

# Student Services Newsletter

## May 2023



## Student Services Spotlight

### *Countdown to Commencement 2023!*



One of the most highly anticipated events of the year is SBCC's Commencement Ceremony. Although the planning and implementation of a given commencement builds progressively from December to May, in actuality, the planning begins at the end of the previous year's commencement. The Commencement Committee makes notes on what worked, and what didn't work that year, always striving to make next year's commencement ceremony even better!



Associate Dean, Student Affairs, Dr. Christopher Johnson and his Administrative Assistant, Candee Gyll, plan and coordinate each year's commencement. But they are certainly not alone in executing this monumental feat.

Here are some of the people, departments, and services that are helping to make sure this year's

commencement ceremony runs smoothly and efficiently: Office of Communications (Amanda Jacobs); Amanda Neal (Diplomas); IT (Orin Fails, Luke Vranish and Rob Butson - video); Athletics (managing the field); Facilities (Custodial and Grounds); Music Department; Community Services (Annie Guthrie); Campus Bookstore (Melanie Olguin); Security (parking and safety); Superintendent/President's Office and VPAA and VPSA.



Offsite services supply among other things, the stage, lighting, flowers, chairs, tents, and sign language interpretation. The SB Police Department helps manage the Loma Alta Road closure along with Erik Fricke's crew. And Vivian Marsano sits in the Press Box and does live English to Spanish translation.



Candee thrives on having a genuine collaboration with the SBCC "family" (staff, faculty, and volunteers alike). Most meaningful to her is reflecting on how each commencement is a fulfillment of students achieving their lifelong dream. From meeting shy students on their first day of school coming into the Office of Student Life for their photos, to seeing them confidently walk the stage at commencement truly makes all of the hard work worthwhile.

Dr. Johnson invites everyone, including students, faculty, staff, administrators, community members, friends and family to attend this momentous event.

### **How YOU can help! Volunteers are needed for:**

- Distributing "rack cards" with QR code to access the program
- Distributing headsets for English to Spanish translation
- "Walking the line" handing out cards (one for name, phonetic pronunciation of name, K #, and Degree); the other card for Grad Images - photos (with name and email address)
- Ushering students to their seats

Please contact Candee Gyll at [gyllic@sbcc.edu](mailto:gyllic@sbcc.edu) or 805-730-4078 if you would like to volunteer. The more volunteers they have, the smoother the ceremony will run.

## Other Upcoming End of Year Events:



### **Black Grad Celebration:**

In partnership with the Santa Barbara Unified School District  
Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 3:00 pm  
Fe'Bland Forum, West Campus  
By invitation only



### **Transfer Achievement Program (T.A.P.) Recognition Ceremony**

Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> 12:30 to 3:00 p.m.  
SBCC Campus Center (lunch provided for those who were sent an invitation and RSVP'd by May 3<sup>rd</sup>)  
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Kindred Murillo

### **President's Honor Roll**

Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 11:30 am to 1:00 pm  
Great Meadow, West Campus

### **Outstanding Student Awards**

Reception May 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 in the Cafeteria  
By invitation only



### **Student Services Summer Hours**

Monday – Thursday: 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (in-person and remote)  
Friday: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (remote only)

Evening Hours (to 6:00 pm) on Wednesdays during Peak Times:  
5/31, 6/7, 6/28, 8/16, 8/23




## Follow-Up from Staff Lounge Refresh Poll

Thank you to everyone who participated in the poll! 84% of the participants wanted the vending machines relocated, and if you take a peek in the staff lounge, you will see that they have been removed. Participants also wanted healthier options for the vending machines. There wasn't a conclusive vote on what to do with the bar wall in the middle of the room, so the Refresh Committee will brainstorm some more ideas. Thanks to Ana Garcia, the lounge has a new microwave, toaster and kettle!

Needed: a gently used sofa. If you would like to donate one, please send a photo to Ana Garcia [aggarcia10@pipeline.sbcc.edu](mailto:aggarcia10@pipeline.sbcc.edu).

