

SAN MATEO COUNTY
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

Combined Report of the District Chancellor and College Presidents



*This video is the first of a series planned by the District Academic Senate
Task Force on Teaching and Learning.*

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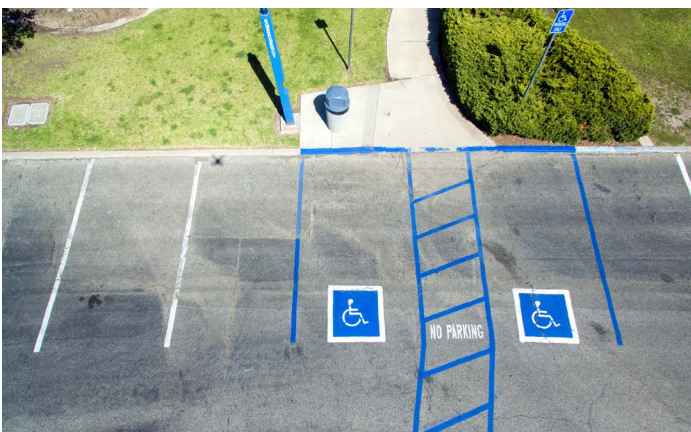
Our Welcome Back Video



With the return to a fall semester of mostly online instruction, many members of our college and district community have concerns about teaching, learning, and working in challenging conditions. With that in mind, students, faculty, staff and administrators shared their concerns—and how they plan to respond to the challenges—in a [welcome video](#).

[This video](#) is the first of a series planned by the District Academic Senate Task Force on Teaching and Learning. Watch for more videos soon.

District Set to Release Draft ADA Plan for Public Comment



The San Mateo County Community College District has spent the past year evaluating compliance of its facilities and services with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990. ADA provides comprehensive civil rights protections to qualified individuals with disabilities in the areas of employment, public accommodations, state and local government services, and telecommunications.

The District's findings and recommendations have been assembled in a draft report that is ready for review and comment by the District community and the public. The draft ADA plan covers all three campuses and the District Office. There are two components of the ADA plan:

1. Transition Plan: this identifies physical barriers in buildings, roads, stairs, ramps, etc.
2. Self-assessment Survey: this evaluates the accessibility of services to students, staff and the public such as ITS, websites and human resources.

The draft plan and a comment form will be posted on the [District homepage](https://smccd.edu/) (<https://smccd.edu/>) on Tuesday, Sept. 8. Two public forums will also be held via Zoom, details to be announced soon.

San Mateo County Community College District Emergency Food Distribution Program Expands to Skyline College



The San Mateo County Community College District Emergency Food Distribution has added a second location at Skyline College to its weekly services. The program launched on Wednesday, September 2.

The CSM food distribution has served more than 19,000 families since it began on April 3. With Second Harvest locations in the Bay Area running at full capacity, there was

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a need for additional locations. Skyline College's SparkPoint Center partnered with Second Harvest to establish the new program.

The weekly Emergency Food Distribution Schedule is now:

Skyline College

Wednesdays, 11am – 1pm

Enter campus via College Drive

College of San Mateo

Fridays, 11am – 1pm

Enter campus via West Hillsdale Blvd

The SMCCCD Emergency Food Distribution continues to provide a critical basic need for the community during the COVID-19 crisis, helping to offset the effects of unemployment and school closures. The program has made a significant impact since starting in April:

- 19,100 families served
- 754,540 pounds of food distributed
- \$1.13 million in groceries costs offset for families

Food boxes are supplied through a partnership with Second Harvest of Silicon Valley. Each family receives a 39-pound box of food worth about \$60. The food distribution is open to the public and serves a large number of college students as well as community members.

