

MT.SAC

MAGAZINE



Winter 2022





Center Adds to Student Success

The newly remodeled STEM Center opened this Fall, welcoming students to a space where they can get help with their anatomy course or collaboratively work on a robot. The 3,000-square-foot center, located on the third floor of the Math and Science Building, provides tutoring, peer-to-peer coaching, and counseling. Students who visit the center have access to a variety of resources including microscopes, slides, anatomical models, laptops, rocks, and even skeletons. The center, which reflects what students indicated they needed, also features a large LED video wall in an area designed to host special events and guest speakers. While the STEM Center is geared toward students taking science courses, it is open to all students. The center is used by the STEM Teacher Preparation Program, Robotics Team members, and members of two engineering clubs.

Annual Report Staff

Editor/Senior Writer: Jill Dolan

Design: Linda Lundgren

Contributors: Robert Bledsoe, Marisa Fierro, Greg MacDonald, Uyen Mai and Katie Pruitt

Photos: Robert Bledsoe, Gary Gidcumb and Tom Zasadzinski

Editorial Support: Cynthia Orr

Distribution Support: Annette Barrantes

Mt. SAC Magazine is published by Mt. San Antonio College and is distributed to local leaders, donors and friends of the College.

Contact us at (909) 274-6119 or mail to:
Office of Public Affairs
1100 N. Grand Ave.
Walnut, CA 91789

www.mtsac.edu

Printed on recycled paper. As part of our commitment to green printing, this publication is printed on Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper. The Forest Stewardship Council promotes environmentally appropriate, socially beneficial and economically viable management of the world's forests.



On the cover:

Dr. Bill Scroggins has served at the helm of Mt. San Antonio College for 12 years and plans to retire next June.

College President's Message

A Fond Farewell

By now you may have heard that I will be retiring from my position as President and CEO of Mt. San Antonio College, effective next June. This will conclude 12 years of service to the college and 49 years in higher education. While it's difficult to step away, I am excited to embark on the next chapter of my life and enjoy more time with my family.



It has been my pleasure and a labor of love to provide leadership to the most outstanding community college in California and to oversee a team of dedicated and talented faculty, staff, and managers who have been the heart and soul of that success. Over the past 12 years, we have created so many new programs and initiatives. We partnered with local universities to create bachelor's programs and worked with industry to develop new certificates and degrees. We went into our communities to provide special programming for people of all ages. We expanded student services and passionately pursued initiatives to support equity, student success, and sustainability.

We have always been guided by a deep commitment to helping students succeed. And at the center of every effort has always been our superb faculty, staff and administrators. I have presided over three colleges and worked with dozens more in our state and across the country, and I can say without hesitation, no one does it better than we do at Mt. SAC.

The students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members who make up the Mt. SAC family have made my tenure as president the most rewarding experience of my career. We have collectively created a thriving, modern, student-centered college that provides transformational experiences for our students, our employees, and our community.

Thanks to all of you, I leave with a sense of accomplishment and knowledge that I will always be a Mountie. In closing, let me say it has been a great privilege to serve as Mt. SAC's president.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William T. Scroggins".

Dr. William T. Scroggins
President and CEO

Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees

Top Left to Right:
Dr. Manuel Baca
Robert F. Hidalgo
Peter Hidalgo
Gary Chow

Bottom Left to Right:
Judy Chen Haggerty, Esq.
Jay F. Chen
Laura Santos

(not shown, Student Trustee
Juan Mendoza)





Table of Contents

06 *Dual Enrollment
Grads Excel*

12 *Lessons in Diversity*

16 *Students Rise
above Stigma*

18 *President Leaves
a Legacy*

20 *Bachelor's Degree
Approved*

22 *Construction
Continues*

28 *New Support
for Horticulture
Students*

Double the Celebration

June marked not only one commencement but two! Mt. SAC celebrated the first graduating class of its Early College Academy in West Covina, which opened four years ago at a former elementary school. About 60 students earned their high school diploma, which they received during a celebration in Hilmer Lodge Stadium in front of cheering family, teachers and staff. Four of the academy's students graduated with both their high school diploma and an associate degree. All four, who also walked in a separate ceremony with Mt. SAC graduates, transferred to University of California campuses. Sixteen of the students completed their lower division general education requirements for the California State University and University of California systems.



Teen Heads to UC Riverside



When Anisa Oza stepped onto the UC Riverside campus for the first time this September, the Mt. SAC transfer student was considered a junior... as a 17-year-old.

