



SAN MATEO COUNTY  
**COMMUNITY**  
COLLEGE DISTRICT

Cañada College • College of San Mateo • Skyline College

# Combined Report of the District Chancellor and College Presidents



*The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) announced the development of a new series of courses designed to promote greater equity in mathematics education.*

## San Mateo County Launches Partnership to Support Equity in Middle School Math Education



The San Mateo County Office of Education (SMCOE) and the San Mateo County Community College District (SMCCCD) announced today the development of a new series of courses designed to promote greater equity in mathematics education. The courses, offered in partnership with Education Trust-West, will provide educators with an integrated approach to mathematics that centers on Black, Latinx, and multilingual students in grades 6-8, addresses barriers to math equity, and aligns instruction to grade-level priority standards.

Equity gaps for historically disadvantaged student groups are well documented. In the 2019 CAASPP administration, 17% of Black/African American and 24.2% of Hispanic/Latino 8th graders met standard in Math, compared to 73.9% of Asian students and 51.6% of White students. On the NAEP, a national test of student performance, California's students are 4% points below the national average, with Black, Hispanic, Low Income, Students with Disabilities, and English Learners performing in the lowest performance band (NAEP basic). The toolkit addresses these gaps in student outcomes with activities for uncovering bias and strategies for infusing antiracist pedagogy.

Responding to this glaring need to improve math outcomes for all students, SMCOE, SMCCCD, and Education Trust-West gathered instructional designers, math experts, teachers, and teacher-trainers to design and deliver the online series of classes. The program is based on Education Trust-West's toolkit, [A Pathway to Equitable Math Instruction Dismantling Racism in Mathematics Instruction](#).

The training will address methods for deepening content understanding and relevance, creating environments and practices that support students' social, emotional, and academic development, and strengthening the interconnectedness of English language learning and the development of mathematical thinking.

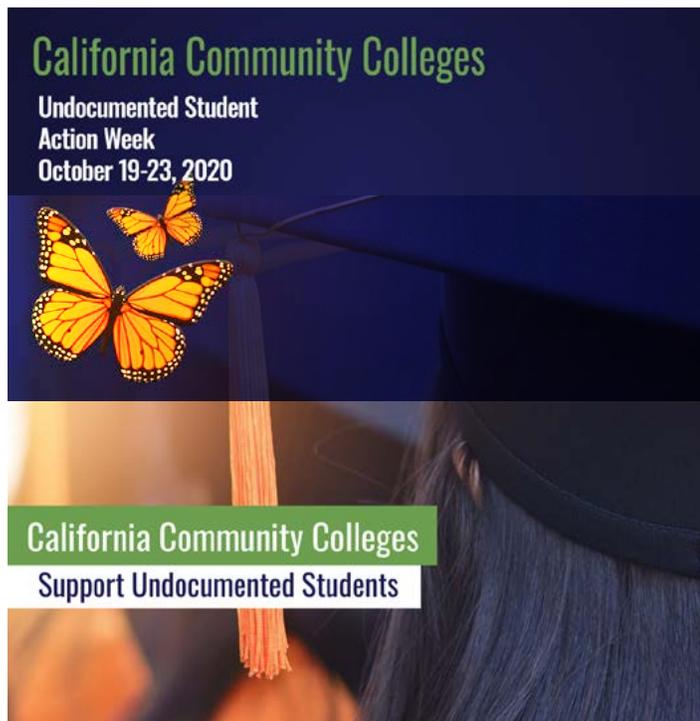
"We are thrilled to partner with the Community College District and Education Trust-West on this critical initiative," explained San Mateo County Superintendent of Schools Nancy Magee. "It's only by working together, especially across systems, that we can accelerate success for all students."

The series will launch on October 27, 2020, and includes a set of short courses held once a week over five weeks. In this first offering, SMCOE and SMCCCD anticipate training up to 200 middle school teachers. The California Partnership for Math and Science Education will organize special groups to provide follow-up support and give teachers the opportunity to speak with each other about their work implementing the toolkit.

