



PHOTO BY DREW A. KELLEY, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Denise Foley, professor of biology at Santiago Canyon College, is serving as acting dean of the college's Business and Career Education Division.

MOTIVATION

ACTING DEAN OF BUSINESS, CAREER EDUCATION AIMS TO EMPOWER STUDENTS

Denise Foley wears many hats

By Larry Urish,
contributing writer

As a long-time professor of biology at Santiago Canyon College, Denise Foley has spent years working in a microscopic world. It's been a passion of hers long before she started teaching at SCC in 2006.

However, it's in the macro world, a world inhabited by people we see and influence, where Foley has followed another, more far-reaching passion.

"I just love teaching," Foley said. "As a senior undergrad teaching assistant, I was in charge of a lab section in a freshman lab course, but I really was

the instructor. It was fun. I knew I'd be going into teaching."

Along with microbiology lecture and lab coursework, Foley developed SCC's microbiology program. She concurrently served as the biotechnology program coordinator while co-chairing the Biology Department.

"I like helping students understand things," Foley said. "It's motivating to know this role involves helping students to achieve their goals."

The higher-ups at SCC noticed, honoring Foley with the college's Full-Time Faculty Excellence Award in 2014.

From a broader perspective, her involvement in so many SCC efforts that empower students to learn and transition into the world of work makes her

uniquely qualified for her new position: acting dean of the college's Business and Career Education Division, which she began in February.

Along with having served as supervisor of all the supplemental instructor leaders who work with SCC biology courses, Foley is on the Education and Master Planning Task Force; was on SCC's Accreditation Team during the last round of the accreditation process; and for two years served as a member of the college's Speaker Symposium Committee.

But it is her key contributions in incorporating the precepts of a program known as Guided Pathways — and ensuring that these precepts be adopted, stressed and expanded at SCC — that

most closely aligns with Foley's commitment to students.

Utilized by the California Community Colleges system, Guided Pathways is designed to help students move toward their goals by establishing clear direction and reducing barriers to success.

It's composed of four "pillars," Foley said: (1) Clarify the path — faculty make clear what a typical two-year course schedule will entail; (2) Enter the path — assistance with the application and onboarding process; (3) Stay on the path — all manner of academic and personal assistance; and (4) Ensure learning — making the classroom experience the best it can be.

"Declaring a major isn't good enough

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PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Nga Pham is executive director of District Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at Rancho Santiago Community College District.

RESEARCH

Analyzing reams of data to help decision-makers meet students' needs

Nga Pham, her staff look at the present and into the future

By Greg Hardesty,
contributing writer

Life may be like a box of chocolates.

So, too, is data, says Nga Pham, executive director of District Research, Planning and Institutional Effectiveness at Rancho Santiago Community College District.

"You never know what you're going to get until you bite into it," Pham said.

As far as data crunching goes, Pham has been chewing on information for the RSCCD for nearly 35 years — the last 24 years as head of the RPIE office.

She started with the community college district nearly 40 years ago when she was a student at Santa Ana College. While there, she worked part time as a financial aid adviser for incoming students.

Back then, the district's second col-

lege — Santiago Canyon College — was just the two-building Orange satellite campus of Santa Ana College. SCC became an independently accredited college in January 2000.

Evolving needs

Pham's long history with the district makes her the ideal go-to person for faculty, administrators, and others who need to stay on top of economic and societal trends — both locally and throughout the region.

A key goal is to keep offering the most ideal mix of courses. Things Pham and her team look at include high school enrollment, employment trends, housing income, and much more.