She earned a high school degree and a college degree simultaneously at the Mt. SAC Early College Academy in West Covina.

"I am really grateful for the opportunities offered to me by Mt. SAC to receive a head start in my education," Anisa says. "I am also really grateful for all the professors that gave me the extra time I needed to succeed in a college class as a high school student."

As a high school student, she aced over 70 college units on her way to earning a degree in administration of justice and getting accepted into the Mt. SAC Honors Program. Anisa also was actively involved in leadership and community service.

"Throughout high school, I've served as student body president twice, and vice resident (another time)," she says. "Some clubs I've been part of include the National Honors Society, Mu Alpha Theta (a national math honor society), and I even started my own club: Junior State of America (a national youth, non-partisan political organization for students to discuss and debate politics)."

At UCR, she plans to finish her business administration degree and minor in political science and public policy. Despite her age, Anisa has seemingly figured out her future. "I hope to join organizations and work on projects that tackle social justice issues," she says. "After those, I plan to attend law school and work as an attorney."







Hall of Famer Named Alumnus of the Year

Corey Hamabata knows a thing or two about success on and off the wrestling mat.

Following his high school wrestling career, Corey came to Mt. San Antonio College to pursue his interest in firefighting and continue wrestling competitively. In 2005, Corey put together one of the greatest seasons in Mt. SAC wrestling history, capping off his sophomore season with an undefeated record and California Community College state championships.

Following his incredible 2005 season, Corey was recruited by a number of university programs, and ultimately chose Cornell University in New York. In 2008, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and received the wrestling team's Donald Dickason Academic Award for success in the classroom.

After graduation, Corey took his experience and knowledge into the business world, working in the hotel sector for various corporations in Chicago, Los Angeles, Singapore and Hong Kong. He rose to the top ranks within the hotel and hospitality industry serving as a senior vice president of JLL's Hotels and Hospitality group in Hong Kong. More recently, Corey was named managing director for Rockpool Capital, an integrated wealth management firm, where he will lead its real estate investment practice and build out a specialized hospitality real estate investment platform in Asia Pacific.

In honor of his accomplishments at Mt. SAC, Corey was inducted into the 2022 Athletics Hall of Fame. During the ceremony, he reflected on his experiences in athletics and in his career, coming to the conclusion that the arc of performance is not based on whether a person succeeds or fails in reaching goals.

"Each thing that you attempt to do, whether you succeed or whether you fail in that attempt, it's all a note. Each note in and of itself might be significant, it might be insignificant. But it's not until you look at it all from up high, looking down, that you can see the symphony that's playing out ahead of you."





Hot Shots

Cadets in Mt. SAC's 74th Basic Fire Academy put their skills to the test while extinguishing a car fire at a training facility in Chino. Offered in the Fall and Spring, the academy runs for 15 weeks. Once cadets complete their training, they will have all the certificates needed to be hired as a firefighter almost anywhere in the country.



Lessons in Diversity

Ethnic Studies courses broaden students' perspectives



“My students look at me and see a woman with deep brown skin and kinky hair sporting an Afro, and I look like their mothers and their aunts and other women they love and respect. They see what I have achieved in academia, which means that they can achieve, too. Dr. Mica earned her PhD; surely, I can finish my degree and go on for more education, if I so choose.”

*Dr. Mica Stewart
Ethnic Studies Professor*

Following a new policy set by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors in 2021, Mt. SAC this year began offering courses in ethnic studies. Ethnic studies as a discipline focuses on the four historically marginalized and racialized groups in the United States—African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinx individuals, and Native American/Indigenous people. Per the policy, students are required to take a three-unit semester class in African American studies, Asian American studies, Latinx studies or Native American studies in order to earn an associate degree. Dr. Mica Stewart, an ethnic studies professor and co-chair of the Ethnic Studies Department, shares the importance of these courses and the impact they have on students. As told to Jill Dolan.

Where some see requirements, I see opportunities. When I hear the word “requirement”, I think of something unpleasant that I am being forced to do. In contrast, taking ethnic studies is a long overdue opportunity. It’s an opportunity to learn amazing facts about people from our own and different cultures that go beyond the limited narratives of victimization. It’s an opportunity to hear a counter-narrative about BIPOC (black, Indigenous and people of color) individuals, one that does not reinforce negative stereotypes about the

deficiency, dependency, and deviancy of dark-skinned people.

