

IMPACT REPORT 2021-2022





We provide the philanthropic support that helps San Mateo County Community College District students take full advantage of the programs and services at the three colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District: Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College.

VISION

San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation is widely recognized as the philanthropic organization ensuring that all members of the communities of San Mateo County can afford and achieve a higher education.



Patricia Siguenza

Chair of the Board of Directors, SMCCCF



Patty S.

The last two years have been an interesting and exciting period of growth and emergence, both at the college level and for our greater community.

In fiscal year-end 2021, we were still acutely feeling the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the course of the following year, we slowly reemerged into a new hybrid world that we now inhabit and that, somehow, feels more inclusive. We have figured out how to safely hold events, workshops, and meetings for those who wish to attend in person. And, we have provided access for those who must remain remote.

Toward the end of every year, I take the time to reflect upon accomplishments related to the Foundation. I'm proud to once again say that SMCCCF's Board of Directors has stepped up to provide the leadership required during this time of change and growth. This is a Board that has been actively engaged in the success of SMCCCD students through the Foundation's fundraising mission.

I am also, again, in awe of our supporters. As the world changes and the economy with it, you have continued to show that you care about the dreams and success of the most vulnerable members of our community. The struggles our students face are still present and real. Your generosity has made a positive impact on their lives. In supporting the Foundation, our students, and our colleges, you have also demonstrated your enduring dedication to the vitality of this community.

It delights me to report that the Foundation's generous donors contributed over \$2.2 million to support scholarships and programs in both FYE 2021 and 2022. In addition to scholarships, the Foundation's donors once again supported over 100 programs such as the Promise Scholars Program Districtwide, and the Kababayan and other learning communities, the Middle College program, and SparkPoint Centers at all three colleges as well as many other programs.

Amidst all of this, College of San Mateo also began its centennial year. Founded in 1922, the college has grown into a community icon that has served millions of learners over the past 100 years. The college has celebrated this milestone with a series of year-long events, kicked off by a Gala on March 31, 2022, CSM's founding anniversary. This magical event, highlighting the best of CSM and planned in collaboration with the Foundation, brought together community members, elected officials, CSM students, and SMCCCD employees. Other centennial events in fiscal year 2022 included *Rise in Revolution*, a student-led social justice conference, and *An Evening of Art, Science, Music, & Dance*.

While celebrating the Foundation's donors and leadership, our colleges, and our students, I must also give my immense gratitude to SMCCCF's staff. This team of hardworking and dedicated individuals has seen us through the rough time and our emergence from it with grace and good humor. The staff's steadfast commitment saw the revival of SMCCCF's signature fundraising event, the Golf Tournament in September 2021 at the Stanford Golf Course. After the event's cancelation due to the pandemic the year before, the Tournament raised \$215,000 to support students at all three colleges.

The SMCCC Foundation Board and I are committed to helping our community college students by eliminating financial barriers to success. Our students are the future teachers, healthcare leaders, and attorneys in San Mateo County and the greater Bay Area beyond. They are our community's business leaders of tomorrow and the example for all students who come after them. They will also provide the support that will help others who come after them succeed.

The Foundation Board appreciates all of our donors and friends. Your support of Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College helps us to look to the future as we focus on our goal of enhancing student success.

In supporting the Foundation, our students, and our colleges, you have also demonstrated your enduring dedication to the vitality of this community.





Tykia Warden

Executive Director



Jykia Warden

The "new normal." It's the latest catchphrase, buzzword, motto, saying, etc., in the business world. After nearly two pandemic years and a cautious and incomplete return, this is where we are. The new normal.

As a strong fundraising team with a depth of many years of experience, we strive to figure out and understand what the *new normal* means for our donors, our campus and broader communities, and our college students. We must untangle the new ways of doing business and nurturing relationships in this semi-virtual and in-person world.

All this comes at a time of unprecedented global and domestic political and economic uncertainty. While wars and political skirmishes may be far away geographically, their keenly-felt impact highlights our interconnected world. To wit: given the post-pandemic worldwide inflation and supply chain issues, we've seen our most vulnerable students struggle to remain in college and pay their living expenses.

On the local front, college students also continue to contend with an educational system rife with systemic racism and inequities that make the economic challenges they face ever more acute. Together, Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College provide an exceptional example of how a community college district's faculty, staff, and students can work together to overcome these challenges.

Amid both new and recurring uncertainties, we are moving forward in this *new normal*. I am proud of the Foundation team's achievements, particularly over the past three years. In FYE 2021, we exceeded our fundraising goal by 25% and by 35% in 2022, and I expect we will continue to adapt and achieve on behalf of the students who need our support.

During this time, the team met with donors and corporate and foundation funders both virtually and in person. SMCCCF assisted with college events and held our own events, also in hybrid environments. We were especially pleased to once again hold our beloved scholarship awards ceremonies on our campuses this year. The expressions of joy on the faces of our students as they received the support they will need to realize their educational dreams is one of the most heartening things that I've seen this academic year.

That brings me back to the *new normal* and the things that don't change. As I've mentioned in past communications, SMCCC Foundation is an organization of hope and a brighter future. Whatever may go on in the world, that remains a constant. Together, as a community with that hope, we will navigate our changing world.

Thank you for your ongoing support. I look forward to continuing the work with you.



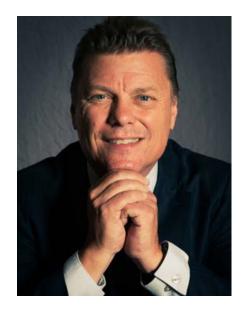
...SMCCC Foundation is an organization of hope and a brighter future.

Whatever may go on in the world, that remains a constant.



Michael Claire

Chancellor, San Mateo County Community College District



Michael Clau

This year has been marked with many moments of celebration. We have emerged from an environment of COVID restrictions and have fully opened our campuses to students and our community. Last June we were able to hold our first in-person graduations in two years at each of our colleges. It was wonderful to see the joy of accomplishment from our students, and the pride of their families and friends.

This year College of San Mateo, and by extension our college district, is celebrating 100 years of providing educational excellence to our community. As we begin our next century we are learning with our students how to navigate in a world that did not exist before the pandemic. Our students are taking advantage of an increase in online and hybrid offerings, making tele-appointments with their counselors, while also reconnecting fully to our physical campuses. The commitment of all District employees and students to not only survive but to thrive in this new environment has been inspirational.

So many supporters, advocates and donors have stepped up to ensure that students continue 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, the pandemic has laid bare those stark realities and forced us to confront issues to ensure that those barriers are not ones that preclude access to and success at the District's colleges.

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. With this, the District has allocated significant funds to provide direct support to our most needy students.

Through all of the uncertainty over the last several years, 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.

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.

So many supporters, advocates and donors have stepped up to ensure that students continue to get the services and support that they need.





IMPACT NUMBERS

SMCCCF and SMCCCD At a Glance: Fiscal Year End 2022

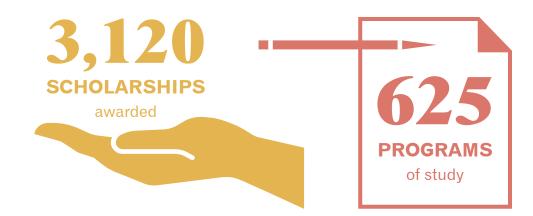
Millions of students have passed through the doors of Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College. The programs at the San Mateo County Community College District and financial support provided by the Foundation's donors have helped past and current students realize the dream of a college education.



