available to help her realize her career dreams. It was her degree from Flint Junior College that gave Patricia’s mother the ability to go on to the University

of Michigan, become a public health nurse, and eventually set up a community college scholarship to help others succeed in higher education.

Patricia herself took courses at her local community college as part of an intensive academic program during high school. She eventually earned her Bachelor’s Degree, Master’s Degree, and Doctorate. After a few years teaching and counseling in secondary schools, Patricia shifted her focus to community colleges where she spent the majority of her career in a variety of roles including teaching, counseling, running programs, and serving as a director and dean.

During her tenure at CSM, expanding and deepening the scholarship program for CSM students became a calling and led Patricia to collaborate with the Foundation. In the 1990s, SMCCCF was a very small operation that trusted Patricia’s active and engaged partnership to realize her vision. In her zeal to provide students with financial opportunities, she engaged with the Associated Students to develop more scholarships for incoming high school students and with her colleagues to develop pathways for student success that included financial support.

Retirement has given Patricia time and resources to continue her commitment to supporting students. She established an endowed fund — the Patricia L. Griffin Scholarship Fund — in 2006, to which she regularly contributes. “I chose to create an endowed fund because it lives in perpetuity. The initial donation and subsequent contributions are invested and only the income from the investments is used to fund scholarships. I know that I’m helping students today and will continue to support the District’s students after I’m gone.” Patricia was also recruited to the SMCCCD Retirees group, which she enthusiastically joined. Through the Retirees group, which meets for both fun and serious activities, Patricia and her retiree colleagues have continued the work of acquiring scholarship funds for students at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. “The group appealed to the deep commitment I already had, so I joined in. I spent half my administrative time at CSM working on behalf of students and the other half of my time as a retiree doing the same thing!”

As Patricia envisioned in her original collaboration with the Foundation, SMCCCF today boasts an expanded team that is integral to the colleges. She has joined the Foundation’s Board of Directors as a representative of the Retirees group, in part to help ensure that the scholarships programs she worked so hard to expand all those years ago, continue to support students into the future.



**Dr. Michal Foriest
Settles and
Mr. William Calvin
Settles, Named Fund
Scholarship Donors**

Inspired by a scholarship challenge posed by North Central University President Scott Hagen,

Dr. Michal Foriest Settles and husband William Calvin Settles created the George Floyd Justice Fund at San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation. Mr. Floyd, an unarmed African American man, was killed by police during an arrest in Minneapolis in May 2020. Educational institutions across the country have created memorial scholarships to promote awareness of racial inequities and support emerging leaders who are passionate about bettering their communities.

When Dr. Settles, a professor of Human Resources, Retirement Planning, and Organizational Behavior, first heard about the George Floyd scholarship movement, she and William immediately stepped up. "We've always invested in scholarships so we researched several campuses to find a place where we could contribute to the cause. We decided to create an opportunity here in San Mateo because of the diversity in this community."

The scholarship will help first-time or returning students, with a track record of social justice volunteerism, pay tuition. Through an ongoing campaign, the Settles will encourage other donors to support promising leaders who can take bold steps toward racial justice at College of San Mateo. "Investing in education and equity improves the climate on campus for everyone. And when students graduate they'll be prepared to recognize and change racialized disparities in our community."

Dr. Jennifer Taylor-Mendoza, President of College of San Mateo and former community college student, understands the significance of improving outcomes for first generation college students of color: "The death of George Floyd set off an urgent national and much needed call to action to address systemic racial inequities. The George Floyd Justice Fund strives for equity as it supports student leaders who themselves are social justice advocates. Through philanthropic efforts like this scholarship, we promote education for all, now and beyond as we intentionally uplift students in our communities who are committed to giving back in meaningful, consequential ways."

To make a contribution to the George Floyd Justice Fund visit foundation.smccd.edu/donate.php.



SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THOMAS C. MOHR



Tom Mohr

In honor of her beloved husband, Tom, Sandy Mohr generously established the Thomas C. Mohr Memorial Scholarship to support students throughout the San Mateo County Community College District. The scholarship is a touching memorial to Tom's long relationship with the District and its three colleges. It will be awarded to students who have overcome significant obstacles to achieve their educational goals, particularly those in the Guardian Scholars and Project Change programs.

