



OC REGISTER FILE PHOTO

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

## OUTREACH

# COMMUNITY SCIENCE NIGHT AIMS TO MAKE EDUCATION FUN FOR YOUNGER STUDENTS

## SCC, Orange Unified, organizations collaborate

By Larry Urish  
contributing writer

If the mere idea of learning about chemistry, biology or physics sends shivers down your spine, just imagine how exposure to these seemingly daunting subjects could affect young students. Santiago Canyon College will address this issue 5:30-8:30 p.m. Friday when it hosts Community Science Night.

Furnishing a vibrant assortment of interactive exhibits, live demonstrations and hands-on activities, the 19th annual event aims to make science fun for elementary and middle school students. The activities will be led by instructors from SCC and the Orange Unified School District, as well as those from a number of local organizations.

While young students benefit from

Community Science Night, kids of all ages enjoy the fun.

"Sometimes the parents like the activities even more than their children," said Rochelle Greenwald, a teacher on special assignment for Orange Unified specializing in Career Pathways and STEAM subjects (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). "For example, with the Lego stations, we have to remind them that this is for the kids."

While Orange Unified is Santiago Canyon College's primary Community Science Night partner, students and their families from throughout Orange County enjoy the annual evening.

"They come from a broader region of OC," said Angela Daneshmand, SCC associate professor and chair of the Earth Sciences Department. "Last year we had students from the Irvine School District,

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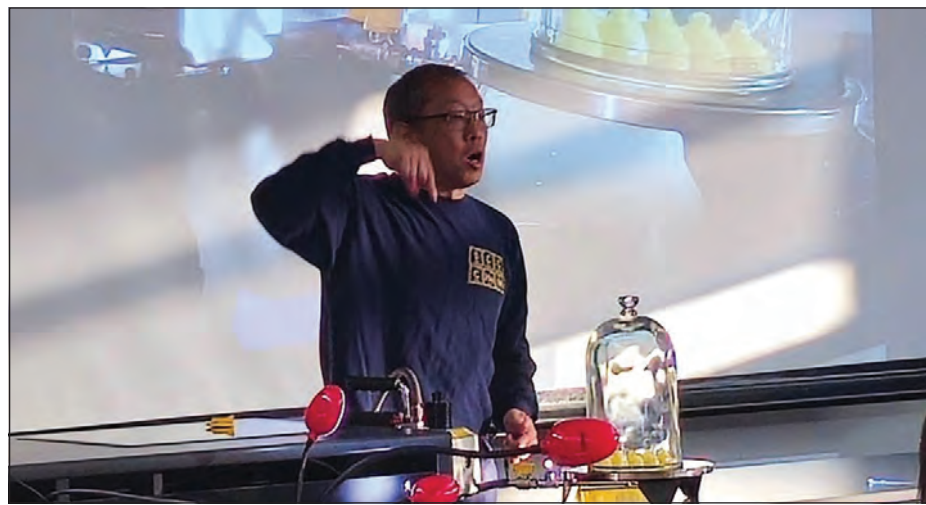


PHOTO COURTESY OF RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Santiago Canyon College professor Jeffrey Wada performs a "Science Magic Show" during a Community Science Night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN RUSSO

John Russo earned degrees in political science, psychology and real estate from SCC.

## VOCATION PATHWAY

# Multiple degrees helped launch graduate's career in real estate

## Russo puts emphasis on service over sales

By Brian Robin  
contributing writer

Every time Alana Gates turned around, there was John Russo's smiling, inquisitive face. If he wasn't in one of her real estate classes at Santiago Community College – and he was in six of them during his relentless march to associate degrees in political science, psychology and real estate – he was doing extra credit at an off-campus function. Unnecessary extra credit, as Gates was quick to point out, because Russo aced his six-pack of real estate courses.

And while Gates, the faculty chair and professor of real estate at SCC, got plenty of the Russo Experience, complete with detailed, probing questions and insightful responses to her lectures, she didn't get the Full Russo.