Pham and her staff members, working with directors of research at the district's two colleges, also are involved in producing accountability reports to

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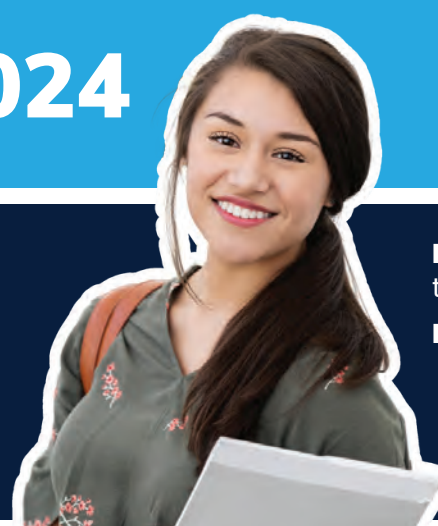
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COMMUNITY

Annual event aims to show that science can be fun

Engaging students with STEAM projects

By Jenelyn Russo, contributing writer

In celebration of all things science, Santiago Canyon College is hosting its annual Community Science Night from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. April 19. Open to the public, this free event offers the opportunity for students to explore ways to engage with STEAM – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math.

The on-campus event will feature more than 50 planned exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities that incorporate a variety of interactive STEAM concepts. While the activities are primarily geared for elementary and middle school students, SCC's Community Science Night is open to all ages.

"We want the community to know that anyone can do science," said SCC associate professor and Earth Science Department chair Angela Daneshmand. "It's really great to see grandparents, parents and children engage with the activities at our event together. There is something for everyone in the family to enjoy."

Last year's theme was "Science Night Strikes Back" as the event returned for the first time following the COVID-19 pandemic. The "Star Wars" theme was such a success that Luke Skywalker, Han Solo and the Stormtroopers will be back again this year to welcome students and their families, with a possible appearance by Darth Vader himself.

From marshmallow launchers and optical illusions to Lego building and boat design contests, each activity and demonstration featured at Community Science Night is geared toward introducing students to STEAM disciplines in fun and interactive ways. Many of the activities include items for the kids to take home, all with the goal of demystifying science and making it more approachable.

"Elementary school is really when students either love science or they get

scared of science," Daneshmand said. "This could be due to the teachers or just their experience with the content, and so I think that it's so important to engage their interest (in science) at a young age in a fun way."

Longtime partners with SCC in Community Science Night, Orange Unified School District will host several of the activities and demonstrations. In a newer partnership, Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District will be in attendance as well and will host several activities to inspire students to design and innovate.

Student volunteers from SCC and Cal State Fullerton will be on hand to help facilitate various interactive experiments, with many of the students on the path to becoming future science teachers.

"This is a great service learning event for the college students," Daneshmand said, "and it serves as one of their capstone projects for the year."

Local community partners that will host activities and demonstrations include the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Irvine Ranch Water District, Tucker Wildlife Sanctuary, Amigos de Bolsa Chica, Huntington Beach Wetlands Conservancy and the UCLA Department of Earth, Planetary and Space Sciences.

In addition to all things science, the night will include live music and food trucks on site for guests to purchase and enjoy dinner and beverages while they explore.

Introducing students to STEAM concepts at a young age can not only spark curiosity but can also lay the groundwork for critical thinking, problem-solving and the development of analytical skills, all of which are essential for success in any career field, Daneshmand said.

But there is no doubt that STEAM education remains at the forefront, as real-world applications in the areas of technology, environmental sustainability and health care continue to be in high demand in today's job market, she said.

Whether the kids want to explore the greenhouse and plant some seeds, try their hand at animal dissection or learn more about planets, stars and galaxies far, far away, Community Science Night aims to instill a love of learning and make science fun.

"Some students think science is scary, and they put off taking science until the very end," Daneshmand said. "So, we hope we can reach out to those students sooner and show them that it's not scary, it's actually a lot of fun. I think that makes a huge difference in the number of science majors that we see and goes toward filling those open positions in STEAM careers and industry fields in the future."




PHOTOS COURTESY OF ANGELA DANESHMAND

Santiago Canyon College's upcoming Science Night encourages students to engage in STEAM – science, technology, engineering, art and math.



The annual event will feature more than 50 exhibits, demonstrations and hands-on activities for all ages. Photos from a previous Science Night.



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PHOTO BY DREW A. KELLEY, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

From left are Kamal A. Hamid, Merwa Hamid, Ihsan A. Hamid, Dourdana Hamid, Imran A. Hamid, Sharif A. Hamid, Safa Hamid, Irfan A. Hamid and Nizam A. Hamid.