A former educator herself, Sandy, like Tom, recognizes that so many young people don't receive the start in life that can propel them to success. "When Tom became part of the SMCCCD, he realized that the young people attending Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College really needed additional support to complete college, begin their careers, and look forward to their lives ahead. This scholarship is focused on students who might not otherwise receive financial aid, such as those with a low grade point average. He would be delighted that these young people will receive the help they need to succeed in college. We often forgot that there are many outside influences which affect whether students need financial assistance and I'm thrilled to be able help in this way, in his name."

Tom's life was filled with family and friends who loved and cherished him and who he loved and supported. He was a mentor to countless teachers and educational professionals throughout this District and the county, an advocate for equity, diversity, fairness, and social justice, and a man of deep integrity and compassion. He was a true humanitarian.

Over the course of his life, Tom served as President of Cañada College for six years, an SMCCCD Trustee for four years, and a member of the SMCCCF Board of Directors for three years. Tom had unwavering principles in protecting and promoting the needs of underserved, disadvantaged, and marginalized people throughout the community and he never lost sight of the need to have tough conversations and make difficult decisions in order to do the right thing to help people. Always a perpetual student, Tom was a voracious reader and consumer of information and he was learning until his last day. In those rare moments of quiet time, Tom enjoyed watching Cal football, hiking, exploring the coast, fishing, playing with his dog, connecting with friends and, of course, consuming any desserts or sweet foods that he could get his hands on.

Tom is greatly missed by all who knew him at the Foundation and throughout the District.

To donate to the Thomas C. Mohr Memorial Scholarship, visit foundation.smccd.edu/donate, click "Other" in the "Designation" drop box, and write "Thomas C. Mohr Memorial Scholarship" in the "other designation" box.



PROGRAMS SUPPORTED BY THE FOUNDATION



Educational equity and access are the philosophical and cultural bedrocks of the San Mateo County Community College District and SMCCC Foundation. EOPS | CARE | FYSI at Cañada College (and throughout the District) reflect those principles in a concrete way on a daily basis.

EOPS: Extended Opportunity Programs and Services

CARE: Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education

FYSI: Foster Youth Success Initiative

"Academics were hard for me. I wasn't a good student. I had no vision or dream of what I wanted to do with my future. I felt hopeless. Being part of the EOPS program helped me find direction at Cañada College."

"My family came to this country ten years ago. I was a single mother with three small children, little money, and no career prospects. Applying for EOPS and CARE led me to dream beyond just taking ESL classes to an Associate Degree and then to transfer to SFSU to earn a degree in Psychology, so I can help other women like myself."

"I was homeless and living in a shelter. Without EOPS and CARE in my corner from the very beginning, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to achieve academic success at Cañada College."

"Although I was accepted to four-year universities out of high school, I wasn't able to go because my mom needed me to help her financially and with my younger siblings. I was feeling depressed about letting go of a goal I had planned all during high school. It was hard. But once I came to Cañada College, EOPS helped me to understand my options and showed me that transferring was not only possible but financially within my grasp."

Many students face significant barriers that can prevent them from reaching their academic dreams. EOPS and CARE are state-funded programs that provide the extra support these students need to succeed in college and in life.

EOPS was enacted into law in 1969 with Senate Bill 164. This cornerstone program was established within the California Community College system to enhance and expand existing services provided by the college that would be “over and above, and in addition to” in order to increase graduation and transfer rates.

The roots of the EOPS program harken back to the civil rights movement and the turbulent social unrest of the 1960s, when awareness of the needs for social equity in every facet of life could no longer be ignored. EOPS was conceived as a way to equalize educational opportunities for students who were both educationally and economically disenfranchised to successfully create a future through educational and life-skills development. The intent was for EOPS to foster the identification, recruitment, retention, and educational stimulation of students affected by language, social, or economic disadvantages. The first EOPS programs were established at 46 community colleges. Today, EOPS exists at all 116 community colleges in California.