SUPPORT

funds awarded to students and programs across the District:

\$1.6+ million



DEGREES & CERTIFICATES 3,543

awarded between summer '21 and spring '22:

21,443

Students Attended Our Colleges

Cañada College:

8,496

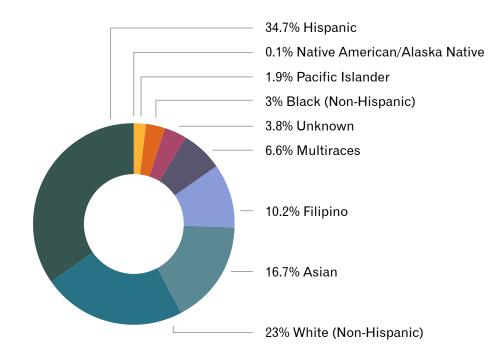
College of San Mateo:

11,132

Skyline College:

11,689

STUDENT **DEMOGRAPHICS**



37%

LOW INCOME

students

52%

FIRST GENERATION

college students

55%

of students were
YOUNGER THAN 25



STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Foundation donors help students achieve their educational dreams, enriching their lives, the lives of their family members, and our entire community.

Anthony Leon Chumptazi

Cañada College Student



"Giving back to my community," is the overarching theme that stood out the most when speaking with Anthony.

Anthony Leon Chumptazi is a first-generation college student. He was raised by his mother, in a single parent, low-income household. Growing up he lived in a small room with his mom up until his senior year in high school. Because of the pandemic, he and his mother acquired a single-bedroom apartment, a space they could call their own. However, because of the cost of living in the bay area, it was still expensive and barely affordable.

For the last three years, Anthony has been a student at Cañada College, which he chose to attend because of the campus's size. He felt that by attending a smaller college he would be able to build and form strong relationships with administrators and receive more individualized attention from Professors. Anthony is majoring in neuroscience and plans to transfer in Fall 2023 to either UCLA, UC Davis, or UC San Diego.

A student with a strong drive and great promise in neuroscience, Anthony's goal is to help create drugs for neurodegenerative diseases and intermuscular diseases such as Bell's palsy and myasthenia gravis. His interest in neuroscience developed early on as he experienced family members, his grandfather and father, who suffered from these diseases. These experiences motivated him to pursue science and fueled his drive to become involved with scientific research so he can one day develop treatments that can help people

with neurological conditions. Ultimately, Anthony would like to pursue a career as an independent researcher working for a biotech company or create his own biotech company.

Anthony's experience at Cañada College has given him purpose and has made him feel validated. He has become involved in extracurricular activities and wants to make a difference in his community. Anthony is co-president of Phi Theta Kappa, Student Senate Officer of Associated Students of Cañada College, and he currently runs three student clubs. In addition to participating in campus activities, Anthony also tutors students in English, Organic Chemistry, Physics, and Calculus.

During Anthony's last year at Cañada College, he's been busy leaving his mark on the college while laying the groundwork for future scholars to attend. He played an instrumental role in the Lyft initiative, which served nearly 500 Cañada College students and covered rides to and from campus. "Education should not be a barrier when money is a hardship. As a Hispanic student, a minority, money is a big factor."

Personal experiences and connections have also influenced Anthony's extracurricular activities and activism in the area of childcare and early childhood education. When Anthony was young, his mother enrolled him in preschool that was free of charge. He's grateful his mother had access to the program because he understands how expensive childcare can be. He also witnessed the financial struggles faced by students with young children while tutoring his peers. These experiences drove Anthony to join the Child Center Task Force Initiative,

formed to build a child care center on Cañada College's campus. Organizers hope the center can be established and three-seven years down the road the college can offer a "preschool-like program," to serve Cañada College students with preschool-age children and also serve students who are majoring in Early Childhood Education.

In addition to his many extracurricular on-campus activities, Anthony is also a Cañada College NSF Scholar, a scholarship program funded by the National Science Foundation through the Achieving Success at College: Education, Networking, and Transfer (ASCENT) grant. The scholarship provides up to \$14,000 over two-three years. Anthony has also interned with a Biotech company for neuroscience and has participated in literary research and presented to UC Irvine.

As a result of the financial aid, scholarships, and support Anthony has received while attending Cañada College, he has been able to focus on his education and truly become involved in making a difference on campus. He is a Promise Scholar and has benefited by receiving the food grant and bus tokens through the program. Anthony utilizes the bus tokens he receives to help get to and from his internship in San Francisco.

The scholarships that Anthony has received from SMCCCD have helped him feel more secure and prepared financially for when he transfers to a four-year university. Receiving awards such as the Dale and Helen Mersereau Scholarship, the SMCCCD Bookstore Textbook Scholarship, the Pat Hanada Classified Service Scholarship, and the Cañada STEM Student Scholarship give him the motivation to study even harder. Anthony

wants donors to know, "any amount does help, it really makes you feel validated and that there are people out there that will help support your education – the harder you work, the more support you receive." In addition, the scholarships Anthony has received have helped support him and have allowed him to be active and make a difference in his community. "Scholarships that donors provide create an impact now and in the future. Students will remember who helped them along their educational journey and they'll want to give back to their community."



Andrea Morales

College of San Mateo Student



"My goal and my dream is to go to Stanford."

There is no doubt that Andrea Morales will achieve any dream to which she sets her mind. A native of Guatemala, Andrea is the voice of determination, will, and success for all firstgeneration college students, particularly Latinas.

Andrea Morales spent most of her life living with her aunt and grandmother in Guatemala while her parents worked in the United States for a better life for the family. "My mom immigrated when I was one and my dad left for the U.S. when I was three. They came here to work hard, so my sister and I could have a better life." While still in Guatemala, Andrea knew in her heart that she was helping her parents by being a good student who received excellent grades.

In 2017 at the ages of 16 and 20, Andrea and her sister Luisa were given the opportunity to join their parents in the United States. "My parents got their green cards — they worked hard for it. Then we got the news that they had claimed us and we could come as documented immigrants. All of a sudden we came here. It was out of the blue and we had no contacts other than our parents."

Andrea finished her last 1.5 years of high school in the U.S. and it has been a life-changing journey. "My sister and I feel blessed and we take every opportunity that comes our way to succeed. When I came here, I learned to advocate for myself and to speak up." Andrea sees everything from a positive

perspective and always likes to smile because it can change someone's day, even her own. "My positive attitude is a big part of what defines me as a person." Although they are no longer together, she still embraces her grandmother's motto: "Has el bien. Sin mirar a quien." (Do good things for your community no matter who they are and the good will come back to you someday.)

CSM was the natural choice for Andrea when she finished high school. While she had all the requirements to attend a four-year university, she was still experiencing the shock of adjusting to a new culture and environment, and new people. The community college experience helped her adjust and grow as a person. She learned about herself and how to build her own community. CSM was also one of the first places in this country to open doors for Andrea after she experienced discrimination in high school because she is a Latina.

While she never considered the possibility of having mentors, at CSM she found many, from Fauzi Hamadeh and Aaron Schaefer in Student Life and Leadership to Paola Mora Paredes in the Multicultural Center & Dream Center and Arianna Avendano at EOPS. However, the one person who she most credits for empowering her and teaching her to speak out and advocate for herself is the Multicultural Center & Dream Center's Jackie Santizo. "Once I could speak for myself, I could advocate for, empower, and motivate others."

In addition to being a top student, Andrea was elected to the student senate and is now Student Body President. She is also an intern at the Multicultural Center & Dream Center, is working with a professor to create a club to support ESL students, and was invited to be the keynote student speaker at CSM's Centennial Gala. She is a shining example of what a student can achieve with perseverance and hard work. In fact, achieving through higher education is a family affair in the Morales household. Luisa also attends CSM, and their father, Danilo, will graduate this spring with a business degree from Cañada College. "If my dad can struggle and stay awake to study, so can I. It's easier for me because I'm not working full-time to feed a family."