COMMUNITY

Alum is one of 7 siblings to attend Santiago Canyon College

All furthered their education

By Nicole Gregory,
contributing writer

Merwa Hamid's parents always impressed upon her and her siblings the importance of education. So, it's not surprising that she, along with her five brothers and sister all did well in high school and then headed to college.

But what is unique is that all seven attended Santiago Canyon College and were so involved in campus clubs and Associated Students Government that the entire family is still well-known throughout the SCC community.

Today, Hamid, 23, is a recent biology major graduate of UC Irvine, where she transferred from SCC.

Born in Afghanistan, she came to America with her family when she was 9. Her father had been a businessman and mayor of a city in Afghanistan and had to start his life over in the U.S. The family first settled in Riverside County then moved to Orange County, where her father began to build a new small business.

When Hamid's older brother Nizam started at SCC and shared his enthusiasm about the college with his family

each day, "we all followed his lead," Hamid said.

One after the other, the siblings graduated high school and started their college studies at SCC.

Finding a home

Soon, the campus became a familiar place for the entire family.

"The opportunity for my siblings and I to attend college together really sweetened our experience," Hamid said. "Being involved in different clubs and organizations really diversified our involvement. The interconnection between our professors facilitated a sense of community — my instructors knew my siblings through me, and vice versa."

The SCC community welcomed the Hamid family. "It was just such a friendly environment, and it's so easy to get along with everybody," Hamid said. "The resources they have for first-generation and immigrant students helped us so much and are instrumental to so many students' academic journeys. It is a school that wants students to succeed."

To attend college with her sister and brothers was a joy. "For me, being in a school with my siblings felt like home," she said.

Hamid and her siblings reached out to newer students to make them feel at home, too. "In any new club or organization we joined, we made it an emphasis to reach out to those who seemed shy or

isolated. We wanted to engage with them and make them feel welcomed and like this was their home."

Leaving their mark

Before graduating, they made an even bigger effort to help others. "We wanted to leave this friendly and family-oriented mark on the school. So, we would actively participate in different clubs and activities, and get involved in activities that we weren't involved in the first year or so."

Whenever they encountered newcomers, they shared insights about programs and opportunities, providing guidance on application processes and access to resources.

In addition to joining the Model United Nations club, which enabled her to travel to New York and visit the U.N., Hamid founded the Muslim Student Association on campus.

"I saw that Muslim student representation was not so much there, and I aspired to challenge stereotypes and foster understanding about Islam. Recognizing the significant Muslim presence on campus, I believed there would be interest in such a club."

She was surprised when their first meeting attracted more non-Muslim attendees than Muslims, which showed her the campus community's eagerness to support and learn from one another.

The club put on informational events

such as the meaning of Ramadan and explaining the practice of wearing a hijab.

Still connected

All of Hamid's siblings transferred from SCC to four-year colleges. Three have continued to graduate school, one is working as a CPA, and Hamid plans to continue to work and do research in the UCI biology labs.

She and her family still return to SCC to visit. "My brother Imran and I visited recently, and stepping back onto campus feels like returning home. I hold dear every memory and connection associated with it. The familiarity extended beyond just myself; since my parents attended all of our award ceremonies and conferences, it made them recognizable figures to many. Their absence was always noted, with questions about their whereabouts becoming a common occurrence, like 'Where are your parents? Are they coming today?'"

Hamid praises her parents for the support they provided and is grateful for all the help she received from John Hernandez, former president and vice president of student services, and Syed Rizvi, dean of support services. Hamid also remembers the special support she received from Joseph Alonzo and professors Narges Rabii-Rakin, Cale Crammer, Stephan Adams and Amanda Henry, all of whom went out of their way to offer help and encouragement.

Pham

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make sure the district remains in compliance with state regulations.

The groups meet monthly to assess what data is needed and how it should be used.

The work of Pham and her colleagues is necessary for the district to fulfill its mission to provide quality educational programs and services that address the needs of the district's diverse students and communities — stakeholders whose needs always are evolving.