For that, you had to be a city of Orange citizen between 2018 and 2022, where you saw the gregarious Russo making the rounds as a mayoral or city council candidate. That "quite a journey," as Russo called it, led directly to his current journey – as a rising star in Orange County real estate. The 27-year-old Orange native parlayed his outgoing nature, instinctual savviness and SCC education into a promising career as a real estate agent.

"I had seen the same leadership and at the time, they were there longer than I had been alive. I gave it a shot and had some real great ideas," he said. "That was quite a journey. I learned how the world really operates, how relationships are important, how people's opinions and interests matter, how to shape a city in the future, and I learned about development."

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**ADVOCACY DAY**

# In Sacramento, SCC pushes for funds for vets services

RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College participated in the California Community Colleges Advocacy Day on April 7 in Sacramento.

Organized by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, the event brought together more than 50 participants across 10 community colleges to engage with state legislators on higher education priorities and promote the message: "Invest in California Community Colleges. Fuel the Economy. Build the Future."

SCC's delegation included Student Services Coordinator Adam McManamy, attending as advisor to the campus Student Veterans of America chapter, along with five SCC student veterans: Logan Joyce, Jake Vallejos, Tyler Rodriguez, Jen Jorgensen and Anthony Camargo. The group met with legislative offices to advocate for increased and equitable funding for Veterans Resource Centers.

During Advocacy Day, SCC student representatives met with the offices of members of the Assembly Jeff Gonzalez, Heather Hadwick, Avelino Valencia, and state Senators Steven Choi and Kelly Seyarto to share student experiences and priorities.

Santiago Canyon College serves more than 450 military-connected students, including veterans, active-duty service members, spouses, and dependents. However, the college's Veterans Resource Center receives approximately \$50,000 annually, an amount that does not reflect the full scope of need.

To better support military-connected students, the SCC students advocated for increased ongoing state funding for Veterans Resource Centers, recognition of the full military-connected student population in funding models and resources to support staffing, counseling, programming and student success.

More than 70% of SCC's veteran students identify as first-generation and low-income, making wraparound support critical. The college currently receives a federal TRIO Student Support Services Veterans grant that provides targeted assistance, but that funding may face uncertainty, advocates said.

"I am proud of the staff and students who represented Santiago Canyon College in this important advocacy effort," said LaKyshia Perez, associate dean of student services. "Their voices help ensure that the needs of our military-connected students remain part of critical conversations at the state level."



PHOTO COURTESY OF RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS  
A Santiago Canyon College delegation, including staff and student veterans, poses for a photo outside the California State Capitol on April 7 in Sacramento. The group participated in California Community Colleges Advocacy Day, meeting with legislators to advocate for increased funding and support for Veterans Resource Centers and military-connected students.


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**SUCCESS STORY**

# Environmental scientist: ‘Say yes to every opportunity’

SCC is foundation she built on, Rotschedl says

By Nicole Gregory  
contributing writer

Elizabeth Rotschedl, 26, an environmental scientist at the San Diego-based global consulting firm Tetra Tech, says her professors and opportunities provided at Santiago Canyon College gave her the confidence to forge a path to a meaningful career.

“I attribute a significant portion of my success to SCC and to the faculty and staff who invested in me early on,” she said. “The foundation they built — both academically and professionally — has carried through every stage of my career.”

Born in Fullerton and raised in Irvine, Rotschedl initially considered going into police work or the Navy, then settled on medicine. She and her mother lived across the street from SCC, so it was an easy decision to enroll, and it turned out to be a life-changing choice.

“It’s such an amazing support system at that college,” Rotschedl said. “They care about you, and they want to see you succeed.”

In her first year at SCC she joined the HOPE Club, which stands for health occupations, pathways and education, and immediately made friends. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and no one wanted to run for student government, she ran unopposed and soon became president of Associated Students Inc. as well as student trustee of the Rancho Santiago Community College district, which represents both Santiago Canyon College and Santa Ana College.

“Being a part of the student government and a part of the HOPE Club my first year was so much fun,” Rotschedl said. “But my love for Santiago really developed in my second and third years there.”