With this training series, SMCOE and SMCCCD build on their experience designing and delivering training for teachers on distance learning throughout the summer and early fall. That training, which is still in demand, has equipped 20% of San Mateo County educators with the skills not only to teach online, but also design lessons, conduct assessments, keep students engaged, and communicate effectively.

For more information on this partnership, please [visit the Micro-Course website](#).

**District Mobilizes for Undocumented Student Week of Action**



California community colleges rallied again this year for the statewide Undocumented Student Week of Action, which took place October 19 – 23. The DREAM Centers at Cañada College, College of San Mateo, and Skyline College organized virtual events to drive advocacy, inform students, and connect people.

The DREAM Centers offered virtual legal workshops, timely policy updates, discussions, and programs on human rights and mental health. Skyline College had a meeting to plan a virtual community mural. The colleges also tied into statewide webinars on paying for college, leadership, and transferring.

To become an ally or learn how to get involved in supporting our undocumented students, visit the campus DREAM Center websites:

- Cañada College: [canadacollege.edu/dreamers](http://canadacollege.edu/dreamers)
- CSM: [collegeofsanmateo.edu/dreamcenter](http://collegeofsanmateo.edu/dreamcenter)
- Skyline College: [skylinecollege.edu/dreamcenter](http://skylinecollege.edu/dreamcenter)

**Free Drive-Up Wi-Fi Now Available for SMCCCD Students**



<b>CAÑADA COLLEGE</b>	Monday - Friday 6 am - 8 pm
<b>COLLEGE OF SAN MATEO</b>	Monday - Saturday <i>(closed Friday)</i> 6 am - 8 pm
<b>SKYLINE COLLEGE</b>	Monday - Friday <i>(closed Wednesday)</i> 6 am - 8 pm

[smccd.edu/wifi](http://smccd.edu/wifi) 

The San Mateo County Community College District launched free Wi-Fi access in September for students at all three campuses. The new "Drive-Up Wi-Fi" service allows students to park in a specially designated parking lot on the campus of their choice, where they can access Wi-Fi to attend online classes or do schoolwork.

The program was made possible by an all-District team of staff and administrators who have been working to design a system that provides convenient student Wi-Fi access while maintaining District health and safety requirements during the pandemic.

Reservations are required. Students can pick the campus most convenient to them, fill out the Eventbrite reservation form, print or download their Eventbrite ticket, and follow the instructions. Restrooms are available and students have in/out privileges for the Drive-Up Wi-Fi lot between 6am – 8pm.

For more information, please see the [District Drive-Up Wi-Fi website](#).

**Job Seekers, Small Businesses and Employers Can Access a Wealth of Resources at New Community College District Workforce Development and Training Web Portal**



The San Mateo County Community College District's new workforce development and training portal, [smccd.edu/workforce](https://smccd.edu/workforce), offers critical job training and small business resources on one convenient website. Designed to help address the workforce crisis caused by COVID-19 in the Bay Area, the website launched this week.

"Our community college team of dedicated workforce, entrepreneurship and training professionals stands ready to help San Mateo County thrive during these challenging times," said Michael Claire, chancellor of the community college district. "We are ready to respond to the needs of the community, including job-seekers and businesses, and we are here for you."

**Help for Job Seekers**

At [smccd.edu/workforce](https://smccd.edu/workforce), job seekers can find easy access to training programs for a number of careers that promise strong growth and stability in the Bay Area. Programs include UX

design, human resources, child development, cyber-security, optician, facilities maintenance, cloud computing, project management, digital marketing and sales operations. Job seekers can choose full and short-term academic and workforce programs, and can access career opportunities and coaching to prepare, apply and interview for positions.

**Help for Small Businesses**

Small businesses and entrepreneurs are especially hard-hit in this pandemic, so [smccd.edu/workforce](https://smccd.edu/workforce) offers tools to help small businesses and entrepreneurs adapt and stay afloat during these critical times. The Small Business Recovery & Assistance Program offers virtual services including business management guidance, technical and targeted business assistance, networking, one-on-one consulting, job shadow opportunities, coaching and workshops.