Nickel and the Nail is the official symbol of EOPS. The story goes like this: years ago, a young man in the deep South was walking down a dusty road to visit a lady friend, all too aware that the nickel in his pocket was all he had in the world. That emptiness tore away at his self-esteem. But, as he walked, he noticed two gnarled horseshoe nails that were twisted together and lying by the road. He picked them up and put them in his pocket, and as the metal jingled against his meager fortune, the young man walked a little straighter, with a little more pride and dignity. It is important to have “something to jingle.” EOPS works to enhance self-esteem, foster pride and dignity, and motivate people to more effectively define and pursue career goals. The nails are twisted into a puzzle, suggesting the problem has yet to be unraveled for helping people who, by circumstances of the society in which we live,

have been limited in meeting their own educational challenges.

Additional support is provided to students who are single parents through the CARE Program, established in 1982 as a supplemental component of EOPS. The program provides educational support services and activities for single head-of-household students who receive county cash aid assistance (CalWORKs/TANF). It is designed to help break the welfare cycle by offering additional support to students who want to receive college-level career training or complete specific educational programs.

Every year, 4,000 youth age out of the foster system in California. These former foster youth need particular attention and help to become self-sufficient. FYSI at Cañada College is part of the California Community College Chancellor's Office statewide outreach and retention efforts to develop a supportive and smooth transition for students from foster care. Under the umbrella of EOPS, FYSI's purpose is to increase the number of former foster youth graduating from a community college with an Associate Degree or vocational training, and/or transferring to a four-year university.

The Foundation is proud to support EOPS | CARE | FYSI at Cañada College (and also at College of San Mateo and Skyline College) by housing funds to which donors can contribute. Future collaborations include a dedicated fundraising page.

“Our students are strong, hopeful, brave, and tenacious. With help, they can achieve their academic and career dreams. Our entire EOPS|CARE|FYSI team is here for them to answer their questions about EOPS services, and school and community resources.” — Lorraine Barrales-Ramirez, counselor and coordinator EOPS|CARE|FYSI





College of San Mateo Football Program – Go Bulldogs!

There's nothing like the feeling of team and school pride when you're sitting in the stands and cheering your own college football team on to victory!

Unless you're playing the game yourself.

Just ask some of the NFL players who are proud that they started their illustrious sports careers playing for the Bulldogs. CSM's Football program counts among its notable alumni sports stars and legends including Julian Edelman (New England Patriots), Ryan Boschetti (Washington Redskins), Albert Tuipulotu (Pittsburgh Steelers), Keala Keana'aina (Cleveland Browns), Devin Wyman (New England Patriots), Paul Bradford (San Diego Chargers), Pat McGuirk (San Francisco 49ers), and Bill Ring (San Francisco 49ers).

At College of San Mateo, athletic development rests on three pillars: discipline, consistency, and old-fashioned hard work. Within those pillars, the Football program prides itself on developing athletes in the classroom, in the weight room, and on the field. It is a comprehensive program that also ensures athletes receive the quality academic education CSM provides. The Bulldogs play in the Bay 6 Conference which is arguably the toughest conference in the state. In 2019, they were the Northern California Champions and finished the season ranked 2nd in the nation!

Indeed, the creed of CSM's athletics department intercollegiate athletics faculty and staff is a commitment to facilitate personal development and academic progress of highly skilled, motivated

students, inclusive and respectful of diverse backgrounds through participation in the varsity athletics program. The Athletics Department steadfastly supports the academic progress of student-athletes and the achievement of their educational objectives to enable students to realize their true and full potential.

Each year, 25-35 CSM football players earn scholarships and move on to four-year colleges and universities. In addition to providing scholarships, the Foundation is proud to collaborate with the Football team on promoting fundraising events like the inaugural crab feast, which will take place once college activities are again in person.

"I'm so honored to work with our scholar-athletes," Head Coach Tim Tulloch asserts. "Our Built for Life program at CSM prides itself on truly being a human development and transfer program that just happens to play football at a national championship level. Our young men develop foundational skills like work ethic, resilience, how to communicate, work together with teammates for a common goal, and humility. WE before ME."