"Data is complicated — not just quantitative data, but information in general," Pham said. "That's why it's so critical to sift through all the data and share it with everyone to help them make their best, most informed decisions."

Student to administrator

Pham and several of her relatives in Vietnam immigrated to the United States when she was 7, after Saigon fell

in April 1975.

After deciding that an initial planned career in medicine wasn't for her, she enrolled in general education classes at Santa Ana College.

She became interested in business and ended up majoring in finance.

Pham then transferred to Cal State Fullerton in 1987 and graduated two years later with a degree in business administration.

By this time, she had been working at the college district part time for a few years.

In January 1990, after a short stint in the banking industry, Pham started working full time in the RSCCD research department.

Four years later, she earned a master's degree in public administration from Cal State Fullerton.

Pulling the numbers

Pham has been promoted through every position in the RSCCD research department all the way to the top, where she designs, conducts, and coordinates course and program evaluations and develops templates for faculty and staff to

use, among her other duties.

Say, for example, a faculty member wants to track students who were enrolled in a class to see how they have progressed through community college.

Pham and her colleagues can pull the numbers.

"One of the goals of our office," she said, "is to help administrators get their questions answered. We can build a visual dashboard of data for deans and faculty to analyze."

Many community college students juggle work and even their own families. Some drop out of classes only to return. Many come from challenging backgrounds with limited financial and other resources.

Pham and her team can, for example, examine data to see which students return to Santa Ana College or Santiago Canyon College and how they do.

One interesting fact: Research shows if a student takes English and math in his or her first year, they are more likely to be successful.

"They have more focus," Pham said. "If they don't have a focus, it's hard. If we just let them 'hang out' in college,

they're not going to be successful. Community college is such a big journey with so many opportunities."

Long-term plan

Pham's department is nearing completion of an eight-year roadmap for the district to make sure courses and subjects offered align with the RSCCD's goals and with those of the state.

For example, artificial intelligence and STEM classes are gaining in popularity, Pham says. Even manufacturing is making a comeback.

Pham loves the variety of her job.

"We come in every day with something in mind to finish, but we rarely do because data requests come to us all the time," she said. "But the variety of what we do is what keeps our job interesting. I think data is fun. Otherwise, I wouldn't have been involved in it for so long."

Pham knows her work is vital to RSCCD's mission.

"I really do believe what my team and I do here impacts students' outcomes," she said.

FAMILY

As SCC students, mother and son reach their goals together

Sharing knowledge to help each other

By Nicole Gregory
contributing writer

When circumstances caused Janette Solis Martinez and her son Jakob to be students at Santiago Canyon College at the same time, they took the opportunity to help each other get the most out of their education.

"My last year was his first year," said Solis Martinez, 41, who currently works at SCC as executive secretary to the vice president of Student Services.

The unusual situation was a result of the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Solis Martinez, a single mom, had been employed at a law firm for 20 years, where she'd worked her way up from file clerk to receptionist, to assistant, to managing the human resources department. When the pandemic hit, she was laid off, which devastated her.

"I had built a career from out of high school," she said. "I'm a first-generation American. What I learned from my parents was to work hard."

It didn't take her long to pivot. "I just picked myself back up, dusted myself off and was like, 'You know what? There's nothing to do. It's the pandemic. I'm going to go back to school.'"

She enrolled at SCC as a full-time student while Jakob was in high school.

"I was taking AP calculus," Jakob Martinez recalled. When he saw how his mother struggled with her class in business calculus, he offered to tutor her, and she gladly accepted. "I was teaching her math concepts."

This was a lifesaver for his mother, who hadn't taken a math class for many years. With her son's help, she became more comfortable with the subject and eventually began thinking about a move into financial management.

Solis Martinez was able to return her son's favor by directing him to the many resources she discovered at SCC, in particular the Promise grant.

"I encouraged him to sign up because I saw that he was eligible," she said.