**Help with Corporate Training**

The [smccd.edu/workforce](https://smccd.edu/workforce) website also connects companies to training programs for existing employees. Local employers can take advantage of numerous expert-led online workshop series including Working & Connecting Remotely, Leading & Managing Remotely, Business Writing, Work From Home Technology, Cross-Cultural Competency, and Diversity & Inclusion. Other services include executive coaching and workshops as well as customized training for leaders and teams in any type of organization.

The [Workforce Development and Training Web Portal](#) was created in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on San Mateo County community members, entrepreneur and businesses. SMCCCD formed a task force of partners included workforce, training and entrepreneurial leaders from Cañada College, College of San Mateo, Skyline College, the Bay Area Entrepreneur Center (BAEC), and Community, Continuing & Corporate Education (CCCE). The task force has initiated a county-wide marketing campaign to build local awareness.

Learn more at [smccd.edu/workforce](https://smccd.edu/workforce).

## District ADA Plan in Final Stages of Review



The San Mateo County Community College District’s draft ADA Plan was posted for public review on September 8, and will remain open for comments through October 31. Two public forums were held via Zoom on October 1 (see [ADA Plan website](#) to view the Zoom recordings). The forum transcripts and all public comments will become part of the final ADA Plan.

The comprehensive plan identifies ADA compliance gaps in facilities and services on all three of the college campuses and the District Office. There are two components of the ADA plan:

1. Transition Plan: this identifies physical barriers in buildings, roads, stairs, ramps, etc.
2. Self-assessment Survey: this evaluates the accessibility of services to students, staff and the public such as Information Technology Services, websites, and human resources.

Though the transition plan includes findings in many areas, many of the barriers fall into the categories below. See the comprehensive plan for details.

- District Office: restrooms
- Cañada College: restrooms, door vision lights, reach ranges and protrusions, cross slope and ramp landings
- CSM: restrooms, reach ranges and protrusions, door vision lights
- Skyline College: restrooms, reach ranges and protrusions, door vision lights and door pressure

Altogether, the District has identified about \$30 million in upgrades and repairs. Some items have already been remedied, such as vegetation trimming and furniture relocation to provide

required clear spaces at doors. Other items are currently being addressed in the design of capital projects. The remaining and majority of items will need to be planned, prioritized and budgeted over a 10-year period.

The District had not updated its ADA plan in more than 10 years, and ADA regulations underwent changes in 2010, so it was expected that there would be a significant list of items to address. The ADA allows institutions to spread improvements and upgrades over a period of time as long as it can show that steady progress is being made to achieve compliance.

### Comment on the ADA Plan

Please use [the ADA Plan comment form](#) to submit your feedback. All feedback will become part of the final public ADA Plan.



## College Hosts Third Annual President’s Luncheon



**HEARTS  
FOR HUMANITY**



Cañada College held its [Third Annual President’s Luncheon](#) on October 20, 2020. Due to the pandemic, the event was held virtually. In years past, the College has raised funds to support student scholarships through our Promise Scholars Program, where through the generosity of sponsors and donors, students received financial support to continue pursuing their academic goals. Due to COVID-19, and evaluating the overall needs of

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the community Cañada serves, the [Cañada College Presidents Advisory Group](#) (which hosts the President's Luncheon) felt it was important to respond to the immediate basic human needs of our students and their families.

The [President's Luncheon](#), which was held through Zoom, began with a welcome from Rosanne Foust, President & Chief Executive Officer of the San Mateo County Economic Development Association (SAMCEDA), who is also Chair of the Cañada College President's Advisory Group. She shared why it was so important to open our hearts for humanity and support students and community during this challenging time when so many San Mateo County residents are struggling to put food on the table, let alone continue their education. The funds raised from the President's Luncheon will address daily essential needs of our students. This includes support with grocery and book vouchers, technology loans of Chromebooks, access to Drive Up Wi-Fi Service for students and hot spots, direct student aid for emergency relief, plus other support that will help students remain on track to continue their studies and complete their educational goals.