"These skills prepare our young men for success not only on and off the field at their four-year university, but all set the foundation for leadership positions in their careers, and life. Better men make better students, athletes, husbands, and fathers. Better men make better Bulldogs, so we focus on developing the man."



Promise Scholars Program

The Promise Scholars Program is a completion program, focusing on support that will keep first-time, full-time SMCCCD college students on track to complete their educational goals within two-three years.

At only five years old, the program is already helping students succeed in realizing their academic goals. Started as a pilot program in 2016, the Promise Scholars Program initially included a cohort of 139 students at Skyline

College. Two years later, in 2018, the program was expanded Districtwide as one of the few official replications of City University of New York's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs. Today the Promise Scholars Program **serves 2,000 students annually at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College.**

The program seeks to at least double completion rates for participating students and is already exceeding all benchmarks!

Benefits of the Promise Scholars Program include:



Tuition
Waived for
2-3 years



Textbook
Support



Priority
Enrollment



Individualized
Academic
Support



Exclusive
Events and
Workshops



Food and
Transportation
Incentives

<https://foundation.smccd.edu/what-to-support/promise.php>

The Equity Institute at Skyline College

Equity is just and fair inclusion into a society in which all can participate, prosper, and reach their full potential.

Equity is providing support based on the context and needs of each individual.

Student equity is the center of our work.



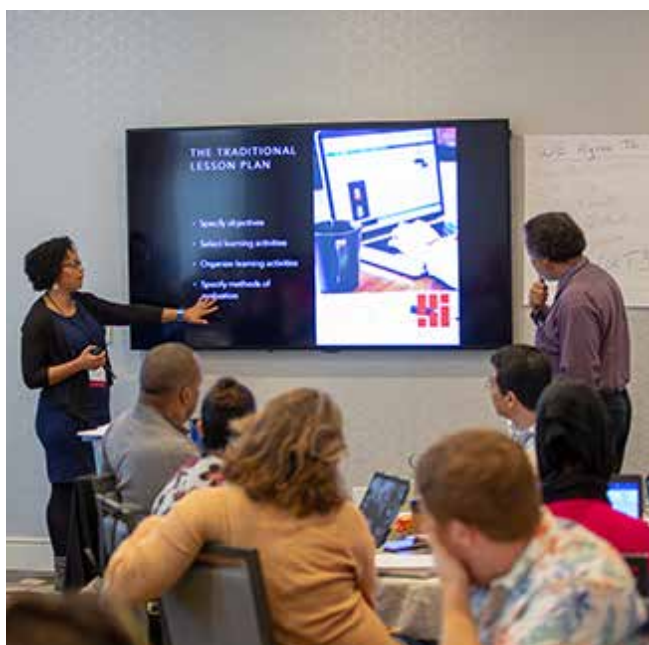
Skyline College was founded during a decade that had started off as the dawn of a golden age. That same decade, the 1960s, ended as one of the most tumultuous and turbulent periods in America. Having been established in 1969, during the heart of the civil rights movement, educational equity has always been at the core of Skyline College's mission.

The idea for an Equity Institute at Skyline College was borne out of a series of programs that began in the Student Equity and Support Programs Division. Every spring semester, a cohort of Skyline College employees participated



in the division's professional development activities, this is an eight-week experience immersed together in a variety of equity topics. These sessions moved participants to make meaningful and lasting changes in the classroom and in other work environments, and were the inspiration for the Institute with a broader, nation-wide reach. In 2018, Skyline College launched the Equity Institute to transform the landscape of higher education by helping colleges develop and sustain institutional approaches to equity and student success.

Benefits of the Equity Institute's programming and research extend to community colleges and educators nation-wide from varied institutions. The bi-annual Equity Summit, one of the Institute's core programs, is held in the Fall Semester. The Summit is a one-day experience featuring Equity Talks and plenary sessions from 13 scholars and practitioners in social justice and equity. The event attracts over 500 educators and social justice advocates from across the nation.



Equity Academies, which take place quarterly, form another pillar of the Institute's programming. These professional development opportunities invite educational leaders to immerse themselves in baseline concepts, interrogate data, and map implementation strategy to implement equity-centered work at participants' respective institutions.

