



Santiago Canyon College

WHAT HAPPENS HERE MATTERS.

**2020-2021
ANNUAL REPORT**

MESSAGE FROM THE SCC PRESIDENT,

DR. PAMELA RALSTON



Santiago Canyon College's Annual Report for 2020-2021 covers the first, full year of the COVID-19 pandemic. We're proud of how our college community rallied, not only in the immediate response to the necessity of pulling instruction, services, and support online, but also for the comprehensive planning needed to develop an entire academic calendar of courses, and online offering of student services, academic support, and all of the functions that keep a large organization operating at top capacity.

As students contended with the upheaval of the pandemic, Santiago Canyon College stepped in with emergency financial support. This emergency funding, supported by federal and state resources, was in addition to our Promise Program that offers free tuition for first-time students, regardless of family income or academic history. In order to support remote learning, the college offered a laptop loaner program along with a number of other support systems to assist students as they navigated their new learning environment. Emergency financial resources provided support for the college as well. As faculty and staff moved online, we were able to provide technology support that not only allowed us to operate remotely, but also provided opportunities for innovation and positive changes in how we work at SCC.

We've gathered stories and photos that demonstrate many of our significant accomplishments. The selected programs and services that appear are a snapshot of how SCC continues to positively impact the lives and professional trajectories of students and the important role our college plays in our community.

Moving into our next chapter, our college is focused on strengthening a number of key areas of our mission:

- Increasing our partnerships with local high schools to help students start their college work early.
- Integrating innovative ideas into our regular teaching and support approaches serve students and the community more effectively.
- Transforming our curriculum to be responsive to our rapidly changing world, supporting specialized technical careers such as Water Utility Science and deepening our offerings in Ethnic Studies, for example.

The strength of this college, and each staff and faculty member is commendable. In that vein, I thank Jose Vargas, who served as SCC's Interim President for the entire 2019-2020 academic year. We experienced multiple transitions across the college, and we can be proud of how well we've done.

What happens here matters.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pamela Ralston". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Pamela Ralston

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AWARD-WINNING ACADEMICS

SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE CONTINUED ITS REPUTATION FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN 2020. THE NOTEWORTHY PERFORMANCE OF ITS FACULTY IS COMMENSURATE WITH THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE STUDENTS. SOME OF THE MANY SIGNIFICANT RECOGNITIONS OF FACULTY AND STUDENTS WERE ACCOMPLISHED DESPITE THE CHALLENGES OF THE YEAR.

SCC participated in the California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) Undergraduate Research Experience (URE-21) where students participated in an eight-week summer research experience working closely with CSUF faculty. Students presented their research findings at a virtual Summer Research Symposium in August 2021. For their participation, each student received a \$5,000 stipend and the opportunity to network with professionals in their fields of study.

The CSUF Undergraduate Research Experience has proven to be a transformational and rewarding opportunity for students at SCC. Information about the program can be found in the following link: <http://www.fullerton.edu/projectraise/community-college-students/ure/URE21%20Symposium%20Program.pdf>.

FACULTY RECOGNITION



Lisa Camarco, SCC professor of Kinesiology, was nominated for Orange County Teacher of the Year.

THE FOUR SCC URE-21 STUDENT PARTICIPANTS ENGAGED IN RESEARCH PROJECTS IN THE AREAS OF:



Acinetobacter Baumannii
Response to Human
Pleural Fluid in
Cefiderocol Treatment.

Presented by Susan Arriaga



Characterizing Changes in
Sedimentation Within a
Southern California Estuary
Over the Past Century.

Presented by Kimberly Baez



Fungal Immune Defense in
Long- and Short-Lived
Populations of Drosophila.

Presented by Daniel Campos



Engineering
Wildfire Mitigation.

Presented by Julio Villegas

WATER AND WASTEWATER TECHNOLOGY

Santiago Canyon College's Water Utility Science program is the largest, oldest, and one of the most diverse programs in both the state and nation. This program is a jewel in the SCC crown and continues to have the best water and wastewater industry recognized instructors including General Managers, professional engineers, scientists, and county health inspectors. In the 2020-2021 academic school year, the division increased its faculty diversity with the hiring of four new professional, part-time instructors. The new faculty included Engineers, Chemistry/Quality Assurance Coordinators, and Orange County Health Inspectors.



Jeffrey Dennis, Department Chair, developed the curriculum for the Water System Automation Program under the Electronics Technology Department and the Water Quality Laboratory Analysis class. The name of the Water Utility Science program was changed to Water and Wastewater Technology to align the program with state requirements and to highlight the wastewater, water reuse, and water reclamation/conservation course work.

