



**Santa Monica College**

**A CELEBRATION  
OF DISTINCTION**

# Unflinching **S**anta **M**onica **C**ollege **A CELEBRATION OF DISTINCTION**



*I tell everyone that if there's anything they can imagine accomplishing in their lives,  
SMC is the absolute best place to get started toward it. – Michael Soto, Psychology*



## PROLOGUE

The end of the Roaring Twenties ushered in the Great Depression, the first Academy Awards were held, and a certain Santa Monica Junior College opened its doors to 153 students. Evolving missions led to new names—“Santa Monica City College”—and eventually “Santa Monica College,” to reflect the College’s service to the Westside, and to the Greater Los Angeles.

A pioneer of the uniquely American community college movement, SMC fulfills the educational needs of the broadest possible cross-section of its community. The first-generation college student who struggled with science and thought her dream of going to medical school would remain just a dream, the new immigrant wanting to learn English, or the single parent seeking to acquire skills for a better job, the College has fulfilled thousands of such aspirations, and more.

Today, SMC leads the nation in transferring students to the prestigious University of California system—a record unbroken for over 25 years—and serves more than 30,000 students. Set on a 38-acre main campus with five satellite locations across the sunny seaside city of Santa Monica, SMC offers students the collegial experience and educational quality typically found at a scholastically rigorous four-year college or university, at a fraction of the cost.

The 21st century rolled in with major growth for SMC: a new campus opened in a prime downtown location for its Emeritus College for older adults; two bonds—Measure U and Measure S, totaling \$295 million—passed by local voters; a modern library unveiled; and “equalization” funding gained, ending two decades of state funding inequality. Measure V, a \$345 million bond was approved in 2016 to complete the SMC Master Plan.



*Santa Monica College educates the whole person...I think that's extraordinary and represents a high civic and educational ideal.* – Kenneth Starr, historian



### **A NEW LEADER: DR. KATHRYN E. JEFFERY, 2016**

In 2015, Santa Monica College bid farewell to Dr. Chui L. Tsang, who served as Superintendent/President for nearly a decade and championed the college's forward-looking Global Citizenship Initiative, among other accomplishments. Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery was selected to be SMC's next Superintendent/President after a nationwide search. With over three decades of diverse higher education experience—encompassing roles as professor, counselor, and administrator—from arts and educational leadership education, to student services and Career Technical Education, Dr. Jeffery is a passionate advocate for higher education, one who takes pride in a student-centred approach to leadership and decision-making.

### **A WORKING EDGE**

Spurred by more than 100 letters of support from top names in government, politics, and the LA technology and entertainment industries, Santa Monica College proposed offering a Bachelor's degree in the emerging, but high-demand field of Interaction Design. In May 2015, SMC was selected to be one of the first 15 California community colleges to be a part of this historic pilot program. SMC's Bachelor of Science Degree in Interaction Design prepares students for careers as interaction designers in Silicon Beach, the moniker given to the Westside's rising tech scene, and offer a gateway to professional advancement for many.

The College's reputation as the Westside's leading job trainer was also heightened by its role in creating an LA-based consortium called the "Los Angeles High Impact Information Technology, Entertainment & Entrepreneurship, and Communications Hubs." Better known by its acronym LA HI-TECH, the group was recognized in 2015 by President Obama's TechHire Initiative for its work in preparing students for jobs in the information, communication and technology sector.

To encourage more students onto pathways toward careers and further higher education, SMC expanded dual enrollment opportunities for high school students, creating special programs like First Year Experience and Summer JAMS to give first-time college students a head start. Also, the SMC Board of Trustees waived enrollment fees for high school students, and those who qualify can now take classes at SMC for free.

Through strong industry partnerships, exceptional faculty, and dynamic programs, SMC maintains a robust Career Technical Education division. There are over 110 Career Technical Education degrees and certificates at the college, in traditional fields ranging from Business to Health Sciences, and emerging ones like Graphic Design and Sustainable Technologies.

### CHAMPIONING ALL STUDENTS

Santa Monica College's longstanding achievement as California's leading transfer institution comes with a special pride, because SMC is also the leader in transferring African American and Latino students to UC campuses.