As a student trustee, new opportunities opened up that broadened her world view. She attended a National Association of Community College Trustees conference in Washington, D.C., where she met First Lady Jill Biden and Nancy Pelosi’s chief of staff,

Terri McCullough. “It was an incredible experience,” Rotschedl said.

Though she intended to continue her pursuit of medicine, a close encounter with a summer wildfire changed that goal.

“I lived across from the SCC, and the canyon nearby the school was on fire,” she said. “The sky was red; there was no sunlight. It was just black smoke and red sky. At that point, I had been pre-med. And I thought, those plants and animals did absolutely nothing to contribute to what’s currently going on, and somebody should work to mitigate those effects and protect the plants and animals. And that’s when I switched to environmental science.”

SCC offers many classes in environmental science, and she dove into these studies, and names biology professors Michael Taylor and Bob Allen, and the leadership of Pamela Ralston, president at the time, for mentoring her.

Rotschedl graduated from SCC with a 4.0 honors GPA and three associate degrees and was ready to transfer to San Diego State University when another opportunity presented itself. Lou Correa, the U.S. Representative for the 46th congressional district, invited her to work in his Washington, D.C., office as a legislative intern on Capitol Hill that summer.

She jumped at the chance, though she’d never lived away from home. “It was hard and very stressful. But you can’t shy away from a challenge; you just have to take it head on and see where it leads you,” she said.

The experience was worth the effort — she was thrilled to work on science policy in Correa’s office, get a library card at the Library of Congress and meet people from NASA that summer. “I can never describe how grateful I am, how incredible it was for one thing to lead to another, giving me all these opportunities,” she said.

She went on to finish at San Diego State University with a bachelor’s degree in environmental science and international economics. As part of the study abroad program, she studied at Iceland School of Energy in Reykjavik, where she attained a credential in renewable energy, innovation and sustainability. “Iceland is incredible,” Rotschedl said. “I think everybody



PHOTO COURTESY OF ELIZABETH ROTSCHEDL

Elizabeth Rotschedl graduated from SCC with a 4.0 GPA and three associate degrees. She is now employed by global consulting firm Tetra Tech.

should go to Iceland.”

In 2024, Rotschedl was hired as an intern at Tetra Tech, an environmental consulting firm with private and government clients, and became a full employee in 2025, working in geophysics, energy, industrial hygienics and biology.

“My advice to any young person pursuing a STEM career is get out there and volunteer and get hands-on skill sets,” she said. “When you’re trying to

become a scientist, companies want to see that you have hands-on experience in the field. It also helps people develop teamwork and leadership experience and establish early credibility,” Rotschedl said.

“My other advice is to say yes to every opportunity, provided that you have the bandwidth,” she said. “That’s how I got where I am. I said yes to everything.”

**HANDS-ON EDUCATION**

## Celebrating registered apprenticeships’ role in bolstering workforce

RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College (SCC) will join the state and nation in celebrating National Apprenticeship Week, set from April 26 to May 2, recognizing the important role Registered Apprenticeship Programs play in strengthening the workforce and creating pathways to high-demand careers.

National Apprenticeship Week is a nationwide celebration in which employers, industry associations, labor organizations, community-based groups, educational institutions and government partners highlight the value of Registered Apprenticeship. The industry-driven workforce model helps meet critical workforce needs while providing career seekers with access to well-paid, in-demand careers.

“Santiago Canyon College is proud to join a grateful state and nation in recognizing and celebrating National Apprenticeship Week,” said Jason Parks, SCC’s vice president of academic affairs. “Apprenticeships play an important role in strengthening our economy while providing meaningful pathways through education. SCC is fortunate to collaborate with partners across building trades, health care, technology, education and the public sector to create a pipeline that helps our students pursue their dreams and reach their full potential.”

In the 2024-25 academic year, 6,200 students were enrolled in SCC’s apprenticeship programs, where they gain hands-on experience while earning a paycheck. SCC currently operates the second-largest apprenticeship program among the 116 California Community Colleges.

The college offers seven apprenticeship programs in fields including carpentry, electricity, operating engineers, power lineman and surveying. SCC also offers a nontraditional apprenticeship program in Early Childhood Education, which provides 25 available spots each semester.