During the Luncheon, President Moore shared how the College and District quickly pivoted in response to the pandemic with a transition from the physical campus to a virtual campus where students not only resumed classes online but received virtual support, campus services, resources and tools for online learning. She also shared the strategic actions the College took to address current challenges, including adopting an Antiracism Framework and identifying six priorities in our Strategic Enrollment Plan. In addition, Alums Rohndell Goodwin and the Honorable Mayor of Menlo Park, Cecilia Taylor, shared their experiences as Cañada College students and encouraged the community to support students' basic daily needs. Current Cañada College student Nadia Moreno also shared her first-hand benefit of utilizing the Chromebook and hot spot loans during the pandemic.

To date, the President's Luncheon has raised more than \$30,000 in donations and sponsorships with funds continuing to be collected in the coming weeks. The success of the President's Luncheon would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of Cañada College President's Advisory Group, college employees, generous donations from event sponsors

and many others who donated to support student access to an affordable post-secondary education. Cañada College is thankful to receive such immense support from the community. A recorded version of the President's Luncheon can be viewed [here](#).

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### Cañada College Celebrates Latinx Heritage Month



Cañada College celebrated Latinx Heritage month (Sept. 15-Oct. 15) with a series of events and conversations relevant to the Latinx community. The Cañada Latinx Heritage Month Planning Team, comprised of students, staff, faculty and administrators, created a virtual space of inclusion that transcended diversity and explores our intersectional identities. All programs, workshops, and events were strategically planned to amplify Latinx voices and various identities, which included events that were built to share space with one another as a campus community of students, faculty, staff, administrators and the broader San Mateo County.

Highlights from Latinx Heritage Month include a "platica" on "Exploring racism" during Indigenous People's Day which engaged students, staff, and community members in a discussion about the ways in which racism, colorism, anti-blackness and prejudice against our Indigenous communities shows up in Latinx spaces. During Latinx Game Night, presenters shared popular culture and traditional games that are central to different Latinx communities. Another event covered a discussion of gender roles in the Latinx Household, specifically how these roles can affect our academic, social and personal life and how to be self-advocates for change. During the Charlas y Dichos event, participants shared about their culturas and how our stories honor different traditions and language. With

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October also being Transfer Month, a panel of Latinx alumni were invited to share testimonios of resources and connections that supported their success.

In addition, community connection events were hosted to engage with our local neighborhoods and community members in Spanish, Spanglish, and English. Cañada College joined our Half Moon Bay partner, Ayudando Latinos a Soñar (ALAS), to learn about advocacy projects, community counseling and youth programming. Latinx Heritage Month culminated with a college-wide Foro Comunitario (Forum) on Zoom which was also broadcast live on Facebook to share how Cañada College is working to combat Anti-Blackness and share special resources to support students during COVID-19.

Recordings from past events and additional details on Latinx Heritage Month can be found on the [Latinx Heritage Month website](#). Thank you to the students, faculty, staff, administrators and broader campus community who joined in the months' events to amplify Latinx voices and identities.

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### Education & Human Development Students Launch Digital Book



Over the summer, the Education & Human Development (EHD) student club, Educators Now, wrote and illustrated a digital children's book addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. "[Adventures of the Mighty Five: Fighting Corvin & His Creeps](#)" tells the story of five young children who become heroes protecting their community from COVID-19. The Coronavirus is personified as

an alien named Corvin, who along with his virus buddies the "Creeps," intend to harm humans.

When the pandemic began, students in the Educators Now Club began holding meetings over Zoom and discussed the importance to continue outreach into their community, especially since the pandemic held many new challenges for families and children. With this, the Cañada students began sharing resources and ideas surrounding child development and education.

"It was important to me to use bright and engaging colors, identifiable details, and a visually diverse cast of characters in making the pictures for the book, said EHD student and Educators Now Club member, Alia Tu, who was also one of the book illustrators. She mentioned that the goal of the project was to encourage children's active learning, critical thinking and overall enjoyment of the book.