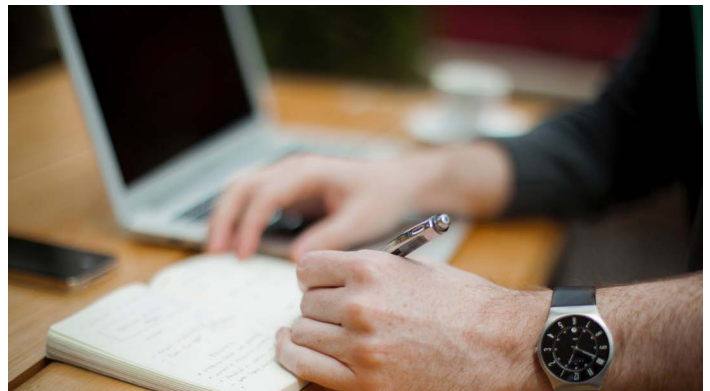
Prior to the pandemic, Second Harvest of Silicon Valley was already providing food to about 260,000 people per month in the Bay Area. By June, that number skyrocketed to more than 500,000 people per month. The demand has remained at that level and is expected to continue for another 12-18 months.

Other SMCCCD Food Distribution Programs

In addition, the District purchases food cards from local grocery stores, each card worth \$75-150, for more than 900 food-insecure students each month. Since March, the district has provided more than \$800,000 worth of grocery cards to students who need food.

The San Mateo County Community Colleges Foundation has set up an emergency fund to support these efforts as well as emergency scholarships and other student needs. Please visit foundation.smccd.edu to support our local students.

Hundreds of District Faculty Complete Summer Training



As initially reported in June, the San Mateo County Community College District provided summer professional development to hundreds of instructors, counselors and student support staff at Cañada College, College of San Mateo and Skyline College. Dubbed Quality Online Teaching & Learning, the 25-hour training program involved technical training, mentoring and peer support to enhance online education across the community college district.

The scope of the training program was massive, providing professional development for 650 college faculty as well as dual enrollment faculty, faculty instructors, and other support staff. The training program was supported by more than \$1.4 million in Federal CARES Act funding as well as District funds.

Quality Online Teaching & Learning provides foundational instruction in five key areas:

1. Use of technology for teaching online
2. Digital literacy
3. Best practices for online communication
4. Educational equity in online courses
5. Student readiness through support resources

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The District also created a large professional development program for San Mateo County schoolteachers. SMCCCD's Community, Continuing, and Corporate Education division partnered with the San Mateo County Office of Education to design a summer series of two-week workshops designed to help teachers teach online. The program served about 350 teachers this summer. See more at the [Office of Education website](#).

District Provides Classrooms for 2020 Census Worker Training



STAND UP AND BE COUNTED!

The Census is the largest peacetime mobilization of people in the United States. This year the 2020 Census is contacting more than 100,000 housing units in San Mateo County that have not yet responded to the 2020 Census. To accomplish this our local Area Census Office needed to train 2,000 new employees – called enumerators – to conduct these face-to-face interviews.

The three colleges of the San Mateo County Community College District—Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College—provided sanitized classroom space for the training program.

Training took place from July 31 to August 5. About 200 trainees were on each campus each day, using five classrooms on each campus in order to maintain social distancing. Trainees and instructors wore face coverings and underwent health screening before entering campuses. College Facilities staff performed daily classroom sanitization for the Census program.

Read more at news.smccd.edu



College Hosts First Virtual COLTS-CON



For the first time ever, the Cañada College Summer Bridge Program, COLTS-CON, was offered online. Working collaboratively as a college community, the COLTS-CON Planning Team presented a three-day conference style bridge program designed to prepare new and continuing students for the start of college, with special emphasis on virtual learning.

This year, COLTS-CON kicked off with Family Night-Noche de Familia. Student participants and their families were invited to join the COLTS-CON team to learn about what students and parents could expect from COLTS-CON and the many resources and services available to them. The event was the perfect beginning to the three-day learning experience.

The first day of COLTS-CON started with three local area artists Yosimar Reyes, Cece Carpio and Ivan Reyes who shared their talents and wisdom with the student participants. The second day featured a faculty panel that included David Eck, Sumathi Shankar, Paul Naas and Gampi Shankar who delighted students with nuggets of wisdom that highlighted how to be successful in an online platform and advised students how to stay motivated. The day also featured Cañada's "Interest-Areas" and Guided Pathways.

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The final day of COLTS-CON included a student panel that showcased recent student graduates and their path to success, completion and transfer. New and current students received "just-in-time" knowledge from their recent peers that focused on the transfer process and encouraged the mindset that "transfer and completion is possible." Student participants also were able to take part in the "Student Services Town Hall" where Cañada College administrators introduced themselves and representatives from college student services and resources shared information.