Take, for example, the class that I am currently teaching: Introduction to African American/Black Studies. In my 24 years of teaching at Mt. SAC, I have never had a class in which the majority of the students are Black identified, but I do now. African-American students are taking my course and loving my course and excelling because they see themselves in my curriculum—not as an afterthought or as an addendum to the main story—but as the center of the story. They see themselves in the myriad of ways I infuse Black culture into the classroom, and—perhaps most importantly—they see themselves in me.

My students look at me and see a woman with deep brown skin and kinky hair sporting an Afro, and I look like their mothers and their aunts and other women they love and respect. They see what I have achieved in academia, which means that they can achieve, too. Dr. Mica earned her PhD; surely, I can finish my degree and go on for more education, if I so choose.

That’s why representation is so important. Racial and ethnic representation is important in all disciplines, but especially in ethnic studies because one of the main reasons that we have so much misinformation about who we are as

BIPOC individuals is that someone else has been telling our story. Or rather, someone else has been telling a story and calling it ours, when in truth that story told does not reflect who we have been, who we are now, or who we can become.

Based on what I’ve said so far, one might think that ethnic studies courses only benefit the students of the particular racial or ethnic group being studied. That is far from the truth. All students benefit from taking ethnic studies courses. One way that students benefit is that ethnic studies courses place a strong emphasis on critical thinking. As minoritized people who have been harmed by the single, dominant, uncritically accepted Eurocentric narrative, ethnic studies educators encourage students to approach all knowledge critically—even what we ourselves are teaching—by asking: *What is the dominant narrative here? Who does it serve? Who or what is left out of the story? Who is left in but represented in a negative light? Who do these representations and misrepresentations serve?* These are the kinds of questions we all need to ask in order to be wise consumers, wise voters, wise employers, and even wise daters.

Ethnic studies benefits all students by also revealing what is possible when people who are marginalized and those who co-conspire with them band together to fight injustice. Unfortunately, there are



many types of injustices in our world, not just racial injustice. Yet, because of the longevity and pervasiveness of racial injustice in our country, there is a plethora of examples of how people have resisted and fought against oppression. Those stories of resistance have universal application and can offer guidance and inspiration for someone who wants to aid the people in Ukraine, fight ableism, or challenge unjust policies at their child's school.

One more benefit is that ethnic studies courses broaden our perspective and open us up to rich traditions; fascinating cultural practices; and vibrant ways of being, seeing, and experiencing the world. Who wouldn't want that? Only someone who has been taught to fear that which is different.

Unfortunately, it is that fear of "The Other" that is threatening to tear our nation apart. It is a fear of being

replaced rather than a focus on what can be embraced by a true value and appreciation of diversity. That's why we need ethnic studies—to help us honestly view who we have been as a nation and diligently pursue what we can be when we truly prioritize DEISA—diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, and antiracism.

Garden Yields More than Veggies for Foster Youth

A new raised-bed garden on campus is cultivating a sense of belonging and pride for Mt. SAC's foster youth.

The REACH Community Garden, located on a half-acre site just south of Sherman Park, offers a unique opportunity for students to learn and connect outside of an academic setting, says Jeze Lopez, director of the REACH Guardian Scholars Program.

The REACH Guardian Scholars Program is an educational program designed to assist and support current and former foster youth in their transition into college, while attending Mt. SAC, and as they graduate or transfer to a university. "A lot of our students, because of where they come from, don't have family members or mentors (to support them)," Lopez says. "We try to support them personally, academically, and in a way, financially and emotionally. Our program has to do that by exposing them to different things."

The garden is a unique element of the program's life skills curriculum, which helps students gain confidence in managing their education, money, relationships and goals. The idea for the project came from a REACH program alumna who grew most of her food during the pandemic to make ends meet. "She thought this skill would be great for other foster youth to know, so she offered to help build the garden," Lopez says. Thanks to a private donation and a grant, the garden opened in April. Preparing the site and maintaining it – watering and cleaning – has been a collaborative effort between the REACH program, the Biology Department, the Horticulture Department, Horticulture student club, the EAGLE student club, and the college farm.

Lopez says the garden provides an opportunity for students "to learn where vegetables come from, grow them, and take ownership, but also to taste high quality organic vegetables. It's very expensive for our students to buy veggies and we hope they can be inspired to replicate this at home on a smaller scale." Among the crops planted and harvested this past season were tomatoes, cilantro, onions, corn, squash and peppers. Students, faculty, staff, and the surrounding community are invited to come out on planting and harvesting days. Lopez hopes that one day, the garden can supplement the college's Mountie Fresh food pantry.