The Promise grant is for California students wishing to attend a community college directly from high school. Jakob Martinez applied for and received the grant. His tuition at SCC was covered for two years and then eventually extended for a third year because he was a STEM student with a high GPA.

"Early on, I was required to meet with a counselor and plan out an educational pathway," Jakob Martinez said. "I didn't



PHOTO BY DREW A. KELLEY, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, Jakob and Janette Solis Martinez ended up attending Santiago Canyon College at the same time.

know what direction I wanted to head." When his counselor suggested engineering, he responded enthusiastically.

His mother also told him about SCC's Math Success Center. Again, Jakob Martinez took full advantage of this resource.

"I would go there with friends, and we'd study, study, study, perfecting our math skills," he said. "There were professors and tutors there to guide you. For three semesters, I really lived there."

Every night after school, mother and son had long conversations — Jakob as a STEM student and Janette as a business student — comparing their experiences and talking about what they each were learning.

Solis Martinez applied to Cal State Fullerton's College of Business and Economics in 2022 and received her acceptance letter on her son's 19th birthday.

"It really touched me because I was

a 19-year-old when I was pregnant with him, so it just felt like full circle," she said. "He just looked at me in the eyes and said 'Mom, you did it.'"

She is a student at Cal State Fullerton but has taken this semester off to work at SCC, an environment she finds exciting, inclusive and supportive.

Now it's almost her son's turn to head to a four-year college. While he waits to hear from the last two universities he's applied to, he's getting ready for a 10-week Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship in Earth and Environmental Sciences in Stockholm, Sweden, a program sponsored by Chapman University.

At 21, Jakob Martinez is looking forward to his summer in Stockholm. At the same time, he appreciates all the ways SCC helped him along his academic journey. In particular, he praises the SCC Trio program that allowed him to tour university campuses on the East

Coast, visit New York City and visit universities in San Diego.

"It's a really exciting time right now as he's getting ready to graduate," Solis Martinez said. She credits SCC for helping her family move ahead with their lives — and this includes her teenage daughter Lilly who, while still in high school, is already taking classes at SCC.

"This experience at SCC has given me the opportunity to help provide navigation for my children," Solis Martinez said. "It's allowed me as a parent to take the next step. I had no college experience before (coming to SCC). My parents taught me how to work hard, and that's where I've always found my success."

"At SCC, with all the community that is provided here, there's so much empowerment, and the teachers are so personable that it just allowed me to take in so much and tap into this new resource in my life that I hadn't had before."

RSCCD BOARD

David Crockett embraces his elected role: Do something, be great!

RSCCD Communications

In 2020, facing a global pandemic and a national cry to address inequality and injustice, David Crockett entered the race for a seat on the Rancho Santiago Community College Board of Trustees as a first-time candidate. He campaigned to strengthen our ties with local businesses and partners on vocational training programs and internships.

He also wanted to ensure that RSCCD continued to be a provider of affordable and high-quality education. To Crockett's surprise, he won the race and secured more votes than the second and third-place finishers combined.

Entering his fourth year on the RSCCD Board of Trustees, Crockett is currently one of the few Black-elected officials in Orange County and the only one in higher education. "I benefited from the affordable and quality education community colleges provided, and I am dedicated to ensuring that future generations have the same opportunities," said Crockett.

Growing up as one of 14 children in Matewan, W. Va., education held paramount importance in Crockett's family. His father was a coal miner, enduring hours of physical hardship to support the family, while his mother raised the children and managed the household. Their sacrifices and dedication left a profound impact on Crockett, shaping his values and sense of responsibility. His father, actively involved in community service, instilled in him a strong sense of duty and continuously encouraged him to "Do something — Be great!"

Upon relocating to Santa Ana in 2010, Crockett translated his father's guidance into action, becoming deeply involved in serving the local community. His innate warmth and approachability endeared him to individuals from all walks of life, transcending barriers of race, occupation, income, and social status. Describing his ability to connect with people as

his "superpower," Crockett emphasized his commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding across differences, leading with a spirit of empathy and compassion.