Students were able to access COLTS-CON through Canvas and the sessions and presentations were recorded so that they are accessible for students that were not able to attend live. These resources will continue to be available on our Canvas page for new and continuing students. COLTS-CON was a tremendous success and a model for virtual bridge programs in the future!

Looking Ahead - Leadership Retreat Outcomes

A graphic with a dark green background and white text that reads "Cañada College Stands Against Racism." The text is centered and uses a serif font. The graphic is framed by a thin grey border.

Cañada College
Stands Against Racism.

On August 12 and 13, more than 50 student, faculty and classified staff leaders and administrators, from all participatory governance groups, joined together for Cañada College's second annual Leadership Retreat. Held on Zoom this year, the event involved participants from every stakeholder group that is part of the College's [participatory governance framework](#). The group tackled the challenges and opportunities facing the College due to the COVID-19 pandemic and renewed the College's commitment to being an anti-racist institution. More information, including all of the materials and notes from the Retreat can be found [here](#).

This Retreat has become part of [the College's annual planning cycle](#). Participants helped shape a draft Anti-Racist Framework for the College and refined six strategic priorities that emerged from the [Education Master Plan](#) and [Strategic Enrollment Management Plan](#). Both the Framework and the strategic priorities were further discussed at Flex Day and will be discussed at the first meeting of the [Planning and Budgeting Council](#) on September 2. The draft commitments to Anti-Racism and the six strategic priority areas include:

College Commitments to Anti-Racism (draft)

We are Cañada College, a community of scholars and practitioners. As a collective and as individuals we commit to:

- critically examine our behaviors and college practices for the conscious and unconscious ways in which we contribute to systemic racism;
- uplift stories and data about the impact of anti-Blackness, oppression, poverty, and racism in our communities;
- reimagine and build a community of learning and service based in anti-racism, social justice, and liberation;

We welcome and invite these commitments as essential components of an anti-racist and socially-just community for the students we serve, the community where we work, and the world we live in.

Strategic Priority Areas

- Improve student completion by developing and implementing a comprehensive college-wide approach to [enrollment management, student retention, and course scheduling](#)
- Collaborate with [K-12 and Adult School partners](#) to promote relationships, seamless transitions, and alignment of pathways
- Expand and [enhance marketing](#) and effective communication of opportunities for students
- Establish a robust college-wide [professional learning](#) program that engages campus constituents while creating opportunities for innovative practices that support student success and promote equity

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- Promote a campus culture that fosters a climate of inclusivity
- Institutionalize effective structures and best practices of Hispanic-Serving and Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions in order to reduce the obligation gap. [NOTE: These will include related Guided Pathways and Student Equity and Achievement Plan initiatives].

To create greater transparency around these conversations and the College's decision-making processes generally, please find the following helpful resources: [Cañada Collaborates](#) provides information about Cañada's strategic priorities as well as contact information for key College Councils, Senates and Committees; and the PBC's [Participatory Governance Manual](#) also contains important information about how the campus community works together to achieve college-wide goals and objectives.

Cañada College Stands Against Racism: Black Lives Matter

Following the murder of George Floyd on May 25, the Cañada Community embarked on a series of conversations and strategic planning activities to fulfill the [College Mission, Vision and Values](#), the [District's commitment to social justice](#) and [President Moore's statement in support of Black Lives Matter](#). In addition to the Leadership Retreat, a Flex Day Session (a continued discussion that began at the Retreat) was held on August 18 (see here for the [slides](#) and [notes](#) from that session). This year, Cañada College hosted three [Critical Conversations](#) over the summer and will continue to have regular conversations about race. The College will be launching a "community read" to discuss Ibram X. Kendi's, *How to be an Antiracist*. In addition, Cañada College has joined the USC California Community College Racial Equity Leadership Alliance and will be sending teams to participate in their monthly e-convenings. More information about Cañada's continued efforts will be posted [here](#).

College of San Mateo

CSM Alumna Launches Transfer Podcast



Ariana offers advice to students about her CSM experience and the transfer process.