Andrea's achievements don't end with her academics and extracurricular activities. She is also the recipient of several scholarships through the Foundation. Awards include the Dale and Helen Mersereau Scholarship, the Fred and Mary Lou Baldra Scholarship, an EOPS grant, and the CSM Promise Scholars Program. During the pandemic, she received an



SMCCCF Emergency Funds grant to help her through a challenging financial time. "These scholarships are a blessing and an opportunity and it is up to me to take advantage of it by becoming more educated so I can show them the impact of their big hearts." Andrea would also love to get to know some of the donors so she can thank them in person.

With all her successes and positive, can-do attitude, it's no surprise that Andrea ultimately wants to be a neurosurgeon. She grew up seeing the care her aunt, who was a nurse,

gave to the community. She also experienced the love and gratitude people sent her aunt every day. "I'm not worried about how much money I'll get paid. I only want to have that connection with my community, of helping people and giving them the care they need. Just like my auntie." Andrea is set to graduate and transfer in the spring of 2023 with an Associate in Science degree in biology with a minor in chemistry and a certificate in biotechnology. Whichever university she chooses to attend will be extraordinarily lucky to have her as a student.

Jonathan Scott

Skyline College Student



Karen Chadwick, the Foundation's Donor Relations Manager has had the pleasure of witnessing first-hand the hard work, positive presence, and passion that Jonathan Scott exudes. She has grown to know Jonathan over the years from various Cash for College outreach events. Jonathan, a Financial Aid Student Ambassador for Skyline College, most recently worked with Karen at Capuchino High School assisting high school seniors and their families to complete their financial aid applications for the upcoming Fall 2023 semester. Karen shares that "Jonathan wasted no time jumping in and helping those who needed help. He put students and their families at ease by listening to their needs and answering their questions. I witnessed Jonathan make a connection and truly engage with each family he came across."

Jonathan's compassion comes from his personal experience. He understands firsthand what it's like to have financial hardships, but that obstacle didn't stop him from going after his dream of achieving higher education.

A native of Pacifica, California, Jonathan comes from a two-parent household and is the second to youngest of five siblings. While he was growing up, the family lived in low-income, section 8 housing, from which they were eventually and unfortunately displaced. For some time, the family moved into an RV while they slowly fixed up the home his father owned. Every chance his family had they would devote themselves to making small improvements. As soon as the

home became habitable, they moved in and to this day they continue to fix things slowly.

Immediately after graduation from Oceana High School in Pacifica, Jonathan began attending Skyline College because it was affordable and he could continue to live at home. He is a first-generation college student currently completing his second semester at Skyline College and will graduate with his Associate of Arts in History degree for transfer in May 2023. After he achieves his bachelor's degree, he plans to pursue a career in teaching. His personal experience at Skyline College along with his love of teaching youth has helped shape his career goal of either becoming an educator or administrator at a community college.

Jonathan is part of many essential support programs at Skyline College and he receives scholarships and financial aid to help pay for his education. In addition, Jonathan is a Promise Scholar, part of the TRIO Program, and receives the support of a SAM card (Student Aid Meals) from Sparkpoint Services. Programs such as these have helped Jonathan pay for basic living expenses such as gas and groceries while helping to alleviate the burden of asking his parents to help him pay for college.

When he first started attending Skyline College, Jonathan found it difficult to become involved because the majority of his classes were held online. As classes started to take place in person, he became very active and joined Phi Theta Kappa, Brothers Achieving Milestones Club, Active Minds Club, and was voted Vice President of Student Government. He also participates in SPARC, the College Governance Council, District Council, and

Institutional Effectiveness. Jonathan is involved in extracurricular activities outside of school as well, including participating in beach and street clean-ups. The experience Jonathan has gained through these activities has enabled him to connect with others, be more open-minded in decision-making, and become a good role model for other students.

Jonathan has been the recipient of many scholarships including the Dale and Helen Mersereau Scholarship, Atkinson Foundation Scholarship, and CSEA Chapter 33 Scholarship. These scholarships are helping him get through community college by covering transportation, car repairs, food, and other educational expenses. Because of scholarships such as these, Jonathan hasn't had to take out student loans. He has also been able to save for tuition for the university to which he will eventually transfer. "Jonathan has told me how grateful he is to the people who donate to scholarships. He knows that it is with the support of our donors from the San Mateo County Community College District that his college dream has been made possible."



DONOR SPOTLIGHTS

Over the past two years, donors to SMCCCF contributed more than \$4.5 million to support student scholarships and college programs. The generosity of the Foundation's donors has provided critical support for countless SMCCCD students over the past two years and since the Foundation's founding in 1966.

Trustee Maurice Goodman and Martina Center-Goodman

The Goodman Middle College Scholarship at Skyline College



For Martina Center-Goodman and Maurice Goodman, Skyline College has long been a welcoming home. Both received their associate degrees at the college; Martina in Early Childhood Education in 2002 and Maurice in Administration of Justice/Paralegal Studies in 1998. Maurice also distinguished himself as President of the Associated Students of Skyline College for two terms. Both still have a strong connection to Skyline College and the San Mateo County Community College District.

Even before she completed her higher education, Martina chose to work at Skyline College and give back to the community she loved. She started her career as a preschool teacher at the Child Development Laboratory Center in 1998. After nearly two decades at the center, in 2015, Martina transitioned to the Retention Specialist role in the Middle College Program, where she is now the Director. Maurice also served Skyline College as an advocate for the establishment of the Child Development Laboratory Center as a student and, today, as an elected Trustee of the San Mateo County Community College District.

Growing up in North San Mateo County, Martina and Maurice met as teens at a neighborhood basketball court, and while they had no idea what the future would have in mind, they would stay in contact as friends. As fate would have it, it was their shared lived experiences as first-generation college

students that led them to reconnect some years later, they would share a love for children, community, and each other that would prove to be the bond and passion that drives their commitment for improving the lives of others to this day.

Together, Martina and Maurice are passionate about education and providing the youth in this community with opportunities through the Middle College Program, particularly at Skyline College. "I love that it serves underrepresented students that wouldn't necessarily see themselves in college," says Martina. "The program provides them the chance to see themselves in college and where they can be successful. A lot of students are still exploring and are not sure of what they want to do, and this program gives them that opportunity."

The Middle College Program at Skyline College is an alternative to traditional high school. In collaboration with the South San Francisco Unified School District, the program allows select juniors and seniors to complete high school while enrolling in concurrent college courses and accumulating college credits. The program is designed to serve low-resourced, high-potential students that have been historically under-served and underrepresented in higher education. 85% of Middle College students are first-generation, and 40% come from low-income families. 95% of the program's students go on to study at Skyline College after graduating high school.

Martina learned about SMCCCF's work while she was still a Retention Specialist in the Middle College Program. The Foundation's Executive Director, Tykia Warden, along with the Financial Aid team at the college, gave

a presentation about scholarships and how students could go about applying. Martina learned that seniors in the program who would be incoming Skyline College students could apply for Foundation scholarships. She approached the then Director with the idea of creating a dedicated scholarship for the Middle College Program. The idea came to fruition when she and Maurice decided to create the Goodman Middle College Scholarship themselves in honor of Maurice's two brothers, Benjamin and Johnny, who lost their lives too soon; as young men of promise they failed to reach their full potential. Given the services and support of a program like Middle College, students of promise and potential with little to no opportunity can now have what Maurice so desired for his brothers so many years ago.

The Goodmans established their Scholarship because they wanted to give students something in return for taking the leap and investing in themselves, into this program, into their education, and into their future.

The award provides financial assistance to seniors in the program as they begin their journey in higher education, either at Skyline College or another institution.

"Students will go above and beyond when they are motivated and have the right tools available to them. Receiving a scholarship shows that their effort has value. By creating and donating to scholarships, people show that they care, which boosts students' morale and self-esteem and makes them want to continue with their education. Some of our students are in need of extra funds to help support their families. This scholarship gives the students who need it most the extra

push to succeed. We both wanted to give to underserved students that were pursuing their secondary education."