WATER UTILITY SCIENCE CAREER RESOURCE FAIR

SCC hosted a virtual Water Utility Science Career Resource Fair in the fall and spring semesters. These virtual gatherings included

panel experts who discussed trends in the industry. Presenters and panelists in attendance participated from multiple areas and agencies throughout the southland, including Aliso Viejo, Placentia, Rancho Cucamonga, Fountain Valley, Anaheim, Brea, the South Coast Water District, the Irvine Ranch Water District, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, City of Huntington Beach, City of Laguna Beach, City of Santa Ana, Rowland Water District, City of Torrance, City of Los Alamitos, and the City of San Juan Capistrano.

EMPLOYMENT AND INTERSHIPS

Santiago Canyon College's students obtained jobs and internships with a variety of different municipalities in the 2020-2021 academic year. The positions secured included: Operator in Training, Plant Operator, Maintenance Worker, Environmental Specialist, Instrumentation Technician, Mechanic, Valve and Hydrant Crew Chief, Water Service Intern, Collection Maintenance Intern, Water Distribution Operator, Customer Service Representative, Customer Service Field Technician, Utilities Operator, Water Production Technician, Preventative Maintenance Technician, and Skilled Maintenance Worker. These positions are from water utility agencies from the Southern California region. SCC students securing these quality positions is evidence of the excellent preparation, training, and qualifications earned at SCC in the Water Utility Science programs and courses. Salary ranges achieved for these students ranged between \$44,025 - \$62,600.

PARTNERSHIP

In addition to the many student successes and faculty excellence of the Water and Wastewater Technology program, several valuable partnerships were established:

- Collaborated with the Metropolitan Water District apprenticeship training trust to enroll current apprentices in Fundamentals of Water Treatment course (WATR-071) and developed a continuing relationship and course offerings to new incoming apprentices.
- Partnered with the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) Students and Young Professionals Committee to provide resume writing and interview preparation workshops.
- Continued to work with Orange County Sanitation District to hire students in their internship program.
- Continued to work with Cal Water to engage and enroll their employees and provide them scholarship opportunities.

CRITICAL SUPPORT

HEERF FUNDING BRINGS RELIEF TO STUDENTS

THROUGH THE HIGHER EDUCATION EMERGENCY RELIEF FUND (HEERF), SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE WAS ABLE TO BRING CRUCIAL SERVICES AND MATERIALS TO STUDENTS EXPERIENCING COVID-19 RELATED HARDSHIPS.



The Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) is emergency funding from the federal government allocated to all community colleges in response to COVID-19, to assist students who experienced financial hardships. These dollars were established at the onset of the pandemic in an effort to ensure students' academic endeavors were not interrupted due to loss of employment, housing and other consequences that impacted their educational plans.


HEERF assisted students with tuition, books, supplies, food, transportation, housing, child care, and health care, and HEERF does not require students to repay their allocations. SCC was grateful that it was able to disburse funds that allowed students to persist, notwithstanding the global challenge they faced. Some noteworthy data of SCC's HEERF distribution was:


1200 MASKS & MAGNETS
NOTING KEY RESOURCES/CONTACT INFO WERE MAILED TO SCC AND OEC STUDENTS

EQUIPMENT REALLOCATED OR PURCHASED FOR USE BY STUDENTS, FACULTY AND STAFF

 **665 LAPTOPS** +  **200 HEADSETS** +  **200 WEBCAMS**

400
ADOBE LICENSES
ORDERED AND
PROVIDED TO
STUDENTS FOR
DIGITAL ARTS
CLASSES



Adobe



ALL EXTERNAL WIRELESS
ACCESS POINTS UPGRADED
FOR WIRELESS DRIVE-UP
ACCESS FOR STUDENTS
DURING SHUTDOWN

160
PPE REQUEST FORMS
FULFILLED

LAPTOP LOANER PROGRAM WAS CREATED FOR
STUDENTS AND INCLUDED: HOTSPOTS AND
EARPHONES



STUDENT HELP DESK CREATED TO SERVE
STUDENT TECHNOLOGICAL AND REGISTRATION
NEEDS DURING SHUTDOWN

300
DESKTOP COMPUTERS



ORDERED TO CONVERT
CONFERENCE ROOMS TO
CLASSROOMS FOR FACE TO
FACE INSTRUCTION WHILE
MAINTAINING SOCIAL DISTANCING

**3,291 STUDENTS WERE
GIVEN HEERF FUNDS,
TOTALING \$2,477,906**

SCC WAS ALSO PERMITTED TO UTILIZE HEERF FUNDING TO SAFEGUARD ITS ENVIRONMENT
TO PROTECT STUDENTS AND STAFF IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- DEPLOYMENT OF 273 ACRYLIC BARRIERS TO SCC, CWPC AND CHAPMAN
- 200+ HAND SANITIZER DISPENSERS INSTALLED THROUGHOUT THE CAMPUS
- HVAC UPGRADES - MERV 13 FILTERS AND ELECTRONIC AIR CLEANERS
- EXTENDED AIR HANDLER RUN-TIMES AND PRE/POST SPACE PURGE
- PROPER SIGNAGE FOR CURRENT SAFETY REQUIREMENTS
- PPE, EXTRA MONITORS, EARPHONES, STANDUP DESK, WEB CAMERA INSTALLED FOR EMPLOYEES
- STAFFING CHECKLISTS FOR RETURN TO WORK INCLUDING PPE REQUESTS
- SANITIZING STATIONS AND DISINFECTANT AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS

SERVING OUR STUDENTS AND COMMUNITY



GUARDIAN SCHOLARS

The Santiago Canyon College Guardian Scholars program serves current and former foster youth who are enrolled and seeking support in their academic journey. Through personal attention paid to each student Guardian Scholars creates a rewarding experience by mitigating procedures on campus, that were overwhelming in the foster-care systems.

Santiago Canyon College intentionally designed the Guardian Scholars program to provide an essential support-system and network that creates a campus culture imbued with togetherness, encouragement and belonging by using a family wrap-around approach.

Guardian Scholars established successful partnerships with venerable agencies who share our mission to advance former and current foster youth seeking a college education. Some of our partners supported us in the following ways:

iFoster, a national nonprofit with more than 60,000 members nationwide serving 250,000 children in care and transition-age youth annually, provided more than \$6,000.00 in free cell phones with unlimited hot spot capability, as well as free unlimited text and phone service.

John Burton Advocates for Youth (JBAY), a state organization that improves the quality of life for foster youth, provided more than \$10,000 in laptops.

Together We Rise provided more than \$20,000 in emergency housing, food, transportation and financial assistance.

Women's League of Orange County, provided Christmas gifts to all students enrolled in the SCC Guardian Scholars program and donated more than \$6,000.00 in Christmas gifts.

HAWKS NEST FOOD PANTRY

The 2020-2021 academic year proved to be the most challenging year Santiago Canyon College (SCC) has ever faced. The statewide order that shuttered businesses and impacted employment caused the SCC community to seek assistance. The Hawks Nest Food Pantry responded to the community needs by increasing its food service to students and their families while resources were in a steep decline.

Exceptional partnerships with Second Harvest and Orange County Food Bank and diligent work from dedicated volunteers, and campus support allowed the Hawks Nest Food Pantry to serve more than 1,000 students and their families. In total, the pantry distributed more than 195,000 pounds of food which is the equivalent of more than 163,000 meals.

Stories of the many people who lost employment was a constant and the pantry helped families stay afloat. Students would give the staff notes thanking them for their support. In one case a student shared how their household lost employment and had to struggle choosing what bills to pay and which ones to default. The Hawks Nest Food Pantry allowed the family to worry less about having enough money for food. This year taught us the resiliency and determination that students have to accomplish their goals. The pantry is thankful to continue to serve students as the aftermath continues of this past year.

To contribute to SCC's Hawks Nest Food Pantry efforts visit the Foundation website: <https://sccollegefoundation.salsalabs.org/HawksNestFoodPantry/index.html>



THE FIRST YEAR STUDENT SUPPORT CENTER SUCCESSFULLY WEATHERED THE PANDEMIC AND CONTINUED TO ENCOURAGE STUDENTS TO GET INVOLVED AND GET CONNECTED BY EARNING A STUDENT SUCCESS CERTIFICATE.

COUNSELING AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Santiago Canyon College rebranded the Counseling Department name to include its career functions and empower students to help discover their own uniqueness and find careers and majors that match their talents and interests. The newly minted name is now the Counseling and Career Development Center.

The Counseling and Career Development Center department completed a five-year Science, Technology, Engineering & Math grant, known as Project RAISE, which afforded SCC students majoring in STEM the opportunity to conduct undergraduate research with a professor at California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). Students selected for the eight-week undergraduate research experience earned a \$5,000 stipend. The Counseling and Career Development Center is honored that CSUF has once again invited SCC to participate in another five-year grant entitled,

Project RAISER. This new grant will continue to provide SCC STEM students the opportunity to conduct cutting edge research.

A student-centered component of the Counseling and Career Development Center, is the SCC First Year Support Center which serves first-year students as they navigate their academic pathways. The First Year Student Support Center successfully weathered the pandemic and continued to encourage students to get involved and get connected by earning a Student Success Certificate. Students participated in eight workshops on academic skills, life skills, SCC involvement and cultural enrichment. Staff designed virtual interactive workshops to continuously engage students and offered interactive workshops such as "Guess that 2000's Song" and scavenger hunts. The center awarded 146 certificates and hosted a virtual congratulatory ceremony.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

The pandemic's impact was not different in its challenge to the Santiago Canyon College Child Development Center (CDC). At the onset of the school year, program staff immediately contacted all families to discuss distance learning and family support. To ensure ongoing engagement between CDC teachers and their students, iPads were loaned to families that did not have technology access.