The recent emphasis on closing the achievement gap—ensuring that all students are able to succeed, regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, or gender—has brought renewed funding from the state. The vision of the College's past President Richard Moore, who realized the value of strong student support, laid the foundation to make SMC's counseling and student support system the largest in California.

SMC's cornucopia of special programs has grown with the inclusion of programs like the Veterans' Resource Center, the First Year Experience for first-time college students, the Guardian Scholars Program for foster youth and—thanks to a \$6 million federal grant, the second such five-year grant for the building up of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programming that offers

*SMC is a real magnet for students from all over the world. They all have a story, and interacting with them makes life very colorful.* – Radka Varimezova, Science





research opportunities in collaboration with UCLA to hundreds of underrepresented students, and prepares them for transfer into a STEM major or for direct entry into a STEM career.

SMC is also working to change the paradigm that the transformative power of education stays in the classroom. Through an initiative called GRIT (Growth, Resilience, Integrity and Tenacity), the College is investing in research-based resources to help students who want to develop “non-cognitive skills”—including the ability to persevere despite challenges and failures—along with the skills they need to succeed in the classroom.

The College developed an award-winning educational planning program called “MyEdPlan”, which allows students to plan their academic pathway so that they can earn a degree or transfer more quickly.

With new funding to level the playing field, the future outlook for SMC’s efforts to champion all of its students is truly bright.

### **THE QUALITY ADVANTAGE**

A passion for being ahead of the game is an SMC trademark. New degrees are constantly being developed, including career-focused ones created in consultation with industry advisors, and taught by instructors with current professional experience. SMC’s new programs include Associate degrees in Global Studies, Ethnic Studies, Technical Theatre, Entertainment Promotion and Marketing Production, and California’s only Public Policy program, to name just a few.

Today, SMC students can choose from more than 90 fields of study in the liberal arts and the sciences, as well as career technical education degrees—in areas like Accounting, Journalism, Computer Science, Early Childhood Education, Cosmetology, and Nursing—that prepare them for a competitive entry into the workforce.

## One of the reasons I love teaching at SMC is the depth of talent here.

– Keith Graziadei, ESL professor



A strong emphasis on innovation and student success over the years has led to distinction for SMC students in many fields. SMC students, for example, boast greater success on all sections of the Certified Public Accountant (CPA) exams than any other community college in the nation—and outperform all the California State University campuses as well.

SMC’s film production program rivals the best film schools in the nation. The very first student film to come out of the program was a finalist for a BAFTA (British Academy of Film & Television Arts) Award, and won Best Short Drama at the San Diego Film Festival. Student films have been invited to many domestic and international festivals, including the American Pavilion at the Cannes Film Festival and FilmSchoolFest Munich, and have won many prestigious awards.

SMC students and faculty also deliver culture and arts to the public while perfecting their talents—providing a constant stream of affordably priced, high-quality theater, music, and dance performances, as well as exhibitions of art and photography.

The College’s reputation for solidly preparing its students to continue their higher education has attracted renowned universities in the United States and abroad to seek partnerships with the College in expanding student access to higher degrees. Arizona State University, for example, selected SMC as the first community college in California to be offered guaranteed admission for its students. Most recently, SMC was selected to partner with UCLA in creating a four-year Integrated Teacher Preparation program.

Santa Monica College’s academic excellence has always been driven by world-class faculty who are here because they believe in the power of the student-teacher connection. In the last decade, SMC has hired more than 100 new full-time professors with distinguished credentials, representing the best in their fields. A Center for Teaching Excellence—one of just a handful of such centers at community colleges—serves as a “pedagogical playground” where instructors can learn how to address the particular challenges of teaching in a multicultural and technology-driven world.



## A NEW KIND OF GLOBAL

A global campus, SMC attracts about 3,400 students each year from more than 116 countries around the world. Under President Tsang's direction, the College heightened its already diverse culture with a forward-looking initiative called "Global Citizenship." Through curriculum, extra-curricular activities, study abroad programs, and a graduation requirement for students, as well as overseas professional development in countries like Turkey and China for faculty and staff, the SMC community is actively aware of the opportunities and responsibilities of living in a global, interconnected society.