Apprentices attend SCC classes that provide supplemental instruction directly related to their field. The courses are free, count toward college credit, and may lead to a certificate or degree. Upon successful completion, apprentices receive a Certificate of Completion from the State of California, officially designating them as skilled journey workers.

For Gary Reyes, SCC’s carpentry apprenticeship program helped turn a childhood interest into a career.

“When I was small, I watched Bob the Builder and got inspired,” Reyes said. “Growing up, I helped my mom build cabinets and furniture from IKEA. As I got older, I looked into how to do it for real.”

Reyes joined SCC’s program in 2018 through the Southwest Mountain States Regional Council of Carpenters and completed the apprenticeship in 2023. Today,



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Students in Santiago Canyon College’s Water Backflow program receive hands-on training in pipe assembly and testing procedures during a lab session on campus.

he works on construction, remodeling and site additions for schools across the Los Angeles Unified School District.

“They taught me a lot. SCC gave us the courses and put us on the right path,” Reyes said. “My goal is to build something that people drive by and think, ‘That’s a nice building.’”

Another graduate, Tim Ralls, found his path to surveying after serving in the United States Marine Corps. He joined SCC’s Surveying/Engineering Apprenticeship Program in 2014 and completed the program as a chief of party, a senior project leader.

“You get to learn about the trade and then immediately apply it in the field,” Ralls said. Ralls earned two associate degrees through SCC and now teaches in the same program that helped launch his career.

“When someone enters an apprenticeship program, they become our student,” said Elizabeth Arteaga, dean of SCC’s Apprenticeship Programs. “They have access to counseling, health care, career planning, the computer lab and library, tutors and many other benefits. Everything is at no cost to the student because apprenticeship students are exempt from paying tuition.”

Depending on the profession, SCC apprenticeship programs typically last between 18 months and five years, providing students with extensive hands-on experience and industry training.



Tim Ralls, a graduate of Santiago Canyon College’s surveying apprenticeship program, works with a field crew conducting land surveying activities.

## FAMILY VALUES

## Meade helps current and former foster youth overcome barriers

## Coordinating NextUp, Guardian Scholars

By Jenelyn Russo  
contributing writer

As student services coordinator for the NextUp and Guardian Scholars programs at Santiago Canyon College, Esther Meade supports current and former foster youth as they pursue their goals through higher education.

But Meade's commitment to SCC and the community it serves extends far beyond her current role. It represents a nearly two-decades-long connection to the place that shaped both her path as a public servant and her efforts to honor her mother's legacy.

Born in Garden Grove and raised in Orange, Meade first stepped onto the SCC campus at age 16 as a short-term employee who took ID photos during student registration.

After graduating from El Modena High School in 2009, there was no doubt in Meade's mind that she would attend SCC. A first-generation college student, she earned an associate degree in 2011 before transferring to Cal State Fullerton, where she completed her bachelor's degree in communications in 2014.

During her time as an undergraduate, Meade worked for Santa Ana College and the Rancho Santiago Community College District in Auxiliary Services and Administrative Services. After graduation in 2014, she returned to SCC for a full-time position in the Office of Admissions and Records, where she discovered her passion for helping students.

"I loved removing barriers for students to get enrolled and the idea that a five-minute phone call with them could help solve a problem that could have prevented them from continuing," Meade said.

Meade began providing phone and counter assistance to students, helping troubleshoot registration and online access issues. She later advanced to more complex roles such as transcript evaluation, batch registration and other processes. In a department that holds a great deal of campuswide knowledge, she valued connecting students to the correct solutions.

"We understood our responsibility to make accurate referrals and transfers, and so I took a lot of pride in that, making sure I got students the right information," Meade said.

In 2016, while working full time, Meade was encouraged by her then supervisor, current SCC Dean of Enrollment and Support Services Tuyen Nguyen, to pursue a master's degree in human communications, which she completed at CSUF in 2018.

