



**SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY COLLEGES
FOUNDATION**

Monday, June 30, 2025

The Foundation Newsletter

College of San Mateo Softball Team Makes History - Again!

Help Give Championship Rings to Our Exceptional Student-Athletes



This year, under the leadership of head coach and CSM alumna Nicole Quigley-Borg, the College of San Mateo Bulldogs Softball Team made history by winning their second state championship title, following their first win in 2022.

The Bulldogs finished the 2025 season with an impressive 43–3 record, including a 16-game winning streak. The highlight of their championship run was an exciting eighth-inning walk-off victory over Orange Coast College. In the championship game, College of San Mateo rallied from behind to beat Palomar 7–4.

For their outstanding performance, College of San Mateo's coaching staff was named the NFCA California JC National Coaching Staff of the Year.

Nine student-athletes earned eight awards, including the Rawlings Gold Glove

Award, All-State, NFCA All-American, and All-Tournament honors. Off the field, the team also excelled academically with a 3.31GPA.

Help them celebrate this unforgettable season. **Your donation will purchase championship rings for these exceptional student-athletes, recognizing their hard work, talent, and dedication.** Any amount helps toward the \$8,700 goal!

[Donate \\$180 for a Softball Player's Commemorative Ring](#)

Student Spotlight

The Power of Learning Communities: Kenji Lanuza



As a student navigating financial instability and systemic barriers, Kirsten “Kenji” Lanuza has pushed through hardships that often force others off their path. The guidance and compassion of counselors, staff, and peers have helped her persevere — support she now extends to others.

As the current Vice President of the Katipunan Student Organization at College of San Mateo, she plays a key role in uplifting and empowering Filipinx students through culturally sustaining support and advocacy. She actively helps create inclusive spaces for students to explore their identities, connect with their heritage, and engage critically with the world around them, both on campus and in the broader community.

Through her studies, she has developed a critical understanding of how laws and institutions affect marginalized communities, especially undocumented individuals. This awareness has motivated her to consider a future in law, advocating for policies that protect and uplift those often silenced or exploited.

Kenji's resilience keeps her pushing forward, finding strength in her purpose and gratitude for the support she receives. She reminds us that behind every scholarship is a life being changed—and a future being built.

[Learn about Creating Student Scholarships](#)

Alumni & Staff Spotlight

Analisa: First-Generation College Student to District Professional



As a first-generation college student, Analisa Pineda had no roadmap to follow — no older sibling or parent who had done it before. Like many students from underrepresented backgrounds, she had to figure things out as she went, but was determined to make the most of every opportunity that came her way.

While attending College of San Mateo, she worked as a student assistant at the District Office. She remembers how that job helped her build real-world experience, sharpen her professional skills, and connect with staff, faculty, and administrators who believed in her.

After graduating, she started her 15-year career with the District, most recently as the Foundation Business Manager.

"Now, I find myself in a role where I'm the one supporting students. Being able to help them navigate their educational journeys — especially those who are first-generation like me — is incredibly rewarding. It's a full-circle moment that continues to motivate me every day," says Analisa.

Working within the District has also shown Analisa the impact of educational institutions on individuals and communities. It has inspired her to continue her education, and she will pursue a Master's in Public Administration, starting this coming spring — a step she hopes will further her impact in the District and on students' lives for years to come.

"Being part of the District has not only shaped my career — it has shaped who I am. It's a reflection of how access, opportunity, and genuine support for students like me can truly change lives."

[Support Student Scholarships and Programs](#)

Foundation Spotlight

A Letter from the Executive Director: Megan Barber Allende

Allow me to introduce myself. I joined the SMCCC Foundation a year ago. Since then, I have been in a constant state of awe. I have met incredible students,



devoted faculty and staff, and a District team committed to driving transformation in students' lives, the three Colleges, and the San Mateo County community.

What has stood out for me so far:

- Our **90+ Career Education programs** that train firefighters, nurses, police officers, childcare providers, cosmetologists, real estate agents, mechanics, IT professionals, among others
- Our **18 learning communities** that drive success among students from a wide range of lived experiences
- Our **athletes, over 90% of**

whom graduate after success on our fields, tracks, and in our gyms

- Our **help for students with their basic needs**, so they can stay in school when things get tough

Since 38% (9388) of our students rely on financial aid to pursue their education. \$500 makes a big difference to them. Not only does it put money in their hands for transportation, technology, housing, and food, but it also is a "vote of confidence."

I was reminded of this recently when Sarahi Conde Sanchez (Skyline College) told me she got a letter to attend the scholarship award ceremony. As a young mother of three, she is nervous about pursuing her AA degree in business. The scholarship, to her, means someone in her community believes she can make her dream of an esthetician business a reality. Are you that person?

Today, we are facing a \$200,000 shortfall. That's \$500 scholarships for 400 students who still have unmet financial need. With your support, we can close that gap together. Please join us in making a meaningful difference, one student at a time. We appreciate you!

Provide Scholarships Through the Finish Line Fund

Follow on Social Media

Stay connected with the Foundation! Follow us for updates and impact stories.



Have news or stories to share?

Do you have an update, success story, or event you'd like to highlight in our Foundation newsletter? We'd love to feature it!

Email us at foundation@smccd.edu to submit your news or event details.

Thank you for reading and for being part of our mission to support students and transform lives.



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