## WHERE EVERYONE BELONGS

Around 70 student-run clubs are at Santa Monica College in any given year. Astronomy, jazz, ballroom dancing, robotics or agriculture—whatever their interest, students are bound to find other kindred souls on campus. SMC has 17 athletic teams which have won championships and produced renowned athletes and Olympians like Isaac Bruce, Lenny Krayzelburg, and Evan Lysacek. An award-winning student newspaper *The Corsair* highlights stories of interest to the SMC

community. The Associated Students of SMC is one of the most robust in California, and organize a wide variety of events and activities in addition to representing student interests; members also benefit from discount tickets at College theatre productions and at local vendors, free Big Blue Bus ridership, study abroad opportunities, and much more.

## SERVING A WORLD-CLASS COMMUNITY

The year 2008 saw the unveiling of The Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center, a project that was funded by voters through Measure S and also received a \$10 million endowment from Los Angeles philanthropists Eli and Edythe Broad, the largest gift ever in the history of Santa Monica College.

The Broad Stage hosts world-class performing artists in music, dance, theater, and other genres, and is recognized as one of LA's most iconic venues. Legendary artists Mikhail Baryshnikov, Joshua Bell, Paul McCartney, and Helen Hunt are among the many who have graced The Broad Stage, which is also one of LA County's largest educational outreach providers.



... the 499-seat Broad emerged as the most active multipurpose performing arts venue on L.A.'s Westside. – Los Angeles Times



SMC is also proud of its award-winning radio station KCRW (89.9 FM), a leader in public radio with culture-defining programming. KCRW recently expanded both its web and broadcast presence, acquired a Santa Barbara station, and is anticipating its move into new quarters at the College's design and media campus.

SMC's hallmark program for older adults, Emeritus College—which offers free, specially designed classes and workshops to about 3,000 senior adults—turned 40 this year. The local community also benefits from continuing education, professional development, and personal interest classes offered through SMC's Community Education division.

Local residents and graduates also receive priority enrollment at SMC, receiving a headstart in gaining access to high-demand college classes.

In resounding support of SMC's value to the community, the voters of Santa Monica and Malibu passed a \$295 million bond, Measure AA, in 2008, despite a severe recession. Among the number of Measure AA-funded projects are a specialized \$49 million building for Health, Physical Education and Dance on the main campus; a \$23 million renovation of the East Wing of the SMC Performing Arts Center (including classrooms and a performance space); and an \$89 million renovation of the new design and media campus on Stewart Street, which will also house the new Interaction Design baccalaureate program.

And, in November 2016, nearly 64 percent of Santa Monica and Malibu voters approved Measure V, a \$345 million bond measure for SMC, which will make it possible for the College to complete its master plan by updating and replacing some aging





and unfit facilities, as well as accomplish joint-use projects with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, as well as the City of Santa Monica and the City of Malibu.

### **FROM CHALLENGES TO GROWTH**

The rise of preferential parking in Santa Monica led to parking problems for SMC, something the College solved with ingenuity by combining an aggressive, groundbreaking public transit initiative with the building of a new satellite parking lot. SMC and its Associated Students partnered with the City of Santa Monica's Big Blue Bus to create new routes to reach deep into the community and connect the satellite campuses with the main campus. While the bus service is open to everyone, SMC and Associated Students funding allows employees and students to ride "Any Line, Any Time" for free.



### **CREATING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

One of the greenest campuses in the state, SMC became the first community college in California to earn a Bronze-level Bike-Friendly University award from the League of American Bicyclists. Along with the Center for Environmental and Urban Studies and active student clubs, SMC offers a 'live laboratory,' an organic learning garden, a recycling program for electronic waste, commercial worm composting, and many other opportunities for students to become environmental thought-and-action leaders. Students can pick from a number of innovative environmental courses and programs, including the state's first Associate degrees in Recycling and Resource Management and in Solar Photovoltaic Installation.



## EXPANDING THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE MISSION

The SMC penchant for not settling for “what goes” has extended to playing a key role in the passage of legislation that has transformed the landscape of the community college system, starting with the “free flow” college bill in the 1980s—which allowed students to attend community colleges outside their home districts—and the gaining of “equalization” in 2006, which remedied 25 years of state funding inequality. SMC also championed the passage of Assembly Bill 2297, which would change the formula for tuition fees that community colleges could charge nonresident and international students. Tuition fees help SMC to retain and recruit an outstanding faculty and support staff.