Tu added, "I loved seeing the world and characters we had created visually come to life and am very grateful to have been a part of it. I hope our work can be a resource for families, children and educators as we learn to live safely and wisely with the new reality around us."

The goal of the book is to nurture children's resilience during this challenging time in fun and developmentally appropriate ways. A PDF copy of the book can be downloaded [here](#) so families and children can read it their own way. Or, it can be watched through the [digital version](#) of the book which includes suggested activities to help children be "heroes" during the pandemic and to encourage them to protect themselves and others.

# College of San Mateo

## Another Successful Family Science & Astronomy Festival + Makerspace Event



CSM's annual Family Science and Astronomy Festival + Makerspace event was held on Saturday, September 26, in a virtual format that drew hundreds of attendees. Spearheaded by Physics Professor Mohsen Janatpour, the event was made possible by the dedicated efforts of many CSM faculty, staff, students, and administrators. Additional support also came from a long-time partnership with the San Mateo County Astronomical Society (SMCAS).

Each of the 15 live sessions drew an audience of up to 155 registered participants, but those numbers could easily be twice that since we know many families were viewing together. In between live sessions, attendees were encouraged to browse the [video library](#), a selection of pre-recorded videos created by CSM faculty, staff, students, and SMCAS members.

The session that saw the largest attendance was the keynote given by Dr. David Des Marais, senior space scientist for NASA's Astrobiology Programs at NASA Ames Research Center. Dr. Des Marais shared fascinating information on astrobiology and Mars exploration, then followed his presentation with a Q&A session.

The live sessions were recorded and are available to view on the [Family Science Day Schedule webpage](#).

A huge thank you goes out to the entire team that made this year's virtual event a success!

Faculty Contributors: Kathy Diamond, Linda Hand, Jose Gutierrez, Mohsen Janatpour, Elisha Polomski, Katrina Rahn, Darryl Stanford, Alex Wong, Jason Yap

Student Contributors: Ellen Rayl, Katie Toman, Zac Turner

SMCAS Contributors: Michael Cooke, Chanan Greenberg, John Lucchesi, Edmund Pieret, Mike Ryan, Frank Seminaro, Bill Shelander, Jim Shuder, Tom Stephany

Administrative Contributors: Elnora Tayag, Charlene Frontiera

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## CSM Film Faculty Make Their Mark

In yet another illustration of how much adjunct instructors contribute to CSM's programs, Film's current adjunct team of Bay Area filmmakers are making their mark.



Erin Persley produced a music documentary, [Bleeding Audio](#), that won the Audience Award for Best Documentary at the Dances with Films Festival in Los Angeles. The film was the closing night film at the San Francisco Documentary Film Festival, where it also won the Audience Award.

Recently, Erin has led summer documentary filmmaking expeditions for students worldwide to places like Morocco and Vietnam. She is also a resident filmmaker at the San Francisco Film Society FilmHouse, directing a feature documentary titled Human Shield

Meanwhile, Rafael Flores has a new feature narrative film in the Oakland International Film Festival, which just concluded. Titled E 14, the docudrama about displacement in Oakland received Best Narrative Film at the Latino Market in New York. It is touring in other festivals in Chicago, North Carolina, London, Detroit

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and Los Angeles. It was also accepted into the Cannes Independent Film Competition in France and will be screened in October. The film was recently released on [Amazon Prime](#).

Additionally, Rafael's documentary on his grandmother's repatriation to Mexico has been invited to the Official Latino Film Festival in Palm Springs this October, to compete for HBO distribution. The film, *A Mi Matria*, is currently available to [rent on Vimeo](#).



And if that's not enough: Ingrid Schulz has done film editing at Pixar, Dreamworks/PDI, and the Sundance Institute Feature Film Lab, as well as on numerous Bay Area shorts and features. Her short experimental films have screened in festivals in Austria and Bangladesh, as well as closer to home in the Mill Valley, Cinequest, and San Francisco International film festivals—the latter awarding her the Golden Gate Award. Her most recent work deals with veterans struggling to readjust to civilian life. Check out Ingrid's [filmography at IMDB](#).