## News in Brief:

- A [Suggestions Box](#) will soon be on the VPSA, Student Services, and Student Services Deans websites. The Google survey will give us an opportunity to learn how we can improve Student Services in general. You may also access the QR code here 
- Academic Affairs is doing a reorg, and two areas from Student Affairs may be impacted. Some portions of **Dual Enrollment** (adjunct faculty hiring and evaluations) may go to Academic Affairs. The **Career Center** may remain in Academic Affairs, either staying under Michael Medel or going to another dean.
- The [Admissions & Records and Dual Enrollment Reorg Proposal](#) was presented to CPC on April 18<sup>th</sup>, and will be presented to the Board on May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- **Alyson Bostwick and Lacey Peters** recently did a mental health presentation to department chairs, **advocating for more in-person classes and services for students**. Studies show that loneliness, isolation, and lack of a sense of community engagement actually affects student motivation and success, as well increase anxiety and depression. In fact, 75% of the students they see on campus want more in-person classes and services.
- The **Emergency Grant application** can be found on both the Basic Needs Center and Financial Aid websites. The [Student Basic Needs Grant Application - Spring 2023](#) can be submitted for “a singular, unexpected or unforeseen expense, event, or circumstance that may cause a loss of momentum toward student success and goal completion...”



## **Congratulations, Linda Beers!**



We have some wonderful news to share about our colleague and DSPS Counselor/Learning Disabilities Specialist, Linda Beers. She will be serving the college as President-Elect of the Academic Senate this coming year.

Said Linda, "Greetings! I am honored and excited to have this opportunity to serve our college as President-Elect of our Academic Senate. I find myself overwhelmed by all of the support offered by so many of my wonderful colleagues. I look forward to listening deeply and learning from all of you. I invite you to reach out directly to me and to your senators with your ideas as we enter yet another period of transition, challenges, and accomplishments. I can promise you that you will be heard!"

## **Welcome New Staff!**

### **Cristina Hummer, MA - ACC Technician**



Cristina grew up in Goleta, attending Dos Pueblos High School and SBCC. She went on to CSUCI and National University, earning her BA in Sociology and MA in Education. Before joining SBCC, Cristina worked at Goleta Union School District for 16 years.

Cristina has nine siblings, born lucky seven in her family! She enjoys playing tennis, running, and reading a good book. A philosophy that Cristina lives by is, "Don't forget to live a little, try something new, and travel!"

### **Selena Paloma Martinez, BS- SPA for the Center for Equity and Social Justice**



Selena was born & raised in Southern California and earned her Bachelors of Science in Psychology at UC Davis. Prior to joining SBCC, Selena worked at UC Davis for EOP, TRiO Scholars & the Guardian Scholars Program. For the last 2 years she worked at UCSB as the Academic Program Coordinator for the Computer Science Department. When she is not at work you can find her dancing Salsa & Bachata with ME Sabor Studio on the Eastside or playing kickball at Pershing Park on Friday evenings.

Please stop by the CESJ between 9:00 am - 4:30 pm Monday - Thursday to say "hi" to Selena and welcome her to our campus!



# Rising Scholars SBCC College Fair at SB County Jail



**The Rising Scholars SBCC College Fair** was held on April 24<sup>th</sup> at the SB County Jail. The purpose of the fair was to connect incarcerated women and men to the academic opportunities available at SBCC. Student Services staff and faculty from various departments at SBCC provided academic and financial aid information to the attendees.



Said Rising Scholars Program Coordinator Noel Gomez, "Individuals incarcerated in California state prisons and county jails encounter

many barriers to reentry. Very often, formerly incarcerated students hesitate to make that first visit to a community college campus and begin the enrollment process. During the college fair, we were able to send a strong message to those in custody that the academic programs and student services at SBCC can foster and enable their success. More importantly, they were able to meet and speak to staff and faculty and feel *welcomed* at SBCC. This will be an on-going effort with plans to hold another Rising Scholars SBCC College Fair at the county jail in October or November."



Many thanks to the following staff and faculty who participated in the fair:

Darren Phillips, DSPS; Ana Garcia and Noel Gomez, EOPS/Rising Scholars; Megan Ortega, Financial Aid; Monica Campbell and Mari Lopez-Manzo, Non-Credit Programs; Billi Jo Starr and Emma Cruz, SEL; Laura Pina, TAP; Marisa Flores, Transfer Center; Sergio Lagunas, Raíces; Lacey Peters, Student Healthy Services; Thomas Carrasco, Ethnic/Chicano

Studies; Jess Estrada and Raeanne Napoleon, Chemistry; Laurel Johnston, Psychology; Bronwen Moore, Math; Dave Saunders, AJ; Julie Hobbins, SEL Vocational Culinary

Special thanks to VPAA María Villagómez for her participation.

**Photos:**

Page 1: Candee Gyll getting items ready for commencement.

Pages 1 and 2: Commencement photos courtesy of SBCC Office of Communications

Page 5: Photos of Linda Beers, Cristina Hummer, and Selena Paloma Martinez

Page 6: Rising Scholars photos courtesy of Noel Gomez