Lopez and the program's social workers have found that the garden also acts as a safe space for students who may not always be receptive to opening up in a traditional setting. He reflects that there is something about being out in the sun and digging in the dirt that makes difficult discussions a bit easier.

Mia P, a REACH student, says her experience working in the garden was wholesome. "Having your hands in the dirt and planting seeds that will grow brought my mind peace and my heart tranquility."

Lopez likens the garden to a big red couch in the middle of a room, drawing people to come sit, linger and talk. "Mental health care, self-care, nutrition – all of these things are embedded in this garden."

Plans include the installation of a compost bin, and seating to allow for small group chats and special programming.





Watering Concrete Roses: Students Rise Above Stigma



*“I see myself as a rose
and my students as roses
because of what they are
capable of.”*

*Joe Louis Hernandez
Rising Scholars Director*

Rising Scholars, the newest support program on campus, shines as a beacon of hope for students living with the stigma of former incarceration.

With funding from Los Angeles County and in partnership with its Probation Department, Mt. SAC created the program in 2020. Students can earn their high school diploma or complete their GED, choose a career or technical program, earn their associate degree, or work toward transferring to a university.

Joe Louis Hernandez, the program’s director, says Rising Scholars serves as the launching point from which students can accomplish their dreams. “Some of these students have overcome obstacles that not everyone faces on their way here to Mt. SAC,” he says. “As we water them, cultivate the soil, as we crack the concrete for them, they grow. I see myself as a rose and my students as roses because of what they are capable of.”

The Rising Scholars program offers credit and noncredit students individualized educational counseling, career information, community referrals, cultural activities, enrichment workshops, expungement clinics, peer mentoring, and tutoring. The program also employs people who have experienced incarceration, so students are able to see themselves represented among college employees.

“When I was a student here, there was no program like Rising Scholars,” Hernandez says. “I was always wondering if there was anyone like me here. Who represented me? Who was in leadership positions that represented me?”

With Hernandez at the helm of the program, students can see they too can be a college administrator. “I tell them, if you can be a director, you can be a classified staff member or a faculty member,” he says. “I’m like our students. By visualizing me, they can visualize the



heights they can attain. If you search my name, you won't see a mugshot. You will see all my accomplishments. We embrace the stigma so we can shatter it."

Student Chris Segovia headed straight to Mt. SAC after leaving a nearby halfway house, determined to change his life, in part to provide for his young daughter. Segovia earned his GED this summer while also taking credit courses.

"It wasn't until I came here that I realized I was smart," says Segovia, who dropped out of school at 13. "I used to get failing grades, but since I've been at Mt. SAC, I've earned A's and B's."

Leandro "Lee" Perez graduated last year with an associate degree in alcohol and drug addiction counseling, but returns to the Rising Scholars office frequently. "The support and fellowship are the best I have experienced," says Perez, who is pursuing a degree in social work and sociology. "With Rising Scholars, I was able to achieve (being named a) Student of Distinction."

Adrianna Perea, 28 and a single mom to a 3-year-old daughter, learned about Rising Scholars through one of her classmates who participates in the program. She is pursuing a degree in alcohol and drug addiction counseling.



"My experience from day one has been unbelievably amazing," she says.

Perea says she enjoys attending group sessions and taking advantage of the resources, some of which help her deal with anxiety and depression. Her experience with law enforcement left her feeling discouraged, and believing she would never return to school.

"I thought I was never going to have the motivation to pursue any type of degree," she says. "The support is such a blessing. When you see fellow students who have struggled as yourself, it motivates you to want to not only

do better but be better, especially when everyone is so helpful."

Perea says she would recommend the program without hesitation to every individual who has a past with the law and incarceration. "It's inspiring, uplifting, and a message for hope. Rising Scholars is like that second chance where you feel accepted and welcomed."

Perea adds she is grateful for her those involved in the program, even her peers. "We are all rising together. Every individual has embraced me as I have embraced them back. I truly feel like the rose who grew from the crack."



"We are all rising together... I truly feel like the rose who grew from the crack."

Adrianna Perea

Leaving a Legacy

President Reflects on a Few of His Accomplishments as Retirement Nears

When Dr. Bill Scroggins took office as Mt. SAC's ninth president in 2011, he assumed the enormous task of guiding the state's largest single-campus community college as it recovered from the Great Recession. Years later, he would again be challenged as the college weathered the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, including keeping the college community safe and healthy, all the while providing instruction mostly online. In spite of that, Dr. Scroggins says one of the accomplishments of which he is most proud is managing the college through a tremendous change in the diversity and life experiences of its students.