Nevertheless, Crockett remains humble, recognizing that his accomplishments, both personal and political, are deeply intertwined with the steadfast support and inspiration from his wife, family, and friends. They have been his rock, offering encouragement and guidance, enabling him to pursue his aspirations with determination and resilience.

Through their unwavering support, Crockett can easily carry his superpower into the RSCCD boardroom as he takes on the responsibility of stewardship of taxpayer's dollars. "I care about the people in this District and am committed to pursuing programs to serve our community while being fiscally responsible. By doing so, I can do my part to help families prepare for living wage and above jobs in this ever-changing environment."

As an elected official in Orange County, Crockett offers advice for anyone wanting to run for public office, even against difficult odds:

Develop a proper campaign and communicate with a vast audience.

Understand the OC attitude. What works in LA may not work in the OC.

YOYO — You Own Your Own. Cultivate a welcoming and inclusive spirit. It's the only way to get people to follow and support you.

Show the value you bring to the office and then "Go for it!"

Crockett is heeding his father's advice to get involved and "do something." As a leader in the Black community and an advocate for the middle class, he is fulfilling the second half of his dad's wish, "be great!"



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

RSCCD Board of Trustees member David Crockett

FINANCIAL AID

Santiago Canyon College Foundation increases scholarship funding

RSCCD Communications

One of the key goals of the Santiago Canyon College Foundation is to raise funds supporting students directly through scholarships for fees and books.

Thanks to the generous donations through the Foundation's financial support network, the Foundation can share a marked increase of scholarship funding to students.

"We increased the scholarship offerings and are able to fund a lot more scholarships for students this cycle," said Interim Foundation Executive Director Kathy White.

White said in addition to identifying previously unused internal funding sources, the Foundation grew its donor base and increased funding.

"We were able to offer three new large scholarship funds, one for First Generation college students, one for our underrepresented students with \$10,000 funded by Farmers & Merchants Bank," White said. "Another new scholarship was created from a \$25,000 (5-year) pledge by one of our newest board members for students pursuing a career in medicine. We were also able to convince some donors to increase their donation amounts, which was successful."

In 2023, the Foundation was able to award 154 scholarships with \$85,000. Thus far, the Foundation has funded about \$137,000 and White said she's hoping to reengage former financial supporters to come back.

"If we can get some of those large donations (back), we will reach double the amount of last year, but my goal is to be able to offer \$250,000 for our 25th Anniversary," she said.

Foundation scholarships are open to current SCC students, enrolled in six or more units, with a grade-point-average of at least 2.0. Visit sccollege.edu/scholarship to apply.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

SCC President Jeannie G. Kim and Betty Valencia congratulate Alexandra Paul, center, on her scholarship awards.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

SCC, Korean American Chamber of Commerce partner on workforce development

RSCCD Communications

Members of the Santiago Canyon College President's Cabinet and SCC's Division of Continuing Education signed a memorandum of understanding with the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County on Feb. 29.

The ceremony, complete with banners and an exchange of signed documents between SCC President Dr. Jeannie G. Kim and KACCOC President Jim Koo, took place during the chamber's February meeting at the Buena Park Doubletree Hotel.

The MOU calls for collaboration with SCC providing Workplace Skills Enhancement Training to the more than 100 businesses that comprise the membership of the KACCOC and thousands of Korean American businesses in Orange County.

The goal is to provide continuing education to both KACCOC members as well as nonmember businesses in Orange County in support of KACCOC's "Outreach Project," as a leading community support organization.

"The focus of our Continuing Education programs is workforce development," Kim told the gathering of approximately 75 chamber members. "We were created to help support you in your businesses whether it is to grow or optimize, by helping to educate and upskill your workforce."

To learn more about the Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County, visit <https://kaccoc.org>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE KOREAN AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF ORANGE COUNTY

KACCOC President Jim Koo and SCC President Jeannie G. Kim at the signing ceremony

Foley

FROM PAGE 1

any more," said Foley, who for six years worked as the faculty facilitator to help push forward Guided Pathways' concepts to SCC. "Even just 10 years ago, an academic department offered a major, but nobody thought beyond that. Once you finish your degree, what does that lead to?"