## SMC LOOKS AHEAD

If one thing is obvious from Santa Monica College’s history, it is this institution’s capacity for innovation as well as its ability to adapt itself to the needs of the regional economy, but most importantly, to that of students. SMC continues to reimagine its mission, looking for ways to better serve those who come here seeking to change their lives through higher education. The ingenuity with which this institution has met shifting education and job training needs—and the existence of a strong academic, student-centered culture—all point to Santa Monica College’s unflinching place of distinction among community colleges, as the millenium moves forward.



# A CELEBRATION OF DISTINCTION



## PHOTO CAPTIONS

**Page 2** Two fountains grace SMC's Quad, a hub of campus life.

**Page 3** SMC opened its doors as "Santa Monica Junior College" to 153 students in 1929.

**Page 4** *Upper left:* An SMC student on a Study Abroad trip spends time with children at a South Africa orphanage.

*Upper middle:* President Tsang congratulates an SMC graduate.

*Upper right:* Life Sciences professor Garen Baghdasarian leads a discovery of tidepools on a marine biology field trip.

*Lower left:* Against the tranquil backdrop of fountains, palm trees, and the Theatre Arts Building, two SMC students catch up on schoolwork.

*Lower right:* SMC's design and media campus on Stewart Street—undergoing an \$89 million renovation funded by Measure AA—will house KCRW and the new Interaction Design BA program.

**Page 5** *Upper:* Olivia Rodriguez trained for a career in creating promos through SMC's Promo Pathway, the nation's first accredited on-air promo production program.

*Lower:* Students Aurelia Rhymer and Haley Coleman reached their educational goals through SMC's unique Black Collegians program.

**Page 6** *Upper:* Life Sciences professor Sandra Hutchinson works in a lab with students.

*Upper Middle:* Dance professor Mark Tomasic prepares students for an upcoming performance.

*Lower Middle:* Maria Martinez, faculty leader at SMC's Latino Center, was a first-generation remedial student 29 years ago and returned to work at her alma mater.

*Lower:* Chaya Eskahan works in a UCLA science research lab as part of SMC's Science and Research Initiative, which helps under-represented students transfer into STEM majors.

**Page 7** *Left:* Film production student Sarah Stidham operates a RED camera on location for a class project in Arizona.

*Right:* Cosmetology professor Debbie Perret demonstrates curling technique. Prominent SMC cosmetology alumni include celebrity stylist Kim Vo.

**Page 8** *Left:* Academy-Award winner Helen Hunt performed in a revival of Thornton Wilder's *Our Town* at The Broad Stage.

*Middle:* The iconic Eli & Edythe Broad Stage at the SMC Performing Arts Center is a striking 499-seat theatre that presents world-class performing artists on one of LA's largest proscenium stages.

*Right:* A student performs at The Broad Stage as part of Synapse, SMC's widely praised contemporary dance ensemble.

**Page 9** *Upper:* The new information technology building on Pearl Street is one of several Measure AA-funded projects on campus.

*Middle:* SMC's groundbreaking "Any Line, Any Time" Big Blue Bus transportation initiative has become a statewide model for sustainable transit.

*Lower:* Emeritus College, SMC's lifelong learning program for older adults, sits in a modern facility in downtown Santa Monica.

**Page 10** *Upper:* The organic learning garden on SMC's main campus provides 1,200 square feet of communal gardening space for students and employees to grow their own food.

*Middle:* The award-winning \$11 million Quad, funded by Measure U, transformed the look and feel of SMC's main campus.

*Lower:* SMC Student Athletes of the Year 2016 JJ Castillo (right) and Virginia Gustafson (left) with SMC President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery. Castillo received a scholarship to play soccer at CSU San Marcos and Gustafson is a Hawaii native on the women's water polo team.

**Page 11** SMC graduates celebrate.

**Page 12** *Upper left:* SMC fine arts alum and UCLA transfer Ricky Amadour with SMC President Dr. Kathryn E. Jeffery at the 86th annual commencement.

*Upper middle:* The sun sets over SMC's main campus as a lone student walks on a pathway.