The SCC Child Development Center/Lab School was the only lab school in Orange County that provided virtual practicum classes for college students enrolled in the Child Development and Education Studies classes at SCC and SAC. This allowed the departments to continue to grow and for our students to transfer and graduate during the pandemic.

OTHER SERVICES THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER PUT IN PLACE TO MEET THE URGENT NEEDS OF THEIR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WERE:

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

Regular access to the CDC nurse, nutritionist, and Licensed Clinical Social Worker for consultations, referrals and or support. All referrals and consultations, regardless of access point, were provided to families within 24 hours of request.

CONTINUED ENRICHMENT

Sessions delivered live, familiar, hands-on, engaging activities/lessons that were developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate while promoting the developmental progress of the children's development and skills.

FAMILY RESOURCES

Families were emailed by the Family Care Coordinators and Clerks with resources and referrals at least once per monthly, with a list of child meal distribution sites, food banks, and other resources that were deemed valuable to our families.

INDIVIDUALIZED LEARNING

Daily interactive small group Zoom learning sessions (synchronous learning) customized to the child's age and accommodated the family's learning platform of choice (WhatsApp, Google Voice, Zoom, FaceTime).

MATERIAL DISTRIBUTION

Corresponding materials needed for the daily session's activities were distributed weekly through contactless pick-up, with materials that were labeled and noted in the lesson plan.

DIAPER DISTRIBUTION

Diaper distribution to families in need-two boxes of diapers, per child, distributed monthly.

CONTINUING EDUCATION OLDER ADULTS PROGRAM

The Older Adults Program offered through Santiago Canyon College's Continuing Education division is one of the many facets of service offered to the community. Understanding that the concept of "student" is defined in a multitude of ways, we strive to ensure the delivery of educational services is equally diverse.

Santiago Canyon College continued to thrive throughout the pandemic because of the ingenuity and flexibility of our faculty. Senior citizens were a population greatly impacted because of the isolating consequences of the pandemic. However, the teachers employed technology to show that online learning is not a barrier

but instead a vehicle to connect with students and promote learning and inspiration.

The Older Adults Program offers a variety of art, music, and health & wellness classes. Courses are specialized to service adults who are 55 and older, however anyone over the age of 18 can enroll. Through community partnerships, the Older Adults Program at Santiago Canyon College also serves students living in extended care facilities including nursing homes and rehabilitation centers, along with senior centers in our area. The program generated 534.88 FTES in the 2020/2021 academic year, a 56% increase from the previous year.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



After years of supporting her husband and two sons, Nancy Flores decided it was time to focus on herself. Through the Code Enforcement Training program at Santiago Canyon College, she was able to find a new career that satisfies her and serves her community.

Nancy, 47, said that while her sons, now 20 and 15, were growing up, she worked part-time. Her husband, a firefighter, supported the family.

"I worked part-time just to provide a little bit of money. I wanted to be available to them so I could be there for them," she said.

In 2019, she enrolled at Santiago Canyon College, although she wasn't sure what she wanted to study. She decided on the code enforcement program.

"I was at a point in my life where I wasn't sure what I wanted to do," Nancy said. "In talking with my counselor, we went through many options, and this was the one that was most appealing to me. This is another way of contributing to the community I grew up in, in a different way. This is the path that I wanted to take."

The Code Enforcement Officer Training program prepares students to become public servants whose primary duties are the prevention, detection, investigation, and enforcement of violations of the

law relating to public health and safety, public works, building standards, and zoning and municipal codes. The average salary for a code enforcement officer ranges from \$43,410 to \$91,730 a year.

Flores said that in addition to guidance from her counselor, Amanda Campbell, all her instructors at Santiago Canyon College have been supportive.

"They are always there to answer any questions," she said. "So many of the instructors work in code enforcement. Their experience and knowledge is awesome."

Campbell said she talked with Nancy about her background and worked with her to help her decide to focus on the code enforcement program.

"We talked about what classes she would be taking, and which program was the best for her situation," Campbell said. "She was really eager and determined. She asked a lot of questions and was really on top of it."

Campbell said the Business and Career Education Department at the college also has a job developer to help students to get internships and connect with employers. Many of the instructors also work in the industry, providing more networking opportunities for students.

"There's a just a lot of great support from our department to make sure students are successful to reach their goals," Campbell said.

Within a few months of graduating from the program this year, Nancy was hired as a code enforcement associate with the city of Santa Ana. She works in the field and in the office.

THRIVING IN ADVERSITY

ATHLETICS

The 2020-21 Santiago Canyon College athletic seasons were greatly affected by COVID-19, but the exceptional faculty and staff adapted to the changing standards and safety protocols. Subsequently, all sport seasons were condensed and moved into the Spring semester.