After several years in Admissions and Records, Meade joined SCC's International Students Program, traveling to Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan for student recruitment. She spent more than six years in the department as a program specialist and later as a program coordinator, improving processes and supporting incoming international students as they adjusted to a new culture. It was a period of significant career growth.

"I'm so grateful for this experience, to learn recruitment and to not just be exposed to but experience other cultures



Esther Meade, left, a student services coordinator for NextUp and Guardian Scholars at Santiago Canyon College, meets with a student to provide support and guidance on campus resources.

across the world in my work of supporting students," Meade said.

In 2025, Meade was approached by SCC leadership to work with NextUp and Guardian Scholars, support programs that assist current and former foster youth in achieving their educational goals through access to scholarships, workshops and community resources.

While she loved serving SCC's international students, Meade has found it gratifying and humbling to support the foster youth of her community.

"It's something that's really close to my heart because it's the community that I grew up in," Meade said. "My goal is that NextUp and Guardian Scholars give them that space to grow confident. ... They have such beautiful, unique insights and perspectives."

Meade's student-centered approach is rooted in her ability to listen in a way that makes students feel heard. Both Nguyen and her current supervisor, SCC Dean of Counseling and Student Support Services Jennifer Coto, have seen her impact firsthand.

"Her empathy is genuine and drives her commitment, allowing her to build trust with students and create opportunities for the campus community to better understand and support foster youth," Nguyen said.

Coto shared a similar perspective. "Esther's compassionate and attentive nature makes her especially well-suited to support current and former foster youth, as she creates a safe and welcoming space where students feel valued and support-

ed," Coto said. "Through her genuine care and encouragement, she helps students build confidence, feel a sense of belonging and recognize their ability to succeed."

Meade feels her journey as a public servant has been guided by her mother, her north star, who worked as a grocery store cashier for 28 years. Before her passing in 2021, she built lasting connections with customers through her kindness.

In her honor, Meade and her sisters established the Rebecca Romero Memorial Scholarship to support SCC students with dependents.

"I feel like my work is honoring my mom's life," Meade said. "She had so much love for people in the community who didn't get that love every day. ... I'm continually using her love to determine my best foot forward."

Meade sees community college as a direct connection to the people she wants to serve, those working to improve their lives, their families and their futures. Thanks to the support she has received from SCC, she is committed to making that difference.

"I didn't do this alone," Meade said. "Campus leadership has supported my career growth, and for that, I am grateful."

## Russo

FROM PAGE 1

"For me, realizing what relationships and networking does for a person's life in general was the value of this. It paid for itself tenfold."

You could call it a natural progression because the two Russos are not exclusive. The budding politician barely out of his teens directly led to the future real estate agent. His grandfather, a retired real estate agent, provided the initial impetus. The deal-sealer came while Russo was on the campaign trail, knocking on doors. One of his volunteers was Laura Thomas, a real estate agent who became Russo's real estate sherpa. She taught him the essential lesson that there are plenty of parallels between politics and real estate. The life skills, problem-solving, negotiating and psychology that go into the political arts play rather well in real estate.

Russo understood immediately. He started taking real estate classes at SCC, showing up in Gates' classes like he had season tickets. Gates, in turn, pushed Russo with her upbeat personality, knowledge and advice. She picked up where Thomas left off: providing the details and guidance, showing him the options and teaching him there's more to real estate sales than, well, sales.

"Right from day one, he has had the passion and interest that you don't see in everyone," Gates said. "He has quite the drive and he has the passion for community service as well, which is very important in real estate. A lot of people think real estate is a sales industry. It's not. It's a service industry. Our roles in real estate are almost like matchmakers. We are matching clients to their perfect home. The homes sell themselves. We don't sell the homes because you can't sell a home to someone who doesn't want one.

"When someone like John has that passion and understands they're providing a service, they're able to work with clients and their ability to work with clients and ability to really help clients increases tenfold over someone who thinks they're going into a sales industry."

After finishing his degree at SCC in 2023 and passing his state tests, Russo worked for Century 21, before finding himself at Caliber Realty, a more natural fit for younger agents who have yet to establish themselves. Even before he established himself as one of the agency's most promising agents — he handled 15 transactions in 2025 — Russo became a role model of his own. Younger agents asked to shadow him. Gates and other professors asked him to speak to their classes. Portola Middle School in Orange invited him to its career day.