*Upper right:* Students act in a production of *Metamorphoses* in the Theatre Arts Main Stage; SMC students go on to Juilliard, NYU, and other prestigious schools in the U.S. and abroad.

*2nd row left:* 50 students preparing for STEM majors attend a one-week residency program at UCLA as part of SMC's Science and Research Initiative.

*2nd row right:* Rebuilt after the 1994 Northridge earthquake, SMC's Science building provides classrooms, labs, and top-quality capabilities for the pursuit of science.

*3rd row left:* SMC's Bundy campus next to the Santa Monica Airport is one of five satellite campuses and houses the Nursing program, Workforce Development, and Community Education.

*3rd row middle:* SMC alum David Mayo was drafted by the NFL by the Carolina Panthers (Photo credit: Michael Yanow, The Corsair).

*3rd row right:* Accounting professor Greg Brookins with a student.

*Bottom left:* President Tsang formed the "President's Ambassadors," a select group of students who represent SMC at events.

*Bottom right:* SMC's beautiful library is seen behind a Moreton Bay fig tree that has stood watch for over 55 years.

## BOOKLET CREDITS

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SMC Selected for Historic Bachelor's Degree Program

**SMC's Number One Transfer Record to UC Remains Unbroken**

**"Any Line, Any Time" Transit Pass Becomes State Model**

Voters Approve \$345 Million Bond For Campus Safety & Modernization; To Improve Career Training

First SMC Student Film Finalist for Prestigious BAFTA; Official Selection at American Pavilion at Cannes Film Festival

**LA Metro Adds SMC Station to Expo Light Rail Line**

# **SMC** IN THE NEWS

**Santa Monica College to Help Spearhead Obama's TechHire Initiative in Los Angeles**

SMC is First California Community College to Win Bronze Bike-Friendly University Award

SMC Receives \$6 Million Grant from U.S. Department of Education to Expand STEM for Underrepresented Students

**The Broad Stage Emerges as one of Los Angeles's Most Iconic Venues, Fourth Largest Provider of Educational Outreach in L.A. County**

# RETIREMENT PROGRAM JUNE 15, 2015

## WELCOME

Rob Rader, Chair, Santa Monica College Board of Trustees

## VIDEO TRIBUTE

### WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Jeff Shimizu, Executive Vice President, Santa Monica College

Ben Allen, CA State Senator, 26th District

Richard Bloom, CA State Assemblymember, 50th District

Kevin McKeown, Mayor, City of Santa Monica

Sandra Lyon, Superintendent, Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District

Laurel Rosen, President, Santa Monica Chamber of Commerce

### A MUSICAL TRIBUTE

Muriel Walker-Waugh

### WORDS OF APPRECIATION

Eve Adler, Santa Monica College Academic Senate President

Presentation by the Lingnan Foundation

### REMARKS FROM DR. CHUI L. TSANG

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## THANK YOU

### THIS EVENT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE FOLLOWING INDIVIDUALS

Ray Bruce, Jeff Caffrey, Al DeSalles, Judith Douglas, Kiersten Elliott, Carol Evans, Sandy Franke, Michael Greig, Regina Ip, Letty Killian, Marilyn Landau, Erica LeBlanc, LeRoy Nakamura, Ramin Nematollahi, Evelyne Pedersen, Brian Rodas, Lisa Rose, Grace Smith, Kyle Smith, Linda Sullivan, Muriel Walker-Waugh, Deirdre Weaver, Brandon Williams, The President's Ambassadors, and Brian Driscoll and members of the Applied Music Program, Music Appreciation Club, Opera Club, and Chamber Music Club.

We gratefully acknowledge a contribution from Blanca Malpartida-Girard and Donald Girard to honor this distinctive and productive chapter in Santa Monica College's history.

### SANTA MONICA COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Rob Rader, *Chair*; Dr. Louise Jaffe, *Vice Chair*; Dr. Susan Aminoff; Dr. Nancy Greenstein;  
Dr. Margaret Quiñones-Perez; Barry A. Snell; Dr. Andrew Walzer; Jonathan Eady, *Student Trustee*;  
Dr. Chui L. Tsang, *Superintendent/President*

**“Standing tall in front of the library and welcoming all, a Moreton Bay fig tree has witnessed over 55 years of progress at Santa Monica College.”**