Athletes, coaches, and support staff were a constant support for the SCC athletes. District and campus leadership also reinforced our student-athletes' efforts by choosing in-person participation to cheer on our students.

Ultimately, some teams were unable to compete due to lack of venue availability, others had few competitions, yet all were able to return to campus and engage in various levels of activity. Overall, the resilience of our student-athletes definitely shined.

The perseverance of the SCC athletes was exemplified by two of our student-athletes who received Character Champion Awards:

MIRANDA "MIMI" DIAZ-CASARRUBI

a won for her participation in the women's soccer program

BRANDON GREEN

won for his outstanding perseverance and endeavors as part of our basketball team



VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

Through its Veterans Resource Center (VRC), SCC continues its commitment to providing best-in-class services for veterans, service members and their families by incorporating enhanced service options and streamlining available resources.

In the 2020-2021 school year, the VRC increased its tutoring services as well as greater student access to their case managers. Additionally, SCC has tripled the number of available hours for veterans to meet with a case manager, an essential service for veterans as they are required to have their classes certified to receive their benefits. One unique service offered by VRC is the placement with peer mentors who assist student veterans with navigating systems within Veterans Affairs.

In 2020-2021 Santiago Canyon College was selected for the 2021-2022 Military Friendly® School Gold-Tier Level distinction for its services to students who are veterans or active-duty members, and their families.

According to Military Friendly®, this distinction is the leading trademarked standard that measures an organization's level of commitment and success in creating opportunities and positive outcomes for members of the military community. Institutions that are designated as Military Friendly® are in good federal standing and have met, or exceeded, benchmarks for recruitment, retention, advancement, support and job placement of veterans.



NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

FORENSICS

The Santiago Canyon College (SCC) Forensics program continued its noteworthy achievements, without exception, during the challenging year. More than twelve awards were secured for non-medaling finalists in all events, and students competed in seven tournaments. Forensics students successfully garnered several awards in various events:

- SCC Forensics were the 2020 Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association spring champions. Students won multiple individual gold and silver medals in debate, interpretive, and platform speaking. The achievements were secured in several tournaments: The Warm-up, Crossman Invite, Watson-Lancer annual invite, PSCFA Spring Champs, Online National Championship, and the Cool-off.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS FALL 2020: COLLEGE OF THE CANYONS MUN CONFERENCE

- Aidan Kato won Outstanding Delegate
- Ranim Labanieh won Honorable Mention

NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS SPRING 2021: NEW YORK CONFERENCE

- Top team award was won for Outstanding Delegation, award for Japan
- Top individual award for Outstanding Delegate, awarded to Max Newman
- Outstanding Delegate, awarded to Brianna Bellis
- Outstanding Delegate, awarded to Rebekah Aguilar
- Outstanding Delegate awarded to Micah Paulk
- Aidan Kato was selected to serve as the chair for UNIDO

VISUAL ARTS

- SCC Art Gallery reopened on September 2 with a show featuring artists XCES entitled "Inner-City Product: Reload"

SOCIOLOGY

- Erika Gutierrez, SCC Ethnic Studies faculty, successfully partnered with the SCC noncredit Inmate Education Program and Project Rise to pilot credit classes in juvenile hall that serve incarcerated young adults.

FACTS AT A GLANCE



SCC'S HISTORY

In 1985, Santiago Canyon College (then called the Rancho Santiago Orange campus) opened its doors to about 2,500 students on its 82-acre campus. The college became independently accredited by the ACCJC in January of 2000. Santiago Canyon College recent facilities improvement and expansion include a new humanity building, athletics and aquatics center, science center, library building, student services/classroom building, maintenance and operations center, parking lots, and soccer and softball fields, thanks to bond Measure E, passed by voters in 2002.

	FALL 2020	SPRING 2021
CREDIT	11,512	10,290
NON-CREDIT	4,893	3,852

	FTES 2019-2020
CREDIT	9,418
NON-CREDIT	1,908

2020-2021 AWARDS

ASSOCIATE DEGREES

928

CERTIFICATES (CREDIT AND NON-CREDIT)