"It's humbling for me. It's almost a bit of imposter syndrome where I want to tell them to go ask the 30-year real estate agent," he said. "It's a very humbling position for me to be in, and I'm very grateful and happy to do it, to give people no-nonsense explanations and answer questions."

It's Russo's understanding that all three degrees he earned at SCC apply. They manifest their purpose in ways unseen and unknown. Until they are. Russo learned early on the definition of "service industry."

"There's a joke in real estate. You wear many hats, and the reality hat is the last one you wear," he said. "I had a client one time, a therapist, who throughout the transaction process would call me because she needed someone to talk to. It wouldn't be on the transaction; it would be about what she was feeling and what she needed to get off her chest. This job is creating relationships and creating friendships and that was something I learned early on.

"... It's going above and beyond. It's not just about the transaction."



Meade began working at SCC at age 16 when she was hired part time to take ID photos.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

# Science

FROM PAGE 1

in particular. And while the Placentia-Yorba Linda School District won't be hosting any of the activities this year (the district has participated in that capacity in the past), they've been blasting out flyers, and we'll hopefully get some students from those areas as well."

The meticulous planning and promotion has paid off. Last year, Community Science Night hosted some 2,000 attendees, an increase of 10% to 15% from 2024, and even more are expected this year. The event's many science experiments, demonstrations and interactive activities serve an important purpose.

"It exposes the community to science in a really fun and easily digestible way," Daneshmand said. "We often lose our science audience in middle school. So we help to bring them back and realize that anybody can do science, and that science is fun and doesn't have to be scary."

Greenwald concurred. "Not every scientist wears a lab coat," she said. "The kids may not realize that they enjoy a subject like chemistry until they get to play with it. And this evening offers so much science in one space."

That space will be a bit different this year, due to ongoing construction on the SCC campus. While most of the activities will take place in SCC's Science Center, Humanities Building and Gym, "This year we're going to be using more of the Gym, as well as parking lot spaces, than we've used before," Daneshmand said.

The names of the activities alone spell F-U-N. Liquid Levitators, Elephant Toothpaste Volcanoes, DNA - Genes in a Bottle, Shoot for the Moon, Spoon Catapults and the Earthquake Tower Challenge are but a few of the options that will be on tap Friday. Others will include:

- Paper Circuit Geometry Puzzles: Using copper tape, coin batteries and LEDs on cardstock, kids will design geometric shapes that form complete electrical circuits.

- Robotics with Sphero: Young students will code a Sphero Robot Car to control its movements and sounds, then steer it across the floor.

- Build the Coast: Sand, Shape and Science: This hands-on science lab will explore how landforms are shaped by weathering and erosion.

- Chemistry Magic Show: A comedic demonstration — featuring Dr. Solid, Dr. Liquid and Dr. Gas — will explore the three phases of matter.

- Let There Be Light: Kids will delve into the properties of light: how a light bulb contains a rainbow of colors, what happens when a beam of laser light is trapped in water, and more.

Along with SCC and Orange Unified,



A family participates in a previous Santiago Canyon College Community Science Night.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ANGELA DANESHMAND

Community Science Night will include a variety of exhibitors, including the Environmental Nature Center, Bricks 4 Kidz, the Irvine Ranch Water District, Inside the Outdoors (administered by the OC Department of Education) and Bio-Rad Laboratories, among many others.

For example, two aforementioned activities, Robotics with Sphero and Build the Coast, will be run by Dreams for Schools and the Crystal Cove Conservancy, respectively. "And the Orange Public Library will be there, to sign people up for library cards," Daneshmand said.

Live music and food will also be part of the festivities. "We'll have one of our high school bands," Greenwald said, "as well as our high school mariachi band." Food trucks will dish out Mediterranean fare, burgers, pizza, fruit snacks and desserts.