The Academies are guided by the T-3 framework, which encourages educators to look at their students and their experiences holistically. The T3 framework starts with the Traditional (T1) approach, reflects the current approach to classroom instruction, which is yielding us the equity gaps we're currently experiencing within our institutions. Transitional (T2) approach, practices include modest modifications to the traditional lens; still this does not interrogate the root challenges that lead to inequitable outcomes. However, a Transformative (T3) consciousness and practice addresses historical and sociopolitical causes of inequities found in education and encourages educators to engage in data-informed efforts to repair and restore our educational systems. T3 also challenges and encourages educators to examine and improve their teaching methodologies to engender success for all students.



Oyame KenZoe Brian Selassie-Okpe, who goes by O'KenZoe, was recently named as the new Executive Director of the Equity Institute and member of the Skyline College senior leadership team. When asked about his vision for the Institute, O'KenZoe's reply illustrates his inclusiveness, authenticity, and long history in the multicultural, equity, diversity, and inclusion arenas. "I want to take the time to respect other people's voices and cultural worldview. I also want to honor the work of my team in the absence of an Executive Director. Together, we will determine what the collective voices in our entire community have in common,



and we will come to a collective agreement of how we move forward and do the work. The more inclusive and diverse we are, the more we can foster a sense of belonging.” The vision is for the Equity Institute to eventually expand and offer equity training services outside of the educational sector.

O’KenZoe would like the Foundation community to know “contributions can be made in an array of beautiful ways, including financial support, program ideas, goodwill, and appreciation of the work through



volunteerism. We want to create a welcoming space to make more substantive contributions.” The Foundation currently has a dedicated fund and donation page for the Equity Institute. With a background in grant writing, O’KenZoe is particularly keen to broaden the Institute’s collaboration with the

Foundation. “The power of partnership can be so dynamic. The ability to make connections between the equity activism and having finances to execute the work in a way that is sustainable, is very important.”

Skyline College’s Equity Institute provides a unique opportunity for partnership and inclusiveness. The only entity of its kind in the community college system, the Equity Institute is also unique on the West Coast and in its comprehensiveness and timely in its design. “We have the opportunity to make the Institute even more special, in its inclusiveness and design.”

THE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS OVER 100

programs at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College, and Districtwide. The programs we support, such as those you read about in this section, ensure student equity, quality of campus life, and that students have access to extra-curricular activities.

SMCCCF & SMCCCD EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Together, as partners, the Foundation and the colleges annually host events highlighting our donors' generosity and our colleges' accomplishments.



2nd Annual Cañada College President's Luncheon

October 22, 2019 at the Hiller Aviation Museum in San Carlos

Cañada College's President's Luncheon is a fun networking event that brings together over 250 leaders in the community. The event showcased student achievement and important programs at Cañada College such as the Puente Project, the Kinesiology, Athletics, & Dance department and student athletes, and the Promise Scholars Program. Funds raised at this annual event were directed towards the Promise Scholars Program, which pays for up to three years of tuition, textbooks, transportation, and academic and career counseling for students in financial need.

For more information about Cañada College's President's Luncheon, visit https://canadacollege.edu/luncheon/_archive/luncheon-2019.php.



Chancellor's Circle

January 30, 2020 at CuriOdyssey in San Mateo

The Chancellor's Circle celebrates important friends who support the Foundation's mission of providing scholarships to students in need and supporting programs at the District's three colleges, Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. In gratitude for their generous contributions of \$1,000 or more during the fiscal year, members of the Chancellor's Circle are invited to the annual Chancellor's Circle Dinner.



To join the Chancellor's Circle or to renew your membership visit foundation.smccd.edu/donate or contact Tykia Warden, Executive Director, at 650.358.6860 or wardent@smccd.edu.



8th Annual Golf Tournament

August 5, 2019 at the Stanford Golf Course at Stanford

San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation's annual Golf Tournament is a not-to-be-missed FUNdraising event for both casual and avid golfers. In 2019, the sold-out tournament raised a record-breaking \$240,000+ for scholarships and programs at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. Golfers enjoyed networking at the continental breakfast, a fun day on the links with games, prizes, a raffle, lunch, and drinks, and an opportunity to connect at dinner with fellow Foundation supporters and District and college leadership.