2,402

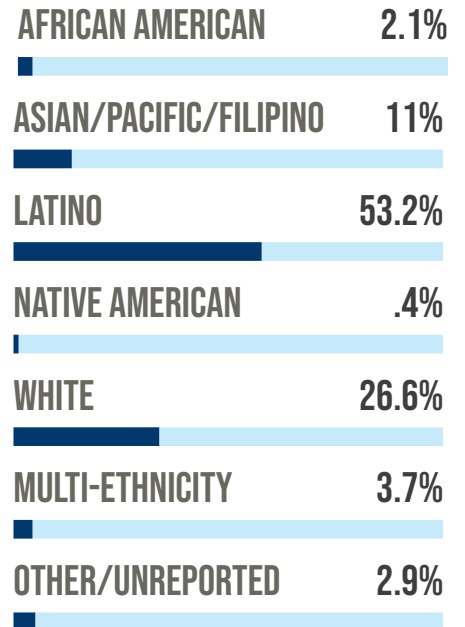
ASSOCIATE DEGREES FOR TRANSFER

627

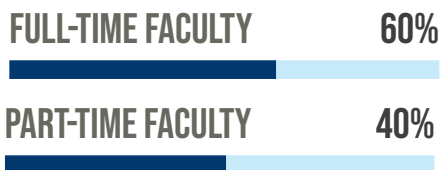
ADULT HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS

47

SCC STUDENTS

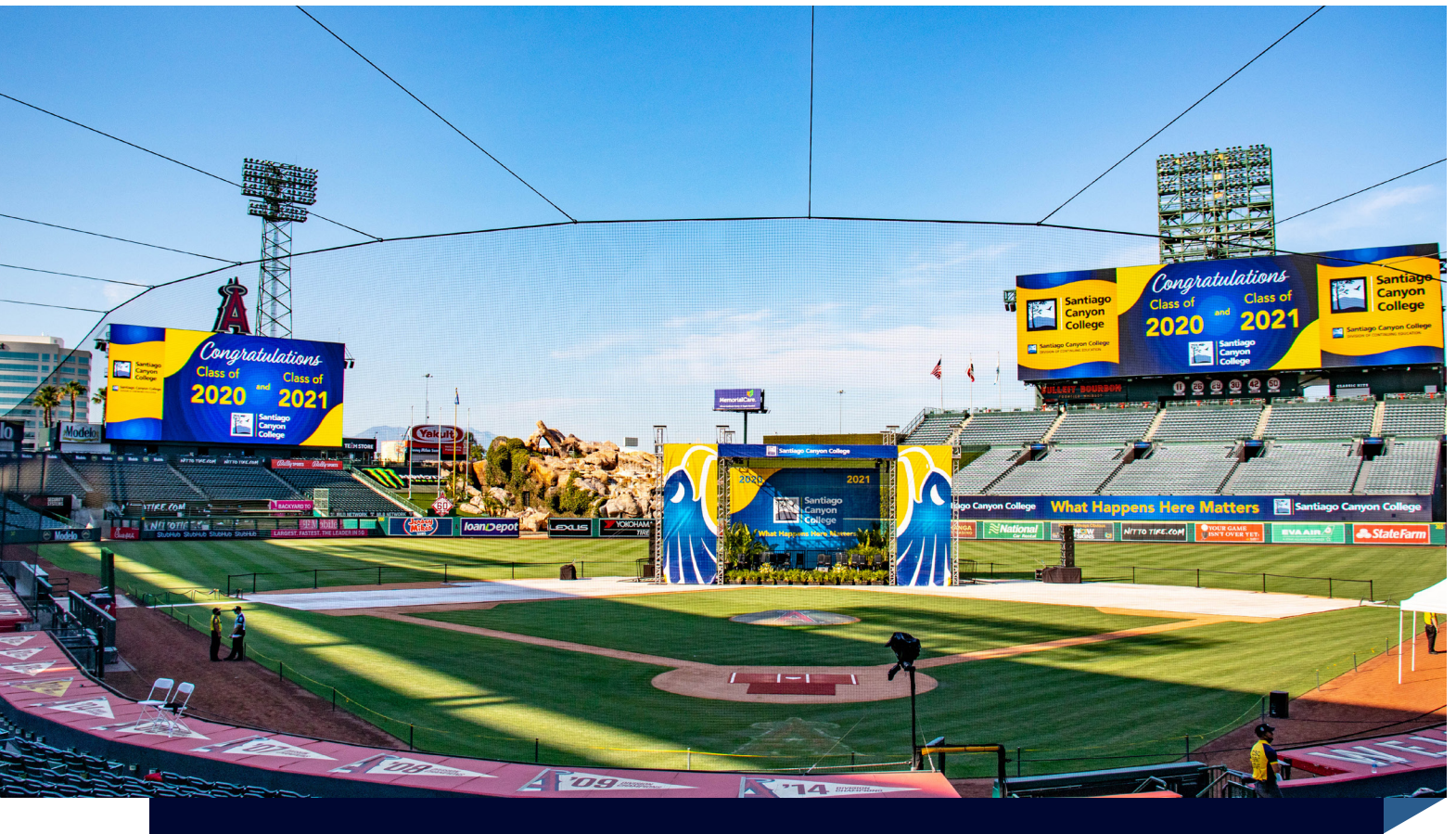


CREDIT INSTRUCTION TAUGHT BY



RECOGNIZED BY THE CHRONICLE OF HIGHER EDUCATION AS A GREAT COLLEGE TO WORK FOR INSTITUTION FOR SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR.