CSM alumna Ariana Davarpanah recently transferred to Stanford University, beginning her first semester this fall. After posting about her academic journey over the summer on her LinkedIn page, other students began reaching out to ask questions about her experience. As the inquiries continued, Ariana realized her story could help inform and inspire others. In order to share with a broader audience, she created a podcast focused on transferring from community college to a four-year university.

Titled *Transfer Tea*, [the podcast](#) is "meant to create a community for successful and prospective transfer students to learn about the process, share stories, and promote community college and transfer success." New episodes are posted every Tuesday.

CSM Ranked Third Best Community College in the U.S.



On August 17, 2020, personal finance site WalletHub.com ranked CSM as the third best community college in their annual "Best & Worst Community Colleges." [See the full rankings.](#)

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CSM's First Virtual Flex Day A Success



On Tuesday, August 18th, CSM held its first virtual Flex Day. It was a full and well-attended day of reconnection after a busy and eventful summer. The event kicked off with opening remarks from Chancellor Mike Claire and Interim President Kim Lopez. They were followed by a panel of amazing students bravely sharing their experiences and challenges from recent months along with their concerns and hopes for the fall semester.

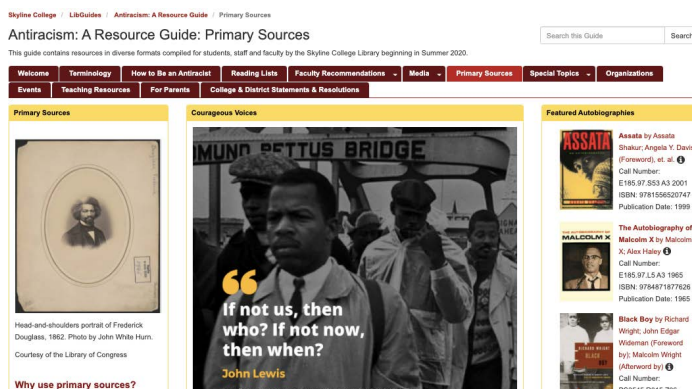
The activities continued in Zoom breakout sessions facilitated by CSM faculty and staff as well as a guest speaker from LinkedIn, covering a variety of topics on pedagogy, antiracism, technology, accessibility, equity, and student support. Finally, the day concluded with a District-wide keynote speaker, Joel Baum from [Gender Spectrum](#), who delivered an engaging and incisive webinar about the historical, political, and cultural dimensions of gender followed by the SafeZone committee chairs of all three colleges giving updates on how we're working to support LGBTQ+ students in the District.

While there is no substitute for gathering in person, the online format allowed more part-time and remote faculty and staff to participate in Flex Day than ever before, and recordings of the sessions were made available to the whole campus community for the first time. Faculty and staff not only got a chance to learn and connect, but they also gained an invaluable understanding of the student perspective as they navigated the links, gallery views, and breakout rooms throughout the day.

Article by Liz Schuler, CSM PD Coordinator.



Introducing Antiracism: A Skyline College Library Resource Guide



The Skyline College Library is pleased to present [Antiracism: A Resource Guide](#), a collaborative community resource. The impetus for this guide was our collective response to the murder of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis in May. We recognized the need to educate ourselves and our community on the complex topic of racism against Black people in America and to show solidarity with those in our community—especially students and staff—who have been harmed by racist ideas, policies and practices.

This online guide curates, compiles and provides access to high quality resources for battling racial bias. While the primary audience for this guide is our students, we've also included resources for instructors, staff, and those of us who are actively parenting.

Guide content includes:

- Terminology of racism
- How to be an antiracist
- Recommended reading lists
- Faculty resource recommendations by Tamara Perkins, Nathan Jones, Jesse Raskin and Tasia Scott (Please contact the Library to include yours, too)

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- Media: podcasts, radio, film and television
- Primary sources
- Organizations and events
- Teaching resources & resources for parents
- A range of special topics: Activism & Sports, Black Lives Matter, The Crown Act, Gender & Feminism, Race & Criminal Justice, Racism against Asian-Americans during the 2020 Pandemic, and coming soon, Voting Rights and Voter Suppression.