Indeed, all three of these instructors have a wide range of diverse filmmaking credits in the Bay Area and beyond; and they all have had their films featured and awarded in film festivals around the world.

This combined experience provides an outstanding educational opportunity to our students and the CSM community.

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### CSM Centennial Planning Gains Momentum



Founded in 1922, College of San Mateo will soon celebrate its 100th anniversary. The year-long centennial celebration, spanning March 2022 to March 2023, will include commemorative events, videos, and a website dedicated to CSM's legacy.

Under the leadership of CSM Interim President Kim Lopez and Marketing Director Richard Rojo, a distinguished [community advisory committee](#) formed last year and has met several times to build partnerships for the celebration. Additionally, multiple college-wide discussions have taken place where key themes were identified to help guide the planning. The themes are:

- Student-Centered Culture
- Responsiveness to the Community
- History and Legacy
- Campus Location and Beauty

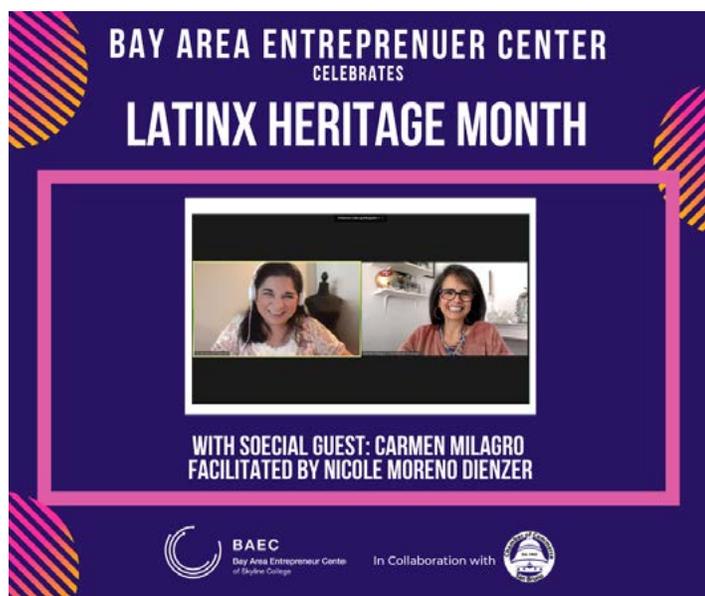
The next step will involve building a planning team of faculty, staff, students, alumni and retirees.

Planning a centennial celebration during a pandemic has been a challenge, but CSM will surely rise to the challenge as it has to so many others over the years.

To get involved, share ideas, or stay informed about CSM's 100th anniversary, fill out and submit the [CSM Centennial Interest Form](#).



### Latinx Heritage Month at the BAEC



On Thursday, October 15, 2020 the Bay Area Entrepreneur Center, held a virtual fireside chat in honor of National Hispanic Heritage Month or Latinx Heritage Month. This conversation served as a vehicle to encourage students and professionals throughout the Latinx diaspora and throughout our entire global community, to explore the path of entrepreneurship.

Along with our partner, the San Bruno Chamber of Commerce, the BAEC welcomed Carmen Milagro, to share her insights navigating our new normal and on being a Latina in the business world. Carmen is an entrepreneur-artist and a Hispanic role model. She has been honored by HISPA and is featured in their 20k Hispanic/ Latinx Stories series. Carmen is a Hispanic Star Ambassador and was selected to appear in the upcoming book of stories, Hispanic Stars Rising – The New Face of Power. The discussion was led by Nicole Moreno Deinzer, our Business Programs Coordinator for the BAEC.

The Bay Area Entrepreneur Center hosts virtual events and continues to offer no-cost resources to our students and community, albeit in an online and remote capacity. Join us for our [3-day Virtual Small Business Symposium](#) to learn more about how businesses are doing in this pandemic and the work we're doing to support them.

Connect with us here at our [BAEC Youtube Channel](#) or at [skylinebaec.org](http://skylinebaec.org).