- Ranked among the top 1% Community Colleges in the nation by College Choice.
- Recognized as a Military Friendly® college.
- Identified as a Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI) committed to serving a diverse student population.
- Sponsors a range of co-curricular student activities beyond the classroom including Associated Student Government, Model United Nations and Forensics (Speech and Debate)
- Engages students through a vibrant Honors Program across multiple disciplines, whose students transfer to top universities.
- Home to national, state and local award winning sports teams that compete in the Orange Empire Conference.
- Offers the only comprehensive Survey/Mapping Sciences program among Orange County community colleges.
- Directs the state's largest trade's apprenticeship program.
- Offers one of the state's largest adult education programs, administered through the Orange Education Center, offered at 26 convenient locations throughout Anaheim Hills, Garden Grove, Orange, and Villa Park.
- World class International Student Program to meet the needs of students visiting on an F-1 visa.
- Offers, through the Community Education Program, a year-round educational and recreational schedule of classes to suit all ages.



2021 COMMENCEMENT

Santiago Canyon College (SCC) proudly held its 22nd Annual Commencement Ceremony Monday, June 14, 2021 at Angel Stadium in Anaheim. It was a spectacular event that took place in-person and honored 54 noncredit graduates and 505 credit graduates from the 2020 and 2021 classes. More than 3,500 attendees were present to support their graduates.

The memorable event included keynote addresses from the Rancho Santiago Community College District (RSCCD) Board President and Chancellor. Graduates were the primary focus, and their images were projected onto the stadium large-screen

video to ensure families could see their graduate with prominence as their names were read.

In June 2020, Santiago Canyon College virtually conducted its commencement ceremony, similar to other schools and colleges, in response to COVID-19 restrictions. Notwithstanding, RSCCD promised the graduating class of 2020 that they would be invited to participate, in-person, at the next possible opportunity. Fortunately, by June 2021 Orange County had moved into a less-restrictive COVID-19 safety tier that allowed SCC to conduct the in-person ceremony at Angels Stadium.

“The opportunity to offer an in-person ceremony and showcase our students’ hard work and dedication to their studies was incredibly timely and very welcome in a landscape that was challenging for many,” said Santiago Canyon College 2020 Interim President Jose Vargas.

This was the first time in the history of Santiago Canyon College that commencement was held offsite. The event culminated with a surprise fireworks display, thousands and smiling faces, and a memory that will last a lifetime.



A TRANSFER STUDENT'S JOURNEY TO DELOITTE



Sitting where she is now at a Big Four accounting firm in Costa Mesa, it comes as a surprise to hear Brittney Nolivaiko MPAC '18 admit she was uncertain about admittance to UCI. "At the time, I thought if I could get into a UC, that would be really big for me," she says. "It was my goal, and UCI, with its prestige and reputation, was my top choice." As

a Santiago Canyon College (SCC) transfer student, Nolivaiko was accepted and graduated in 2013 with two bachelor's degrees: one in psychology and social behavior and the other in criminology, law and society. Two years later, she returned to UCI and earned a Master in Professional Accountancy (MPAc) from the Merage School in 2018. Today, Nolivaiko is an external audit and assurance senior at Deloitte, and her career has expanded quickly in the three years since she joined the firm. "I landed a job at Deloitte through the MPAC program," she says. "The School hosts all kinds of social events, seminars and on-campus interviews with the firms in the area, and Deloitte recruits directly from the Merage School." "So, honestly, I would not have had this opportunity if I hadn't been in Merage's MPAC program." The UCI MPAC Pathway Program Is Designed for Transfer Students A new partnership between SCC and the Merage School helps students like Nolivaiko interested in pursuing accounting careers. The UCI MPAC Pathway program comprises a 2+2+1 course of study: two years at SCC followed by two years at any undergraduate university and a final year studying within the Merage School's Master of Professional Accountancy program. "One thing that stood out the most during our admissions interview with Brittney was her genuine determination to complete a graduate degree," says Burt Slusher, director of recruitment and admissions for the specialty master's programs, who sees a similar resolve in students throughout the community college system. "This new program maps a clear route to a master's that looks beyond the traditional four-year degree path." Hard Work and Tenacity Pays Off "I wasn't the greatest student in high school," says Nolivaiko, but she did understand that college was an important next step and enrolled at SCC. "I was the first in my immediate family to go to college, and I didn't have a lot of help in

