

College of San Mateo Athletes as Readers and Leaders Appreciation Reception held on April 13th,
during *National Library Week* and *The Week of the Young Child*



Figure 1: Photograph of College of San Mateo Athletes as Readers and Leaders with certificates of appreciation.

Standing <Left to Right> Mark Nagales: Field Representative for U. S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier;
Jackie Siminitus: Vice-President, Communications, California School Library Association; Andreas Wolf: Dean Athletics,
Kinesiology, and Dance; Patricia Malaspina,; Michelle Warner, Head Coach: Basketball; Alex Hom; Annabel Hertz; Ray
Macias; Sarah Balling; Denise Won; Lorrita Ford: Director, Library and Learning Services

Seated <Left to Right> Louise Piper: Coordinator, Mary Meta Lazarus Child Development Center; Clarissa Mendoza; Ashley
Rincon; Franchesca Roth. Not Pictured: Chris Miller; Bianca Mercurio.

Last spring the College of San Mateo Library invited coaches in the Athletics Program and the Coordinator of the Mary Meta Lazarus Child Development Center, classroom faculty to work with us to launch a new literacy and wellness initiative called CSM Athletes as Readers and Leaders. The primary goals of the program are to promote literacy, help to fight childhood obesity, and to help athletes understand their impact as role models.

Student athletes read picture books to children in the on-campus child development center and engage the kids in conversations about the benefits of exercise and nutrition.

Participating athletes from the football, cross country, basketball and softball teams were presented with certificates of appreciation and hoodies imprinted with the program logo. The athletes were delightfully surprised and humbled by the presentation of certificates of appreciation from U. S. Congresswoman Jackie Speier and expressions of support from the Oakland Athletics and the San Francisco Giants. The standing room only event was attended by the District Chancellor, a member of our Board of Trustees, the College President, College Vice-Presidents, the Dean of Athletics, Vice President of Communications of the California School Library Association, college faculty, children enrolled in the child development center and their parents.

More images from the reception and information about the CSM Athletes as Readers and Leaders program can be found at <http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/library/ar/>

Lorrita Ford, Director, Library Services, College of San Mateo
1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd, San Mateo, CA 94402 fordl@smccd.edu 650-574-6569