The Goodman Middle College Scholarship is now three years old, and the first group of students to receive the award and their family members have already come back to Skyline College to express their gratitude. "There is always a great pool of students who apply, and I wish we could give the award to all of them."

Both Martina and Maurice hope that the scholarship will continue. Martina has been at Skyline College for 24 years, and even when she's no longer there, she and her family will continue to donate to this fund. She and

Maurice feel that they have made an impact on students at Skyline College, which is so special to them. Eventually, they would like to work towards creating an endowed fund that will fund scholarships for Middle College students in perpetuity.

"The Middle College Program is thankful to everyone who has so generously donated to the scholarship fund, and the students appreciate the support. We appreciate all the donors, and I'm proud of this scholarship and how it helps our students and their families."

To support the Goodman Middle College Scholarship, visit the Foundation's website.



Kim Lopez

President of Cañada College and Long-Time Staff Donor



For the last eleven years, the San Mateo County Community College District has served as Kim Lopez's work home. She is a true success story in the District, having worked at two of the colleges — Cañada College and College of San Mateo — in diverse positions.

Kim started on her path to a career in higher education while still a student at the University of California in Santa Barbara, from which she graduated with a bachelor's degree in psychology. During her time in college, she worked at the career center, helping her peers write resumes and cover letters for internships through the international internship program. "I loved talking about jobs and internships with my peers. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was starting my career," reflects Kim. "I was also an ambassador, so I gave tours to prospective students and their families. I was already working in higher education and I loved it."

Having discovered her professional calling, Kim went on to pursue a master's degree in counseling with an emphasis on higher education at Cal Poly in San Luis Obisbo. She received an assistantship in the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), where she successfully wrote a federal grant that focused on helping underrepresented students succeed on the doctoral level. "I had the great fortune of serving as the founding director for implementing that grant. I was able to help these students get research assistantships and join professional organizations in their respective fields so they

could pursue doctoral studies. I was happily and busily pursuing what would be my career in higher education."

Kim had her first professional experience with a community college in 1996. She was in her third year serving as Assistant Dean at the Eleanor Roosevelt College at the University of California, San Diego when she noticed an opportunity in the Chronicle of Higher Education that she knew she had to take.

Within a few months, Kim became the founding director of the Upward Bound Program at the College of Micronesia on the Island of Kosrae, a two-year position. With her children not yet in school, this was a unique opportunity for Kim to work overseas, expand her knowledge, and create a new program. Upward Bound is a U.S. Department of Education federally funded program that provides fundamental support to participants in their preparation for college entrance. It is part of the Federal TRIO Programs that deliver outreach and student services programs designed to identify and provide services for individuals who are first-generation college students and from low-income backgrounds. Indeed, during her time abroad, Kim also served as a consultant, helping establish and strengthen the TRIO programs at all four campuses of the College of Micronesia.

"My time in Micronesia was amazing and unforgettable. More than anything, it solidified my desire to stay working for community colleges. I loved the CSUs and the UCs, but my skill sets were best suited at the community college level."

Kim and her family returned to the United States after her two-year contract ended and

her daughters were ready to enter the school system. For the next 13 years at College of the Siskivous in Weed, California, she worked as a counselor and director of the EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services), CARE, CalWorks, and TRIO Programs, serving students disadvantaged by social, economic, educational, or linguistic barriers. Fortunately, for the students and her future colleagues at SMCCCD, Kim was encouraged to apply for the Dean of Enrollment position at Cañada College. She started in that job in 2011, overseeing financial aid, admissions and records, outreach and recruitment, the Veterans and Dream Centers and, eventually, SparkPoint. The position allowed her to see work at a community college through a different lens and set her up for her future success at the District.

Following a short time as Dean of Enrollment Services, Kim became Dean of Counseling, then Interim and Permanent Vice President of Student Services. Stints as Vice President of Student Services at College of San Mateo, Acting and Interim President of the College of San Mateo and then Interim President of Cañada College ensued. After more than a decade at SMCCCD, and a variety of roles that have given her a depth of understanding about the District and the colleges, today Kim is President of Cañada College.

Since she started working at Cañada College in 2011, Kim has been giving back to her community, financially supporting student success and programs. She has long donated to Cañada College and College of San Mateo's Dream Centers through payroll deductions "Giving to me is about supporting people and recognizing where there is need. We give to people whose efforts capture our



hearts and we see our own struggles in them. Immediately when I started working at Cañada College I knew that forming the Dreamers Club [for undocumented students] and giving our students access to resources like financial aid was important. This is a group of students who, through no fault of their own, can't access what other students can."

Together in collaboration, Cañada College and the Foundation have big jobs ahead. The college's goals include raising funds for a child development center, student housing, and scholarships for SMCCCD's most underresourced students. "I always feel like I can do more, give more, support more. But I can't do it alone and the Foundation can't do it without the support of the entire community. I am one small piece of a community of people that care deeply for our students. I'm looking forward to working with the Foundation to provide more access and support for our students. I'm proud to be part of a community that does that."

Christine Ryland

Cañada College Alumna, and Endowed, Named Fund, and Planned Gift Donor



"Category defying" is one way to describe Christine Ryland's relationship with San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation and the District. She is an alumna, daughter of an alumna, and mother of an alumnus, a named fund and *soon-to-be* endowment donor, and an administrator of a planned gift. Foundation staff members don't think about any of those categories. We know her as a kind, generous, and warm person who truly cares that community college students succeed, as she, her mother, and her son have.

Christine's three-generation familial relationship with the District dates back nearly 60 years ago, to shortly after Cañada College was founded in 1968. The late 1960s and the 1970s were the height of the international second-wave feminism movement, which focused on issues of equality and discrimination.

While women marched for gender equality, including equal pay, Cañada College initiated a project to help women earn college degrees. Connie Barthold, Christine's mother, was one of the women who took advantage of this program. "She was a single parent of four children and knew the pathway for a higher paying job was to finish her education," says Christine. "Cañada College opened the door for that to happen."

Both Connie's daughter, Christine, and her grandson have followed in her footsteps at Cañada College. Connie still serves as a proud example of the benefits of a community college education to her family and to other students through the legacy of her planned gift: the Connie Barthold Scholarship Fund. "It was due to the opportunities that my mother received at Cañada College as well as the influence my great grandparents had on her that brought about her involvement with Cañada College as an alumna."

Connie Barthold transferred and completed her degree in Home Economics at San Jose State. Her start at Cañada College ensured that she could go on to a well-paying career at Sunset Magazine. Christine similarly changed her life through a community college education. She struggled with her studies in high school and was able to graduate early with the help of her school counselor. Although, she had a low grade point average, "the door was open for me to achieve my goal of getting a college education. I knew the value it would have for me for my future and the opportunities I could have with a college degree. Cañada College provided that pathway through its flexible class schedule, the Work-Study Program, and a grant to assist with some of my costs since I was working part-time to support myself."

In the two and a half years she attended Cañada College, Christine became a straight-A student and graduated with her Associate of Arts degree in Psychology, with honors. She then transferred to San Francisco State University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Again, with honors.

Philanthropy is central to Christine's philosophy of life. "I was brought up to believe that as one takes the hand extended, you extend your hand back when you can. My hope is that each person helped will impact

many others that might not have otherwise received the vital assistance they need."

Christine's family legacy of giving has come full circle with her. Currently, her family foundation, the Barthold Family Foundation, has seven scholarships with one on track to be endowed in the next two years. Their vision statement includes education, which will always be part of their foundation, now and for future family generations that follow.

"It was my mother who began this family legacy. Community College is much more accessible to people who desire to further their education but lack many important opportunities that would open the door to a four-year college. It levels the playing field of who has access to higher learning which translates into more pathways for personal success open to them. Each endowed scholarship, through careful investing, will continue into perpetuity. Each scholarship also comes with its unique recipients and their stories. It is exciting to hear where they've been, current successes, and their future goals."