that arena, so I had to figure it out myself." For four years, she lived on her own, took extra classes to make up for what she missed in high school, worked two jobs and earned an associate's degree in 2011. "It took longer than the typical two-year transfer student," she says. It was a tough journey, but one that has paid dividends in her career. After earning her bachelor's degrees, she took a job at Lazy Dog restaurant's corporate offices in the accounting department, but she didn't yet realize where she was headed professionally. "I wanted to give real estate a try," she says. "I did that for two years and built a lot of social skills, but there was not enough stability." "So, I took a good, long, hard look at everything I had done up to then, and I knew from my time at Lazy Dog that I liked accounting, but I didn't want to sit in an office all day. Turns out my audit career meshes the work I enjoyed at Lazy Dog and the social interaction I appreciated in real estate." MPAC Balances a Career MPAC's one-year program, her deep affection for UCI and the support she received during her undergrad years took Nolivaiko back to her alma mater. "Everyone I knew who went to the Merage School had a great experience, and the School has a good success rate with their students obtaining jobs." Her current role at Deloitte is the "heart of the engagement" within her department's high-level audit of private and public companies. "I manage the whole project, which means I train staff, delegate work up to managers and partners, and make sure the entire audit is moving forward. It requires good communication with team members and the clients," she says. "This whole industry moves so quickly. It never gets boring or stagnant. Just when you think you've mastered it, they bring you something you've never seen before, and that keeps it exciting." Her ascension within the company is due in large part to her "unconventional" path to accounting. Through remarkable self-initiative, she brought an understanding of psychology and the law to her MPAC studies, which in turn taught her the language of business that launched her accounting career. While her journey was indirect, she says, it was the right path: "Over the years, I've learned that your life and interests take you where they are supposed to take you."

* Story written by Lauri McLaughlin, UCI Paul Merage School of Business. June 30, 2021.



STUDENT EQUITY BRINGING STUDENT SUCCESS

Santiago Canyon College (SCC) recognizes the importance of reducing equity gaps for historically marginalized student groups. The Office of Student Equity and Success, along with support from the Student Success and Equity Committee and the campus community, has worked hard to create programs and services that directly address the needs of these students and to reduce barriers to their success.

Programs and committee work specifically addressed identifying equity gaps that needed to be mitigated and resolved. The SCC Food Pantry, Umoja Program, and the Equity Core Teams are examples of such work. The Hawk's Nest Food Pantry was established to support all SCC students, credit and non-credit, to ensure their academic potential, creativity, personal and professional growth was unhindered by providing free and nutritious food. This mission quickly grew when the need for services grew. The Basic Needs Center was also established and offers students

with the option of CalFRESH enrollment, on and off-campus service referral, and housing assistance.

SCC's Umoja program is a community gathering space for African American / Black, and other students to come together to honor and celebrate Black Excellence, and discuss issues that impact student learning and the African American / Black community. Program benefit include individual academic counseling, books, learning communities, program space, food and workshops.

The Equity Core Teams are made up of thirteen faculty members that have been trained in cultural humility and equity mindfulness. Faculty worked on their own biases in order to better serve students, and have therefore adjusted their instruction, classrooms and syllabi to reflect an equity focus. Workshops were developed to train colleagues in their departments and divisions on the same topics in order to imbed equity and inclusivity into the fabric of SCC's culture.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCC FOUNDATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Fiscal year 2020-2021 was one of the most challenging periods for the SCC Foundation in its 21-year history bringing many disruptions to our institution than ever before. When COVID-19 hit dramatically, we saw first-hand how working together can keep us strong. Faculty and staff geared up for concerted efforts to continue offering classes with online technology and making themselves available to students as much as possible. With generous support from the community and ongoing donations through SCC's multiple ways of giving, the Foundation was able to provide more than \$133,789.50 for scholarships, faculty and program funding, and student services.

We're pleased to share that your support helped SCC rank among the Top 1% of community colleges in the nation; we were recognized for being one of the Great Places to Work; and, SCC received the Gold Level award for being a Military Friendly School, which along with a \$15,000 grant from the Stanley W. Ekstrom Foundation, supported the Veterans Resource Center for our military student heroes.

Alongside volunteers and supporters who ensured that students received the resources they needed during this very disruptive year, SCC is thankful for the team that formerly ran the Foundation: Past Vice President of Student Services Syed Rizvi, his Executive Assistant Gayle Sapak and former Development Coordinator Karen Bustamante. They retired at the end of fiscal year 2021, and we want to wish them well in retirement. Each person involved contributed to the success of our students during their pandemic-related struggles. Our board of directors hopes that giving back through the Foundation brings fulfillment and a great sense of optimism about our future.

On behalf of the students, faculty and staff of SCC, thank you for your continued commitment to our community. We look forward to what 2021-2022 has in store for us and anticipate many students returning to campus in great numbers. Thanks to you, we will be ready for them!

With much appreciation,

Ruth

Ruth Cossio-Muniz

Interim Executive Director

SCC Office of College Advancement



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