He notes that since he arrived 12 years ago, the Hispanic/Latinx population has expanded tremendously (53% in 2011 compared to 63% in 2021) and the socioeconomic status of Mt. SAC's students is much broader. "We often say we accept the top 100 percent but when I came here, we didn't really have a place for all those folks. Over the years, we have been intentional about reaching out to marginalized populations and now do amazing work with Dreamers, veterans, and more recently, foster youth and formerly incarcerated individuals," he says. "These are not easy populations to serve, but that is our mission and we've hired incredible people to design programs to support them."

He recalls attending a "Lavender Graduation," held for the college's LGBTQIA+ community, and hearing a student say that they came to Mt. SAC because it is safe and supportive. "I hear the same thing from the undocumented population. I hear it from the deaf and hard of hearing community, and our student-veterans," Dr. Scroggins says. "They are not just getting an education but they're finding a safe space where they are accepted and can grow and really have a chance to reflect on what they want to do with their life, rather than what the world is making them do with their life. Having the college be a safe and supportive place makes a big difference for an individual."

Through Dr. Scroggins' years of leadership, the college expanded its academic offerings, working with industry partners to ensure graduates are prepared to hit the ground running in more than six dozen new



programs, including drone piloting and social justice. The college also grew student services, focused on cultivating the college's equity and student success initiatives, including the launch of a Pride Center, Veterans Resource Center, Center for Black Culture and Student Success, and El Centro.

The physical campus also changed. Dr. Scroggins has watched 15 new buildings open, as the campus becomes a new version of itself. Thanks to voter-approved Measure RR and Measure GO, and Dr. Scroggins' facilities knowledge and experience to garner state funds, much-needed facilities have been constructed on both sides of campus.

One project of which Dr. Scroggins is particularly proud speaks to one of his passions: career technical education (CTE).

The Business and Computer Technology Complex (BCT), he says, exemplifies his desire to have CTE programs that are hands on, and provide opportunities for students to be as close to the work environment in which they will be employed.

"I'm a technophile," he says. "When I first came and saw a faculty member teaching in one of the 1950s-era buildings, trying to bring in computer hardware to teach the class, I thought, 'Oh man, we really need this business building and we need to build it with all the bells and whistles of technology.'" Thanks to Scroggins' attention to faculty input, the BCT includes a student-run restaurant, a fashion design studio, a mock courtroom and law library, and many computer network classes in which cyber security students can compete.

The other project that ranks high for

Longtime Advocate for 'Going Green'

For the past 12 years, Mt. SAC has demonstrated and been recognized for its commitment to sustainability, proving that it takes more than just recycling to preserve the environment for future generations. Much of the college's success in this area is thanks to the leadership of Dr. Bill Scroggins, who has long been an advocate for "going green." "I started driving hybrids when they were first invented, and I still do. I am passionate about recycle and reuse," he says.

This enthusiasm, Dr. Scroggins explains, comes from the fact that he is a chemist and a lot of sustainability has to do with science. "I quickly realized that there is one source of pollution that we would not be able to control, that is growing faster than any other threat to the environment: people," he says. "Humanity is causing the natural ecosystems to be out of balance, so science can only mitigate a part of that. You have to change the behavioral part. That is why we have two directors of sustainability: one for the technical and the science, and the other for the people."

In 2014, at the encouragement of the college's Sustainability Committee, Dr. Scroggins joined thousands of other college and university presidents across the country in signing the "American College and University Presidents' Climate Commitment" pledge to develop an institution-wide plan to achieve climate neutral emissions.

Since signing that pledge, the college has met many of those stated goals, including the construction of a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Gold building (the Equity Center), four LEED Silver buildings (Design Technology Center, Mountie Café, Business and Computer Technology Building, and Student Success Center), and installation of dozens of electric car charging stations across campus. In addition, Mt. SAC employs a thermal energy storage facility that uses natural gas to make ice at night and uses the ice to cool buildings during the day. It is 20% more efficient than using fossil fuel powered air conditioning to cool campus buildings.

In 2018, the Sustainability Committee published its first Climate Action Plan, which sets climate action goals as a campus and gives the college a tangible roadmap to climate neutrality. A revised and updated plan will be released next year.