Greenwald sang high praise for Santiago Canyon College for hosting this event. "They're amazing, because they take on so much of the preparation, and they're also funding most of it," she said. "They make sure Community Science Night is indeed great for the community."



Workers at an earlier Community Science Night help participants create necklaces with strands of their own DNA.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS



OC REGISTER FILE PHOTO

Attendees participate in a hands-on science activity during Santiago Canyon College's Community Science Night, exploring interactive STEM exhibits. This year's event is scheduled for April 24.



Chemistry professor Jeffrey Wada's "magic" with marshmallows was just one of the demonstrations in an earlier event.

PHOTO COURTESY OF RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS



OC REGISTER FILE PHOTO

The 19th annual Community Science Night is set for April 24.

COMMUNITY

# Runners, walkers, families participate in Hawk's Flight 5K

RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College welcomed runners, walkers and families to campus for the second annual Hawk's Flight 5K Run/Walk on March 21, drawing strong community participation and building momentum for a campus tradition.

A total of 255 participants took part in the event, which featured a scenic course that began and ended in Lot 7 and wound through the college's campus. The paved course offered a mix of uphill and downhill sections, creating a challenging yet accessible route for both competitive runners and casual participants.

Fourteen-year-old Hayden Rhee of Temecula captured the overall title, finishing with a time of 18:55.6. Rhee said he approached the race with a simple

goal in mind. "I was just hoping to get a good time and run the course fast," Rhee said. Rhee said he enjoyed the layout of the course and the challenge it presented.

"It was nice. It had a lot of uphill and downhills, but it felt good," he said, adding that he was pleased with his performance and hopes to return for the 2027 race to defend his title.

Samuel Barlow of Irvine finished second with a time of 19:19.3, followed by Robert Rust of Garden Grove in third place at 19:31.3.

The top female finisher was Jenni Johnson of Tustin, who placed 10th overall with a time of 20:59.7.

The event welcomed runners of all ages and experience levels. In addition to the 5K run, younger participants took part in the Hatching Trot, where children received finisher medals to celebrate their participation.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Runners gather at the starting line for the Hawk's Flight 5K at Santiago Canyon College on March 21.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Students gather at the Career Services booth during the Santiago Canyon College Career Fair on April 15 at Vazquez Promenade in Orange, Calif. The event offered resources, information sessions, and connections to more than 50 local employers.

OPPORTUNITIES

## Career Fair: Internships, part-time jobs and long-term employment

RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College welcomed students and community members to its annual Career Fair on April 15 at Vazquez Promenade, bringing together more than 50 employers from across the region.

Organized by the college's Career Services department in collaboration with Business and Career Education and the Office of Employee and Organizational Development, the event provided opportunities to explore internships, part-time employment, and long-term career pathways.

Employers represented a broad range of industries, including corporate, nonprofit, and local government sectors. Participating organizations included Bank of America, the County of Orange, the City of Orange, the U.S. Marine Corps, regional water utilities, a solar energy company, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and LaPort Montessori.

"We want our students to know what career options are available to them so that when they're here at SCC, they are taking intentional

classes and an intentional major that actually leads them where they want to go in life," said Jennifer Godzsak, career guidance coordinator at the college.

Students engaged directly with recruiters, gaining insight into hiring expectations, workplace skills, and career pathways aligned with their academic programs. Many attendees identified immediate opportunities for employment as well as longer-term career goals.

Sophomore Mason O'Banion expressed interest following his visit to the Primerica table.

"They're a financial institution, and that opportunity stood out to me because I'm a business and economics major. They help clients with insurance and reinvestment," said O'Banion. "It could potentially be a summer job as I prepare to transfer to UC Santa Barbara next year. The position is remote with flexible hours, which would allow me to continue working while I'm in school."

The Career Fair reflects SCC's commitment to connecting education with real-world experience, supporting career readiness, and fostering strong partnerships with local employers.



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PRESENTS

# COMMUNITY SCIENCE NIGHT

"HEROES FOR OUR PLANET"

APRIL 24, 2026  
5:30 PM - 8:30 PM

SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE  
8045 E. CHAPMAN AVE.  
ORANGE, CA 92869