George and Alisha Willis

Janice M. Evans Willis Scholarship Fund: A Memorial Quasi-Endowed Fund



Janice Marie Evans Willis loved being part of the College of San Mateo community. For over 45 years it was her second home. When Janice sadly passed away in January 2022, CSM lost an icon, beloved among students and her colleagues throughout the District.

"Many of her former students told her how she changed their lives," says Alisha Willis, Janice's daughter and only child. "A bank manager at Citibank in Hillsdale told me how the direction her life took was positively impacted by my mother's class, teachings, and personality."

Janice's dedication to education began early in her life career. She was given extraordinary opportunities by those who saw her talent and believed in her, and she, in turn, chose to do the same for others.

Educated by the Catholic nuns at Bishop McDevitt High School in Pennsylvania, Janice was given a choice of what she wished to do after graduation. She told her teachers that she wanted to work and they arranged a position for her at the local phone company. A year later while working at the Pennsylvania Department of State's office pool she was recognized for her shorthand skills and pulled to work with two local politicians who encouraged her to go to college, which she did at age 19 at Penn State University.

"My mom saw the power of education and knew her life would have been very different if she hadn't gone to college.

She was acutely aware of how different her life was from that of lifelong friends who hadn't had the opportunities provided by higher education."

In 1970, Janice married George Samuel Willis, a Morehouse College student who was attending a summer internship at Penn State. George, a fourth-generation Californian, and Janice decided to move there when he was accepted into a physics graduate program at the University of California, Berkeley. Janice started her career on the West Coast as a teacher at Skyline High School in Oakland and then as a professor at Skyline College. From there, in 1977, she was asked to come and teach business courses at CSM, which she did for 45 years.

"She loved the campus and her students. The campus was beautiful, peaceful, and serene. The students were eager to learn. Mom had students who were already professionals, who could immediately implement what she taught, and students who were just beginning their lives and would use what she taught to decide their future paths. She wanted her students to succeed so she would reach out to textbook manufacturers to understand how they came to solutions, which she would share with her students."

Janice was somewhat of a maverick. She was one of the first professors at the District to embrace online education. She treasured and respected her students, and strove to make sure she was always accessible to diligently and patiently answer their questions both on campus and virtually.

Part of Janice's caring for her students included making sure they could afford to go to college, which is why she was an SMCCC Foundation donor for over 20 years. "Mom felt strongly that people pursuing a goal shouldn't be held back because of financial reasons. A person can accomplish so much if they don't have that worry. She didn't just want to give verbal support, she wanted to give financial support as well, paying for the opportunities she had been granted throughout her life."

In her honor and memory, George and Alisha created the Janice M. Evans Willis Scholarship Fund. The fund is quasi-endowed, which means that they have made a commitment to work towards eventually making the fund endowed through donations. "Mom was such a fixture at CSM for so many years that Dad and I want this fund to help students forever. She had so many good friends and grateful students, that I'm sure that with their support we'll reach the endowed amount quickly. Mom's philosophy was to continue paying success forward and she would have wanted us to create this fund to support students like she was supported. She was a profound, warm, and loving person who saw the good in others and she would be pleased to have this fund in her name."

In addition to the fund, George and Alisha are also in the process of establishing a memorial bench at CSM. Once the bench is on campus, they will hold a dedication service for her family, friends, students, and colleagues.

Janice Marie Evans Willis will be missed by all who knew her. Thanks to her husband and daughter, her legacy will live on through the success of students who receive the scholarship in her name and through those that take in the campus's beauty while sitting on the bench that bears her name.

To support the Janice M. Evans Willis Scholarship Fund, visit the Foundation's <u>website</u>.

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Alisha Willis



PROGRAMS

Supported by the Foundation at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College, & Districtwide

Academic, extracurricular, and other programs are what make the college experience rich, compelling, and effective for SMCCCD students. The Foundation supports over 100 of these programs that are critical to campus life.



or some students, an alternative program is the path to success in high school and in college. Middle College at Cañada College can be that opportunity. The program is an innovative and exciting bridge for students to finish high school while gaining up to a year and a half of college credit.

Middle College began at Cañada College in 1999, one year after it was established at College of San Mateo. The Sequoia Union High School District was and continues to be Cañada College's partner in this venture. Twenty-three years ago, SUHSD had very few options for alternative education and limited options for underserved students who needed a helping hand accessing and succeeding in college.

The program was originally conceived to help under-resourced students make the transition to a college environment. First-generation students, students who needed a small school within a school environment, economically underresourced students, and students who were not in honors classes but had the potential to do well in college were targeted for success through the Middle College program. This effort between Cañada College and SUHSD has become a welcome solution for hundreds of students who might otherwise not have furthered their education after high school.





Typically, 55 high school juniors start the Middle College program each year, joining 55 seniors who are continuing. Students take three high school classes each day, including a college readiness class that supports the transition, and two to four college classes per semester with other Cañada College students per semester. After two years students typically earn 45 units (or 1.5 years) of transferable credit as well as invaluable connections with the Middle College and greater Cañada College communities. The program boasts a high success rate: 40% of Middle College graduates go on to four-year institutions and 60% stay in community college before transferring to a University of California or California State University.

The Middle College Scholarship Fund funds textbooks and any necessary fees that students have during the summer (the program covers the spring and fall semesters). As many of the students are from underserved and underresourced backgrounds, they also rely on other Foundation scholarships to help them transfer or remain at Cañada College at the end of the program.

"So many students can benefit from taking college classes while in high school," says Jen Petroelje, the Middle College instructor who helped start the program at Cañada College. "Some students need a bridge to college so they understand the environment and the process. Other students just didn't feel comfortable in the HS setting and they see Middle College as a welcoming alternative. Many of these students are here because of financial reasons, having a scholarship to help them on their path can make all the difference."



Anyone who knows about nursing education in the Bay Area is undoubtedly familiar with College of San Mateo's Nursing Program. Within an institution that is already an icon, it is a flagship program and a source of great pride.

he 1960s were one of the most tumultuous and consequential decades in world history. It was a time of social revolution with the fight for civil rights for Black Americans and for women's liberation, when "bra-burning" became a popular concept (never really a reality) among feminists. On a note of optimism, the first human being to set foot on Earth's moon ended the decade and ushered in an era of space exploration.

In the thick of this exciting time, hospitals and health officials and agencies realized they needed to expand nursing education to meet new demands. Thus was born the RN program at CSM in 1963 with a cohort of about 30 students.

Today, the Nursing program is both akin to and radically different from its inception. Students still must have college prerequisites to enter the highly competitive program, which includes classwork, skills lab work, and hands-on experience. Moreover, most of the students averaged around 30 years old.



Measuring the length of student nursing uniforms, 1960s



CSM RN Program First Graduating Class, 1965

That's where the similarities end.

In 1963 and until the mid to late 1980s most of the nursing students were White women. Today, 80% of the cohorts of 50 students are made up of Asian, Latino, and Filipino Americans, reflecting the diversity of the county. In general, men comprise 10% of students in most nursing programs. Since the early 1980s, CSM has always matched or exceeded that percentage.

One of the Nursing program's biggest challenges and opportunities is to increase diversity among the staff. While attracting instructors to work in education, which doesn't pay as well as other nursing positions, has been problematic, Director of Nursing Janis Wisherop has made diversity and equity in both staff and students her personal goal. "I would like our instructors to reflect the student body," said Janis. "We're as diverse as we've ever been, and we have a long way to go."