For more information about the Foundation's annual Golf Tournament, visit <https://foundation.smccd.edu/news/golf-tournament-2021.php>.



Student Scholarship Awards

May 2020 | Cañada College | College of San Mateo | Skyline College

Each year, the Foundation and the District's colleges host the Student Scholarship Awards at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. These beloved events, which take place in May, bring together donors with the students who are awarded their scholarships, in a celebration of achievement, connection, and gratitude. Regrettably, all three colleges cancelled their events in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Protecting the safety and well-being of students, donors, faculty, staff, and the community was paramount. All three colleges created messages of encouragement and gratitude to our donors from the Presidents and from students who received awards.



To view these messages, visit <https://foundation.smccd.edu/scholarships/scholarship-awards-ceremonies.php>.



SKYLINE COLLEGE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Skyline College 50th Anniversary: 2019-2020 Academic Year

In the 2019-2020, academic year, the entire District and the local community celebrated Skyline College's milestone 50th anniversary. Events ranged from an exciting Opening Day program and a 50th anniversary exhibition open to the entire community to a sold-out gala event in the new Environmental Science building and a food truck barbeque for students, faculty, and staff.

Visit Skyline College's 50th Anniversary website!

<https://skylinecollege.edu/50/index.php>



SMCCCD ALUMNI

Alumni of Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College have gone on to be successful in a variety of professions. We celebrate the achievements of our alumni and the honor they bring the District's colleges. 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.



Nimsi Garcia,
Cañada College Alumna

Nimsi Garcia is passionate about advocating for non-traditional students. She's keenly aware of what it's like to have a dream of attending a university, but with limited or no resources. Desire alone, is not enough to make it a reality.

Despite her own academic potential, a college education seemed virtually impossible to Nimsi. The daughter of immigrants, she grew up in Redwood City. Nimsi was the first person in her family to apply to attend a university. Neither of her parents were fluent English speakers. Couple her parents' lack of English language-proficiency, with demanding work schedules, and a lack of knowledge about the entire U.S. college application process, and you start to understand why a young Nimsi had set her dream aside. Fortunately for Nimsi, her heartbreak didn't last for long. A friend, who had previously attended Cañada College, explained the college's transfer program, and tipped her off to campus resources and potential scholarships. Suddenly, Nimsi knew that while it would be challenging, it was also possible to achieve her goal of a university degree.

After two years at Cañada College, where she earned a degree in Economics, she was accepted to UC Berkeley as a transfer student. She

thrived at Cal, eventually becoming a peer advisor. Nimsi is grateful for the resources that were there to support her academic journey.

She's especially grateful for the programs specifically geared toward community college transfers. And the donors who made her scholarship — and ultimately education, possible. Nimsi reflects on how fortunate she was to receive such an outstanding education, without the burden of student loans. She received a scholarship from the Menlo Park Rotary, as well as book vouchers through EOPS. Yet another grant enabled her to purchase a monthly bus pass, which she used to catch four different buses required to get to campus each day.

After graduating from Cal, others might be content to focus on themselves and their own career aspirations. Not Nimsi. Even today, she continues to look for opportunities to clear blocks for non-traditional students. What once was done for her, today she does for others. In fact, her younger brother and two cousins have all enrolled at Cañada College thanks to her success.

And in addition to volunteering her time to teach classes in both filmmaking and social justice at the local Boys and Girls Club, Nimsi was thrilled to accept a job as a Program Services Coordinator for the iESO! Adelante Program at Cañada College, her first alma mater and a place near and dear to her heart. The program, which supports Latino, high-need, high-potential, and low-resource students, means her work has come full circle. When asked how she finds the time to do so much, she replies, "I don't want to be the only. I don't want to be the last. It's important that others see what's possible and know the pathway to achieve it."



Allison Fuller,
College of San Mateo Alumna

Despite being a young woman, Allison Fuller has ties to the College of San Mateo that go back nearly 20 years. It's a connection she speaks of fondly and openly, as she talks about the importance of nurses and the vital role they play – both in good times and trying times, such as now as the COVID-19 pandemic rages on and nurses are on the front lines fighting against it.