*Article by Pcyeta Stroud | Images by Olivia Vialau*

### Middle College Seniors Participate in the 2020 Berkeley Virtual Experience



While most students continue at Skyline College after high school graduation, the Middle College program does provide support and counseling services for seniors who are four-year college bound. For example, this year, the Middle College program has had students participate in the Berkeley Virtual Experience, a program designed to help first-generation, low-income, and/or students who have been historically underrepresented to succeed on the UC Berkeley campus. The program included a series of application workshops and information sessions that introduced both high school and transfer prospective students to the UC application and admissions process, as well as the UC Berkeley undergraduate experience. Students learned how to craft a competitive application for UC admission, meet current students and alumni. They also receive support from the admissions staff even after the program ends to ensure that participants have a strong college application.

Here is what our Middle College participants had to say: "I really enjoyed the Berkeley Virtual Experience, especially the student panel as it allowed me to learn about various perspectives and

a lot of vital information such as details about the dorms, the diversity, different programs and I highly appreciated hearing advice from the students. The different perspectives including those of freshman and transfer students, and of many different backgrounds helped give a more accurate depiction of what the Berkeley experience would be like." - Frida Arguello

"The Berkeley Virtual Experience was amazing for me. The admission's office that led our small groups was very kind and helpful. I am very glad that I had the opportunity to participate in this program because I was able to receive feedback on my application and facilitated envisioning myself on Berkeley's campus." - Andrea Molina

"The program was extremely beneficial to my understanding of the UC application process, especially regarding the PIQ's. The one-on-one session with an Admissions Officer was the most helpful to me, as it provided extensive and specific guidance in strengthening my PIQ's." - Divina Moreno

This was a great opportunity for the Middle College seniors! We look forward to celebrating their successes and to having future Middle College students participate in the Berkeley Virtual Experience.

*Article by Daniela Azuela*

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## Study Abroad to Launch Virtual Internships in Costa Rica and England!



SMCCCD Study Abroad is excited to announce opportunities to intern virtually in Costa Rica and England, in addition to Italy! Check out the recorded informational meeting with our partners abroad:

The Global Virtual Internships Information Meeting on October 19, 2020 was recorded; please register at [tinyurl.com/NCSAC-virtual](https://tinyurl.com/NCSAC-virtual) if you would like us to send you the recording.

Applications are now open for the Spring 2021! Priority applications closed on Thursday, October 22, 2020. To learn more, please visit the [Spring 2021 Virtual Global Internship page](#).

SMCCCD Study Abroad, along with fellow Northern California Study Abroad Consortium (NCSAC) member Santa Rosa Junior College (SRJC), in partnership with the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS), is excited to launch Virtual Global Internships. Beginning Spring 2021, students may participate in virtual internships in Costa Rica, Italy and England.

The Global Learning Programs and Services Division has partnered with the Strategic Partnerships and Workforce Development Division to offer COOP 671 – General Cooperative Education course as part of this virtual Study Abroad Program. This program will allow students to hone professional skills and acquire valuable work experience with a global team, learning cross-cultural communication skills, time management, digital literacy and adaptability.

Scholarships are available. Interested students may apply online or schedule a one-on-one advising sessions with the SMCCCD Study Abroad office at [www.smccd.edu/goabroad](http://www.smccd.edu/goabroad) to learn more.

SMCCCD Study Abroad is the district-wide study abroad program housed in the Global Learning Programs and Services Division at Skyline College. For more information about studying or interning abroad, faculty teach abroad opportunities, community travel for lifelong learners, visiting international faculty presenters and student scholarship opportunities, please contact Zaid Ghoriz at [ghoriz@smccd.edu](mailto:ghoriz@smccd.edu) or (650) 738-7088 or Stephanie Wells at [wellss@smccd.edu](mailto:wellss@smccd.edu). You can also learn more by visiting the [SMCCCD Study Abroad Facebook page](#) or Instagram page @smccd\_study\_abroad.

*Article by Stephanie Wells*