Janis and the entire Nursing Program team have much to be proud of. The first cohort of the Associate Degree in Nursing/Bachelor's Degree in Nursing (ADN/BSN) collaboration with San Francisco State graduated in 2020. The much sought-after program ensures students receive their BSN degree in 2.5 years (not including pre-requisites to enter the Nursing Program). 80% of CSM's nursing students participate in the program which answers the community's need for nurses that have a wider perspective and knowledge base.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, the entire department, including the skills lab and clinical education, shifted to an online mode in four days. Janis's creative team invented a telehealth curriculum that still gave the hands-on skills they needed. Furthermore, they collaborated with a variety of organizations to give students first-hand experience in COVID testing and vaccination clinics. Partners included UCSF, the Moscone Vaccination Clinic in San Francisco, the Bay Area Community Health Advisory Council, and the Global Initiative for Health and Wellness through the Foster City Lions Club. "Our students are local and they stay local after graduation. So, it makes sense to maintain and increase our local partnerships." Now that the pandemic has become endemic, the program and students have continued their partnerships with these groups as part of a general programmatic move to increase community-based primary care clinical programs.

The Foundation has been proud to partner with this groundbreaking and innovative program. Many of our nursing students receive SMCCCF scholarships and the Foundation houses a fund for the program. When beloved Nursing Program faculty member Leanne Kennedy passed away

suddenly in January, her family, friends, colleagues, and students donated to the CSM Nursing Fund in her name. "We were devastated by her passing, we are like a strong family here," says Janis. "I keep her lanyard around my neck and often use it to pray for her peace. Having the fund to which we can donate in her name is a way of filling the void that she left."

Reaching out to alumni is another way in which the Foundation and CSM Nursing have collaborated. Together, SMCCCF and the program have worked on several successful events to connect with alumni and honor retiring faculty. The latest event was a flute concert paying tribute to nurses for their work during the pandemic. Alumni were an important part of this moving event and were invited to participate. Moving forward, the Foundation will continue to support the program by applying for grants and connecting with alumni. "I appreciate the foundation as a partner," exclaimed Janis. "I hope we have many more opportunities to work together."



CSM Nursing faculty as superheroes. Painting by Mike Madrid.



he Pilipino community has a long history in the United States and in San Mateo County. As a result of its victory in the Spanish-American War, the United States gained the archipelago as a territory and Pilipinos came to the U.S. in several waves.

In the early 20th Century, Congress established a scholarship program through the Pensionado Act (Act 854 of the Philippine Commission) for a total of about 500 Pilipinos over 40 years to attend school in the U.S. During this same period, until 1946, over 100,000 Pilipinos were recruited as contract workers in the Hawaiian sugarcane fields. The *manong* generation of Pilipinos, which arrived in the 1920s and 30s to work in the fields throughout the entire West Coast, traveling with the seasons, was the largest of these immigration waves, with thousands arriving each year until 1965.

When College of San Mateo (then San Mateo Junior College) opened in 1922, several students from the Philippines were among the first to enroll. According to an article in the Daily Journal, "by 1928, there were enough [students] to organize a Filipino [sic] Club which appeared in most of the college's yearbooks from 1929 to 1937. Filipino [sic] students made the honor society, joined the Engineers' Club, the yearbook staff, the Art Club and took part in intramural sports and varsity athletics."

Today, more than 80,000 Americans of Pilipino descent live in San Mateo County and almost 10% of our community college district's students identify as Pilipino. Almost 20% of the students at Skyline College are Pilipino. For a long time, it was a student population

that was underserved. Luckily for the District, Liza Erpelo joined the Skyline College teaching faculty 20 years ago.

"I was hired to teach English and my dean, Anita Martinez, asked me to restart the Kababayan Program. The original funding came from the President's Innovation Fund at Skyline College and we started off with one developmental English class every day." Eventually, Liza created a curriculum, recruited students (which wasn't hard!), and set out to get more teachers. "Slowly we added classes on the history of the Philippines, literature, and sociology on Pilipino community issues, music, dance, and more."

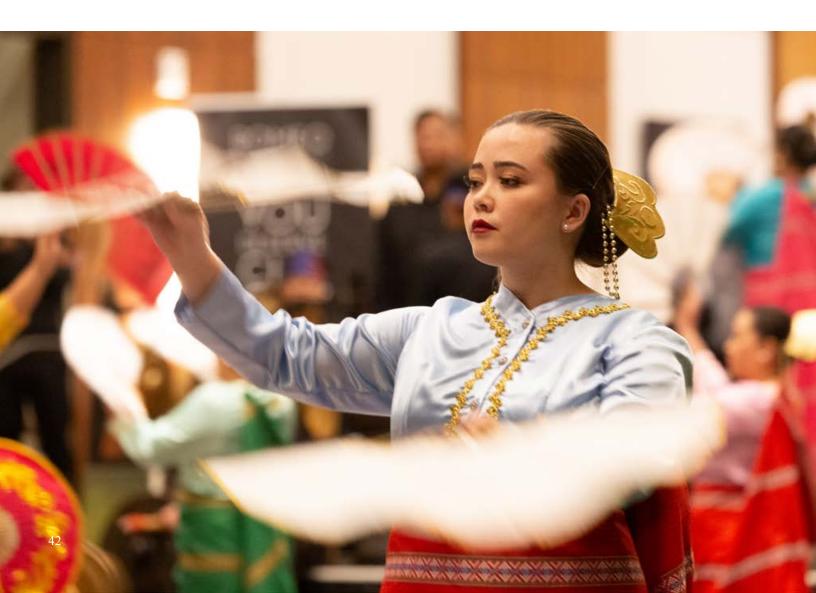
The Kababayan Learning Community is now a learning community (since 2013) with a variety of rich and engaging programming that celebrates Pilipino history, heritage, and culture and also supports students of Pilipino descent. The Pilipino Cultural Night is an annual premier event for this learning community. Students write, direct, and perform in a play that is presented in two performances. The activities are integrated into English classes, combining academics with art in a celebration of culture. Proceeds from ticket sales benefit the Friends of Kababayan Scholarship Fund housed at the Foundation.

Liza Erpelo still coordinates the learning community, teaching the English and literature courses, and working with a counselor, a history/ethnic studies professor, and a Tagalog instructor within Kababayan. She teaches outside the community as well and is pursuing her certificate in teaching ethnic studies. "The pandemic was a struggle

for us," says Liza. "Part of the culture is getting together to eat, but we couldn't do that for a long time. We're rebuilding and getting students excited to be back. In the near future, I would like to do some in-person team-building activities."

When it comes to the future of the Kababayan Learning Community, Liza would like to expand the program in the District and statewide. "I've worked with Doris Garcia to help with the creation of Katipunan, College of San Mateo's Pilipino Learning Community and we're working with Cañada College to start programming there as well. There are only six Pilipino Learning Communities statewide and I want to connect them all and expand to more community colleges."

San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation is a proud partner of Kababayan. The Learning Community has two funds, PIF-Kababayan Program Fund and Friends of Kababayan Fund, and collaborates with the Foundation on ticket sales for the annual Pilipino Cultural Night. Many of the students are first-generation or immigrants and are in need of the financial resources they receive from a variety of scholarships. "Our challenge is to see that more students continue despite the financial hardships they face. Many of our students will send family members to study at Skyline College and be a part of the learning community, and many give back once they've completed their education. We are grateful to all of our supporters and donors who are continuing the legacy of the Kababayan Learning Community."





Community College District

United Way of the Bay Area is dedicated to creating pathways out of poverty. "Based on the Annie E. Casey Foundation's Center for Working Families, SparkPoint Centers were developed in 2009 to work with low-income individuals and families long-term, looking at all aspects of their financial health, with the goal of achieving financial prosperity... All [SparkPoint Centers] are a collaborative of multiple nonprofit and government entities that work together in a single location to seamlessly provide integrated services to assist families in increasing their income, building their credit, and accumulating their assets."