Allison credits the support she received at CSM – both financial support through a scholarship she received, as well as the training and encouragement she received from caring and capable faculty members. Faculty who believed in her, even more than she believed in herself during the very earliest days.

Born and raised in San Bruno, Fuller completed her high school education by attending Middle College on the CSM campus, a joint venture between the San Mateo Union High School District and the San Mateo County Community College District. The program offers a unique pathway for the county's high school students to accomplish their secondary and post-secondary academic goals, in a supportive and small learning community.

After graduating from Middle College, Alison didn't have to travel far to continue her studies and follow her dream. Fuller is the first to tell you that while she's a caregiver by nature, she's also a bit of an adrenaline junkie, which makes her well-suited for a career as both a flight nurse and a cardiac ICU nurse. Two jobs that, even during ordinary times, are not for the faint of heart, but allow her to help her community, sometimes when it needs help the most.

As news of the COVID-19 pandemic spread, Fuller knew she could help even more people than she does in her normal duties. So, she answered the call of New York's Governor Andrew Cuomo and volunteered to travel to New York City to address the nursing shortage in area hospitals. Despite working six days a week in Manhattan, Allison loves nursing and CSM so much, she recently took time out of her busy schedule to talk to the Class of 2020 nursing cohort about nursing as a profession and their futures.

During her comments to the graduates, Fuller says her work as a nurse has led her to some incredible adventures, but what she loves the most about the job is the way it lets her help people on an individual level and her community on a broader level. That was true in her early days after graduating and it remains true now. Even while working far from home and in the middle of a healthcare crisis. She described nursing as just as vital of a profession, and just as meaningful personally today, as it was 200 years ago. She called nurses like herself, a "bridge" and the interpreters who translate between the often highly-technical medical staff and treatment methodologies, with the compassion and understanding required by the general public.



“Nursing is more than a career.
It's a calling.”





Kouassi Franck Josias Yao,
Skyline College Alumnus

Skyline College alumnus Franck Yao is on a mission. Keenly aware of the opportunities before him, he's determined to reach his professional goals, but equally determined to make a difference in the world.

Franck is on a mission to bring tech sector innovation and job opportunities to his native Côte d'Ivoire, a coastal nation in the west of Africa, best known for beaches and tourism. If Franck has his way, one day, it'll also be known as a hub of innovation as well.

Despite being a young man, the accolades and opportunities keep coming for Franck. And he credits much of it to the strong foundations he built attending Skyline College, as well as his faculty mentors.

He first became familiar with Skyline College during a college and university fair held by the U.S. Embassy in Côte d'Ivoire. After considering many others, he ultimately decided that Skyline College had the right mix of academic programs, student support, and an enviable proximity to Silicon Valley's tech community. Those attributes, coupled with proven university transfer programs and scholarship opportunities, were all key to his ability to attend Skyline College. A recipient of the Global BECCA scholarship, it created the path for him to pursue higher education at

Skyline College. After completing his studies at Skyline College, he accepted a full scholarship to attend Elizabeth City State University, an HBCU, in North Carolina.

Currently in his last semester at ECSU, it came as no surprise to anyone who knows him, when Franck was named as a Forbes Under 30 Overachiever for two consecutive years — 2018 and 2019 — selected among thousands of candidates for the elite global mentorship program. He now has the ability to access investors, entrepreneurs, celebrities, musicians, fashion designers, sports stars, cultural icons, world-renowned chefs, educators, political leaders, and business icons. "All people I need to know as a future entrepreneur myself."

In addition to the Forbes honor, he's also been a United Nations Youth Ambassador, through a program developed by the Obama Foundation, identifying 1,000 young Africans to participate in global solutions. And he completed a fellowship in Silicon Valley with the likes of Google, You Tube, and Twitter. What's next for Franck? After graduation, he'll begin working for Microsoft. Fluent in French and English, he's eager to begin working on systems to bridge artificial intelligence and economics. The future is bright for this Skyline College Trojan. "American colleges are the envy of the world. It ensures the world's best and brightest dream of studying in the USA." Franck aims to make sure that scholarship donors know how big of an impact they make. How their gifts make sure the promise of an American college education is just as bright for other international students.