As this new resource grows, we seek to continue authentic collaboration with the Skyline College community. An easy way to provide feedback or suggest resources is to submit a [Research Help Form](#). Please include any links to sources you'd like us to explore.

Thank you for being a key part of the Library's active work to build racial justice. <https://guides.skylinecollege.edu/>

Article by Jessica Silver-Sharp

Study Abroad Students Awarded \$32,000 from Gilman Scholarship



Ten students from Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College were awarded a total of \$32,000 from the U.S. Department of State's [Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship](#), a grant program that enables students of limited financial

means to study or intern abroad. The program is committed to reshaping study abroad to make it more accessible and inclusive for students who, due to financial constraints, might not otherwise participate. Its goal is to increase opportunities to live and learn abroad while building mutual intercultural understanding between students and their host communities. For the last application cycle (deadline March 2020), 20

SMCCCD students applied, and 10 students were awarded the scholarship—an award rate of 50%. The list of all colleges and universities awarded the Gilman Scholarship is listed on the [Gilman Scholarship website](#).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, these scholarships were delayed, the recipients notified several months later than usual. Students who applied last March had been planning to participate in study abroad or global internship programs during the Summer 2020 or Fall 2020 sessions. However, in light of the pandemic and the suspension of most study abroad programs across the country, the Gilman Scholarship Program has allowed students to defer their scholarship award to a future study abroad or global internship program, or to use their award for a virtual global program.

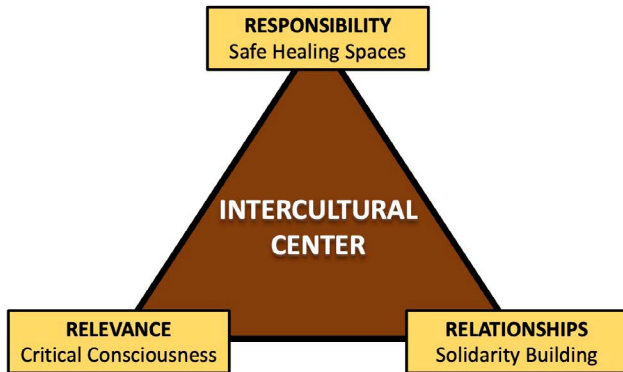
The next round of the [Gilman Scholarship application is now open](#)! The deadline is Tuesday, October 6, 2020. Students can work with the SMCCCD Study Abroad staff for assistance in applying for the Gilman Scholarship as well as to learn about future study abroad and virtual global learning experiences. Email studyabroad@smccd.edu or visit smccd.edu/studyabroad to connect with the Study Abroad team.

SMCCCD Study Abroad is the district-wide study abroad program housed in the Global Learning Programs and Services Division at Skyline College. For more information about studying or interning abroad, faculty teach abroad opportunities, community travel for lifelong learners, visiting international faculty presenters and student scholarship opportunities, please contact Zaid Ghori at ghoriz@smccd.edu or (650) 738-7088 or Stephanie Wells at wellss@smccd.edu. You can also learn more by visiting the SMCCD Study Abroad Facebook page or Instagram page @smccd_study_abroad.

Article by Stephanie Wells

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Introducing Skyline College's new Intercultural Center!



The Student Equity and Support Programs Division (SESP) is excited to invite all to take part in the development of our new Intercultural Center! We say "development" because this space is a work in progress that will require community sharing, listening, vulnerability, and resilience from the entire Skyline College Community.

The Intercultural Center will provide a welcoming space on campus, as well as a virtual campus for students, faculty members, and classified professionals to explore their identities, find community, and work towards racial and social justice. The programs will center on racial and ethnic identity, and also provide multiple aspects of identity.

SESP will be hosting a zoom forum for all members of Skyline College on September 9th, 2020 at 12:00 noon to learn more about your hopes for the Intercultural Center and to share details regarding our upcoming events for the Fall 2020 Semester.

Please fill out the [Intercultural Center Survey](#) to provide YOUR input on OUR Intercultural Center. You can visit our [website](#) to learn more about the Intercultural Center's Vision, Mission, and Values Statement.

Article by Allen Ocampo