- United Way Bay Area Website

hen the SparkPoint Center at Cañada College was founded in February 2015, it became only the second college in California to include such a center. The decision to host the center was based partially on research done by the Hope Institute to address the needs of students seeking economic security while working towards their degrees.

Today, there are 21 SparkPoint centers located within the San Francisco Bay Area, and College of San Mateo and Skyline College each have a center as well. More than places for financial coaching and education, over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the SparkPoint Centers at SMCCCD have also become critical resources for students who are food- and housing-insecure.

At its core, SparkPoint's services have always been based on financial coaching and education designed to help disproportionately impacted clients meet their basic needs, increase their income, build their credit, increase their savings, and reduce their debt. The SMCCCD's centers had long realized that "meeting basic needs" included a distinct

set of challenges for vulnerable students. An on-campus hot meal program and a food pantry were first steps in meeting those needs.

The student community was particularly hard hit economically as the COVID-19 pandemic raged in early 2020. The San Mateo County Community College District and the three college SparkPoint centers responded to student and community needs by launching a weekly food distribution in the College of San Mateo's largest parking lot. Staffed by community, and faculty and staff volunteers, the distribution, in conjunction with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley, grew to serve 1,000 families and was expanded to Skyline College.

During this time, in a commitment to helping ensure students could continue to pursue their education even during the most challenging circumstances, the District also created a basic needs task force. This cross-functional committee was charged with assessing and addressing student needs in the areas of food, housing, and mental health. On all three campuses, the SparkPoint centers stepped in to become the main resources for meeting these fundamental necessities.

"Students come to SparkPoint for various reasons. We work with individuals so they can meet their basic needs - food or housing - and eventually reach a place where they are 'SparkPoint-ready' and can work on financial literacy," says Adolfo Leiva, director of Cañada College's SparkPoint center. "This initial basic needs support is time-consuming and doesn't have a timeline. Ironically, those who are most in need are often those who have the least amount of time to address their issues because of social challenges they face. Each individual needs many more layers of support than just financial counseling, so I'm glad that the District created the task force to address those needs."

Now that the California legislature has passed bill AB 132 requiring all community colleges to create basic needs centers with a basic needs coordinator, the campus SparkPoint centers have undertaken that role. "Hiring a coordinator and establishing an office will help provide the resources necessary to

get students to a 'SparkPoint-ready' place where they are stable enough to address financial literacy."

The SparkPoint venture on the three campuses was originally funded by a grant through the Working Students Success Network and a partnership with United Way Bay Area. Today, it is mostly funded by the San Mateo County Community College District and private donations through San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation.

"SparkPoint is changing lives, giving people an opportunity to reach their potential. Many of our students are good people who want to have an impact on their community and want a chance to succeed but don't have access to resources to do so. Donations in the form of scholarships for these students and support for the SparkPoint centers can help our students climb the ladder of opportunity to be better individuals and to feel good about themselves."





FOUNDATION & COLLEGE EVENTS

When it comes to events, "hybrid" was the catchphrase in the 2020-2021 fiscal year. During this time, the Foundation and the District's three colleges perfected the art of both COVID-safe in-person activities and Zooming.

College of San Mateo Centennial

In March 1922, what is today the San Mateo County Community College District was born. What started as a humble junior college with a student body of just 35, has grown into three renowned colleges, College of San Mateo, Cañada College, and Skyline College, that have served millions of learners of all ages over the last 100 years. Starting with a Gala on March 31, 2022, the CSM and District communities have come together to celebrate this once-in-a-century achievement.



College of San Mateo Centennial Gala







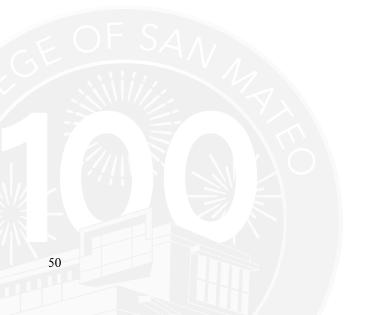


College of San Mateo Centennial:

An Evening of Art, Science, Music, and Dance

College of San Mateo Theatre | May 6, 2022

Participants learned about the stars, listened to live music, watch enthralling dance performances, and heard CSM Professor Mohsen Janatpour discuss when a painting is finished.







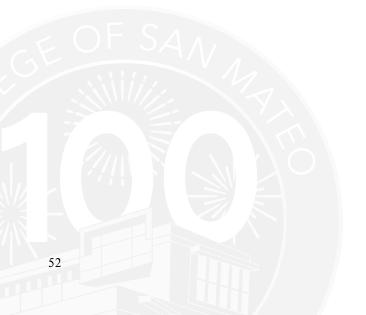


College of San Mateo Centennial:

Rise in Revolution: A Social Justice Conference

College of San Mateo | April 25-29, 2022

A student-led conference sharing knowledge, skills, and resources around the topics of climate justice, health and disability justice, and the prison industrial complex. The event closed with a celebration including art, food, and performances.









Cañada College President's Luncheon

Virtual Event | November 2, 2021

The Fourth Annual Cañada College President's Luncheon took place entirely on Zoom due to the COVID-19 fall/winter surge. The event, which raised funds for students' basic needs, can be viewed in its entirety on YouTube.





Skyline College President's Breakfast

Skyline College Farallon Room | April 14, 2022

For the last 21 years, Skyline College's President's Breakfast has helped raise funds for programs and scholarships at Skyline College. This year's event included both a virtual and an in-person option in the beautiful Farallon Room. Funds were raised for Skyline College's <u>Promise Scholars Program</u> and <u>President's Innovation Fund</u>. View a short film highlighting the <u>impacts and benefits of the programs funded by the President's Innovation Fund on YouTube</u>.





Celebrations of Student Achievement:

Student Scholarship Awards 2022

This beloved annual event celebrates both our students, who have persevered and achieved, and our generous donors, whose support is critical to ensuring all students have access to a college education. This year's in-person ceremonies were also live-streamed on Zoom.







Celebrations of Student Achievement:

Commencement







FOUNDATION EVENTS



Virtual Events

Over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Foundation launched a virtual events series to engage donors, alumni, and friends. The well-attended events included STEM Center/ Alumni speakers and the alumni book club, and such workshops as restorative yoga and mindfulness, social justice and equity, celebrating Women's History Month, and improving sleep as well as a holiday mixology class.













Golf Tournament

Stanford Golf Course | September 27, 2021

The annual Golf Tournament is an opportunity for the Foundation's friends to support student success at a fun outdoor activity in a beautiful setting. The 2021 event was once again held at the exclusive Stanford Golf Course. Over 120 golfers participated in the friendly competition that included a raffle, prizes for the golf and contest winners, drinks, and a taco bar dinner.







San Mateo County Community College District Alumni Association

ALUMNI STORIES

Alumni are the heart of the San Mateo County Community College District. Not only are they shining examples of the value of a community college education, they are also role models for our current students.

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.

Jim Hartnett

Cañada College Alumnus



Jim Hartnett has been known as many things over the years: CEO, mayor, city councilmember, attorney, graduate student, and international student.

But when you ask this graduate of Santa Clara University School of Law and former CEO for SamTrans to describe himself, he says, "Oh, just a local boy. A pretty good athlete at one time. Mostly, I'm just a blue-collar kid from Redwood City."

There are a few more descriptors to add to the list:

- Navy veteran
- Community volunteer
- Cañada College alumnus
- Cañada College President's Advisory Group member

Often seen on campus, alongside his wife Rosanne Foust, Jim is a long-time supporter of the college. He calls his support an honor and insignificant compared to what the college has done for him. He credits much of his success to what began at Cañada College.

Many locally know him for his law practice, civic leadership, or his frequent writings on national security matters, but Jim's relationship to Cañada College goes back much further. In fact, he first set foot on the campus in 1968, when he enrolled as a student after graduating from Sequoia High School in Redwood City.