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.**"

2020 FISCAL IMPACT

TOTAL ASSETS
OVER **\$24** MILLION



DIRECT SUPPORT TO
SCHOLARSHIPS

\$ 970,208

TOTAL
CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS

\$ 2,837,144

TOTAL **SCHOLARSHIPS**
AWARDED



\$ 1,769,352

TO OVER **850**
STUDENTS

YEAR-END 2020 DONORS

SMCCC Foundation's community of supporters fuel education equity. They ensure that anyone who wants a college education can achieve their dream, regardless of economic status, ethnic or racial identity, sexual orientation or gender identity, learning challenges, or other circumstance that might be barrier to higher education.

Below please find a listing of the Foundation's generous year-end 2020 donors and our endowed funds.

Individual Supporters give one or more gifts throughout the year that help power our work now and into the future.

Business & Institutional Partners share the Foundation's vision for where students and achieve their dreams, and support this work boldly through donations, sponsorships, and in-kind contributions.

Scholarship Endowed and Named Fundholders dedicate their resources and time to invest in students. Together, we award scholarships annually to support students' educational journeys and dreams.

Anonymous	Antioch Community Scholarship	Leo Barcelona
A.S.F. Electric, Inc.	Christine Aquino	Kathryn Barchas
Cindy Abbott	Jessica Anne Aquino	Leo and Silva Bardes
Abic Operations	Sandra Arellano	William Barish
Denyce Abrigo	Diane Arguijo	Judy Barker
Acacia Property Corp 2010	Barbara Arnold	Wendy Barnao
Acacia Property Corp 2012	Abtin Assadi	Malcolm Barnwell
Acacia Property Corp 2015	Assistance League of San Mateo County	Jerry Barrack
Jeffrey Acidera	Associated Students of Cañada College	Lorraine Barrales-Ramirez
Michael Ackerman	Associated Students of Sequoia High School	Juan Barredo
Alvin Adams	George Atkinson	Gretel Barreto
Alicia Aguirre	Atkinson Foundation	Annie Barry
Margarita Aguirre	Atlas/Pellizzari Electric Inc.	BART Chapter SEIU Local 790
Cecilio Alberto and Sylvia Aguirre-Alberto	Pattabhi Attaluri	Rob Barthelman
Akin Ajiboye	Don Austin	Barthold Family Foundation
Kathy Alexiou	Linda Avelar	Michelle Batista
Alfa Tech Consulting Engineers	Duart Avila	Linda Bauer
Linda Allen	Jodi Avina	Steve Bauman
James Allred	Roderick Bacon	Lloyd Bautista
Guillermo Alonzo	Margarita Baez	Sharolyn Bautista
Ilham Alshaer	Mitchell Bailey	Tony Bayudan
Nabeel Al-Shamma	Dameca Bailey	Tanya Beat
Alta Mesa Improvement Company	Victor Baiz	Ralph Beaudouin
Carla Altizer	Lawrence Baker	Marianne Beck
Amazon, Inc	Raymond Baldonadp	Merilyn Beeman
Rickey and Diane Ambrose	Christine Baldrige	Joan Bell
American High School - Associated Student Body	Nikhil Balram	Jonathan Bell
Richard and Darcy Anderson	Naciacen Bambilla	Rosemary Bell
Andrew Mann Charitable Fund	Ann Ban	Bella Vista Suites
Gaetane Andrews	Josbeth Banaag	Allyn Beltran
Jeanne Angier	Walter Bankovitch	Ben Efraim - Rodrigues Foundation
Lauren Anicete	Elaine Banks	Wisseem Bennani
	Arash Baratloo and Karen Cullen	Craig Benson

Robert Benson
 Kim Benton
 Barbara Berensmeier
 Paul Berevoescu
 Barbara Bernhart
 Betty Bernstein
 Linda Bertellotti
 Gina Bertolino
 Jonathan Betts
 Rose Beuttler
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