She stressed that students should know walking in what's available when they walk out. "We're asking all programs to implement Guided Pathways. It's a work in progress."

Under Foley's leadership as acting dean of the Business and Career Education Division, Guided Pathways' four pillars will surely be incorporated to greater degrees at SCC, including the college's Career and Technical Education Division. CTE provides the academic, career-planning and support-services framework for programs that lead to careers in everything from accounting and business to code enforcement and water and wastewater technology.

Another CTE area of study, biotechnology, blends Foley's fascination with microbiology and her passion for helping ensure student success. For more than a decade, she's been a key player at OC Biotech Education, a collaboration between SCC, Irvine Valley College, Fullerton College and Santa Ana College. The program opens doors to a vast assortment of careers in biotechnology.

"There are a lot of different jobs in biotech," Foley said. "Some don't require a bachelor's degree; they require specialized skills. Others need higher

degrees. It runs the whole gamut."

The collaborative nature of OC Biotech greatly aids biotech students. "It's helpful on different levels," said Foley, who helped found the program and spearheaded its involvement with SCC in 2013. "Faculty can share best practices. And a student who needs one of the classes, but SCC isn't offering it that semester, may be able to take it at, say, Irvine Valley College."

One beneficiary of OC Biotech is Michael Chapman, project manager, project development for medical device manufacturing at Pro-Dex, Inc., an Irvine-based firm that designs and produces medical devices for the health care industry.

"Dr. Foley (along with professor Anson Lui; the two constituted 'my academic mom and dad') guided and mentored me, always stressing the industry standards required to succeed in biotech. These standards going forward aided my transition into the industry.

"Her goals and efforts were all geared toward my success," Chapman continued. "So, if I succeeded, she succeeded."

If Foley can provide just one nugget of advice, it's this: "Work hard but smart." It's embodied in so much of what she's been involved with in the macro world: award-winning teaching, Guided Pathways, CTE, OC Biotech and much, much more.



PHOTO BY DREW A. KELLEY, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Foley, a longtime professor of biology, first started teaching at SCC in 2006.

ON CAMPUS

Lt. Frank Prado: Guardian for the college's students and staff

RSCCD Communications

Southern California native Francisco "Frank" Prado's life has been a testament to dedication and service, rooted in his upbringing in the small community of El Modena, near Santiago Canyon College.

Prado's parents were part of the "Bracero" program, a U.S. Government-sponsored program that imported Mexican farm and railroad workers into the United States to fill agriculture shortages during World War II. At the time, it was the largest foreign worker program in U.S. history. These humble beginnings instilled a strong work ethic and a deep sense of community.

Prado's educational journey mirrored his local ties, attending Esplanade Elementary School, Santiago Junior High School, and graduating from El Modena High School. His formative years were filled with sports, including football and soccer, and a commitment to service as an altar server at La Purisima Catholic Church.

His law enforcement career spanned 27 years, and various roles with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, including assignments in custody operations, patrol operations in Lake Forest, and specialized units such as the South County Gang Enforcement Team and the Street Narcotics unit.

Despite the challenges and demands of law enforcement, Prado found the most rewarding moments in patrol operations, where he could directly impact and assist community members in need.

"Being able to do the right thing in those moments is what I believe is the true meaning of public service and what has been the most rewarding aspect of my career," said Prado.

In 2017, Prado embarked on a new chapter with the Rancho Santiago Community College District. Currently serving as a lieutenant assigned to SCC, Prado finds profound fulfillment in serving the college community. Reflecting on his role at SCC, Prado remarks "It gives me great satisfaction knowing that not only am I here to help keep them safe, but all the officers who work for District Safety and Security are here to do the same as well."

While integrating his commitment to service and community and the role of a law enforcement officer, Prado said, "Our mindset is not that of a warrior mentality, but instead we preach and practice the guardian philosophy making sure that we all do our part to make RSCCD a safe place for all who visit."



Lt. Frank Prado began working for RSCCD in 2017.

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