Jim is the first to admit that there was no grand plan for his post-high school academic pursuits. He hadn't even bothered to take the SATs as a high school student. Fortunately for him, Cañada College was close to home and affordable. As a result, his education wasn't a financial burden to his parents — a San Mateo County Sheriff and a homemaker. In fact, he was able to cover both his tuition and books, by saving up from working a couple of part-time jobs, at Pisano's Bakery and as a lifeguard.

At Cañada College, Jim threw himself into campus life. He joined the student government, eventually becoming president of the "Men's Students." (There was a President of Women's Students too.) "I joined the Navy Reserve and was active with veterans' activities on campus. I made many friends. My biggest recollection of that time was tied to whether the PE department should receive a portion of student fees. That was a hotbutton issue. This time was also during the height of the Vietnam War and I recall some controversy around potential speakers being invited to campus, including 'up and coming' attorney Willie Brown, who would eventually become mayor of San Francisco."

Jim describes himself as not very academically driven in those early days, but at Cañada College, he found intriguing classes and faculty who were interested in his success. He's grateful to the faculty for pushing him academically and encouraging him to dream big.

After graduation from Cañada College, Jim was stationed in Japan. Upon completing his military service, he applied to Sophia University International Division in Tokyo,

which had an English-language section accredited in the U.S. There, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. Eventually, he attended Santa Clara University School of Law. Jim worked in Japan for several years at a Japanese law office. His professional career took off and he became chair of the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan, Western Region, and later was elected to be Vice President of the national organization. That gave him opportunities to travel around Japan.

The early 80s brought Jim back to the States and the Bay Area. "I was active in the local Chamber of Commerce. I eventually started a new legal practice in Burlingame with two partners. I was appointed to the Redwood City Housing and Human Concerns Committee, where I served my community for eight years. I also served on a few other committees and boards, in addition to being elected as a city council member and selected as Mayor. I eventually became chair of the SamTrans board, then chair of the Caltrain Board." All that experience working on regional transportation issues eventually positioned him for the CEO role for SamTrans/Caltrain.

"Transportation affects everyone and every community, whether you personally use it or not. I was honored to serve my community in such a critical role. I guess, I just want to do good and make a difference."

Bruno Carnovale

College of San Mateo Alumnus



Bruno Carnovale, Jr., class of 1964, says he owes a whole lot to his decision to attend College of San Mateo.

"I wouldn't be here, if it weren't for the California state college system." He goes on to add, "it was so affordable to attend and I received an incredible education. It set me up for a great career." It's not lost on Carnovale that while he came from a middle-class family of modest means, his choice to attend the affordable and close-to-home College of San Mateo, was a smart decision that has realized plenty of dividends — even after all these years.

Carnovale is actually a second-generation Bulldog. His father, Carnovale, Sr., took classes in mathematics, chemistry, and physics at CSM during the 1950s. As a boy, Bruno was raised in a family that loved all things science and space exploration.

Growing up in the Shoreview neighborhood, close to CSM's original Coyote Point campus, Bruno has vivid memories of watching the Sputnik launch. No surprise then that he pursued a career in science, just like his father.

When asked what kind of student he was, Bruno jokes he may have been overly ambitious, when he committed to a triple major of chemistry, physics, and mathematics. The academic rigor of those three programs, in addition to studying German, was a bit more than he could handle initially. His grades suffered that first year. He was grateful for the instructors, but

also the tutors and student support that existed. It allowed him to learn the study skills he would need to succeed at a university.

After CSM, Bruno continued his post-secondary education within California's state public college system and graduated without a mountain of student debt.

Bruno is now retired after a successful career working for major aerospace and defense companies. Today, the retiree enjoys paying it forward, through his gifts to San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation and notably, the qualified charitable deductions from his Individual Retirement Account (IRA), which he describes as an easy way to give.



Jennifer Blanco

Skyline College Alumna



If you can't go three

If you can't go through the door, go left, go right, go under. Just get through that door.

Maria Elena Ayala,
 Jennifer Blanco's mother

Some of Skyline College alumna Jennifer Blanco's favorite mornings are those she spends volunteering at Belle Aire Elementary School. On her last visit, the schoolchildren enjoyed a visit with farm animals thanks to the California Dairy Council. She assisted the staff during the farm visit, as well as during an open house event held earlier in the week. Belle Aire is one of five elementary schools, along with a middle school in San Bruno, that make up the tiny district. Blanco is a trustee and a proud alumna and she considers it a privilege and an honor to support the schools in this way.

"I'm so passionate about my work on behalf of the schools because I live here," exclaims Jennifer. "I am a product of these very schools. I attended a Title I school as a child. That's a special federal designation when the majority of enrolled students are low-income. So, coming from that background, I know how important it is to have engaged parents and strong schools. As a parent, I care about the quality of our local schools. I care about the learning outcomes for these children."

Jennifer traces her political career to a couple of key moments. The first was a decision to join the PTA as a young mother. She started attending school board meetings and was disappointed to see no one on the school board looked like her or the people attending her own children's school. Yet, Jennifer believes the seeds were planted even earlier. She describes the impetus for her advocacy work beginning as a student government officer at Skyline College.

Elected to serve as the Activities Commissioner, Jennifer recalls traveling to Washington, D.C. with other Skyline students as part of a contingent of student government officers from community colleges across the country. She got to learn how our government worked, and visited congress and the United States Supreme Court. It was an incredible experience. During her time in D.C., she also had a chance to meet Senator Diane Feinstein, House Democratic Leader, Representative Nancy Pelosi, and other representatives from the state of California. She took every meeting as an opportunity to advocate for childcare to be available at Skyline College and other community colleges. This was a deeply personal matter for her.

Prior to enrolling at Skyline College, Jennifer was a stay-at-home mom. She describes programs like EOPS (Extended Opportunity Programs and Services) and tutoring as critical to her degree completion. She said Skyline College gave her even more confidence in her abilities as a student and as a leader. She went on to earn an Associate of Arts degree and to this very day, she's grateful for those who recognized the need for a variety of student supports, including childcare, that were available to her as a student.

Since graduating, Jennifer has worked hard to pay it forward in a variety of ways. She's grateful for how her political and volunteer activity has allowed her to connect with different facets of the community, toward a common goal. She's especially proud of initiatives like the Children's Book Day, which is a collaborative effort that she founded in 2009. Championing the program and helping to build connections between the school district, the schools, and the public

library to benefit students is an example of culturally diverse community engagement. Every year, all students in San Bruno public schools receive a free book to take home. Families of enrolled students are encouraged to read that book or another in the language that is spoken in their home most. As a daughter of immigrants from Cuba and El Salvador, Jennifer grew up in a multi-lingual household. While her parents both worked, they were very involved in her school and community. So, a program like this one and this type of acknowledgment of the language diversity within San Bruno, as well as celebrating the importance of families in the student's learning, was important to her. It's the type of cultural and community sensitivity she felt was missing when she started attending school district board meetings as the PTA president.

While Jennifer was elected to the San Bruno Park School District's Board of Trustees in 2007, she doesn't take her position for granted. She said one of the most important lessons she's learned over the years is that she does not work alone. Her authority, and greatest influence, is as a Board of five individuals. She must collaborate to achieve their goals. She's since been reelected three more times, for a total of four terms served as a district trustee. Jennifer considers being reelected as the highest form of compliment she could receive from her community and a reflection of the trust they place in her. "Every day I think about how to keep earning that trust."

2022 FISCAL IMPACT

TOTAL ASSETS:

\$25,973,482

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS & GRANTS:

\$2,239,613

TOTAL SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED:

\$1,122,359

COLLEGE PROGRAM SUPPORT:

\$488,837

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Below please find a listing of the Foundation's generous year-end 2021 and 2022 donors and our endowed funds.

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