Sustainability Director Eera Babtiwale credits Dr. Scroggins for suggesting new ideas on how to best infuse sustainability into the entire campus, from the classroom to facilities. One example is a requirement that all new buildings be net zero. "That wasn't something we had to push," Babtiwale says. "He said this is the future and we need to be on board. We are a little city and we have to take this on, and show other communities and other colleges how it is done."

Sustainability Coordinator Tania Anders, a professor of Marine Geosciences and Geology, is responsible for the infusion of sustainability into the curriculum and offers professional development training to her colleagues. She praises Dr. Scroggins for sharing the Sustainability Committee's vision to adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

"Everything we do on this campus has to do with sustainability," Anders says. "We are showing what can be done and we are doing our share of working toward achieving the goals set by the United Nations. I think we can be proud of that."



Dr. Scroggins is the new Wellness Center, located within the new gymnasium and set to open next Spring. "This may be a surprise to some," he admits. "But, I really believe in teaching the whole individual. The health of students is huge and one of the biggest problems with minoritized populations is that they don't live a physical healthy lifestyle. The Wellness Center supports Athletics, but it also benefits student health and employee health."

Gary Nellesen, executive director of Facilities Planning and Management, says Dr. Scroggins took the college from building good facilities to building great facilities. "He's very proud of what we've done in 12 years and he should be," says Nellesen. "The college will long have the benefits of the high standards he set for us."

Histotechnology Bachelor's Degree Approved

Mt. SAC will offer a bachelor's degree in histotechnology as soon as next year, paving the way to better job opportunities for students.

Histotechnicians prepare thin sections of human, animal and plant tissue for microscopic examination. The college's program trains students for employment in clinical, veterinary, forensic, marine biology, and research laboratories.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) Occupational Outlook Handbook projects 11% job growth among clinical laboratory technician and technologist occupations between 2020 and 2030. This growth rate is faster than the average projected growth rate among all occupations. The BLS also indicates that the aging population likely will lead to a greater need to diagnose medical conditions through laboratory procedures. In this region, the demand for these occupations is projected to grow 17.8% by 2028, an increase of 2,280 positions, with the highest growth in Orange County.

"There is a nationwide shortage of histotechnicians, and this is a high-skill, high-wage profession," says Jennifer McDonald, the program's director. "Our students are in high demand and often get hired before completing the program."

Started with seed money in 2001, Mt. SAC's program is the only one of its kind in the state and the largest in the United States. Only five institutions nationwide offer Histotechnology baccalaureate degrees, none of which are west of Texas. The cumulative pass rate on the American Society of Clinical Pathology histotechnology exam is over 92%, and all students are successfully placed in facilities, including City of Hope, Children's Hospital Los Angeles, and UCLA Medical Center, following completion of the program.

Much work remains to develop the upper



"There is a nationwide shortage of histotechnicians and this is a high-skill, high-wage profession. Our students are in high demand and often get hired before completing the program."

Jennifer McDonald, Histotechnology Program Director

division program, including curriculum. Students will pay \$46 a unit for the first two years and then \$130 a unit for the

remainder of the program. Many courses will be held in the evening or online to accommodate working professionals.

Federal Bill Funds Short-Term Vocational Programs

Mt. SAC had reason to celebrate in the Spring when the federal omnibus appropriations bill was passed and included \$500,000 for noncredit short-term vocational programs focused on establishing pre-apprenticeships and apprenticeships in the health care field.

Offered by the college's School of Continuing Education, the pre-apprenticeship program will provide students with skills in math and English, foundational theory, and hands-on clinical experience to prepare for immediate employment and entrance into an apprenticeship program. The funding will also allow for the development of apprenticeship programs

in Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Pharmacy Technician, and Medical Assistant training. Employer engagement and partnerships will be necessary to provide work-experience and clinical internships.

School of Continuing Education Provost Dr. Madelyn Arballo says the demand for trained healthcare workers has never been so urgent, particularly as communities seek to recover from the economic downturn due to COVID-19. "This program will positively impact underrepresented adults, specifically students of color, immigrants, and those who are under-employed in our service area and surrounding communities by

providing more opportunities for middle-income employment."

According to the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership's 2020 Economic Forecast, within the Mt. SAC service area, the City of Pomona, and cities of residence for Mt. SAC students, health care services has the largest share of employment with more than 139,000 jobs in 2019. In Los Angeles County overall, the healthcare industry employed nearly 770,000 workers in 2019. Regional projections just prior to the COVID-19 pandemic estimated a 5.3% growth rate by 2021, adding more jobs than any other industry sector.





Construction Update

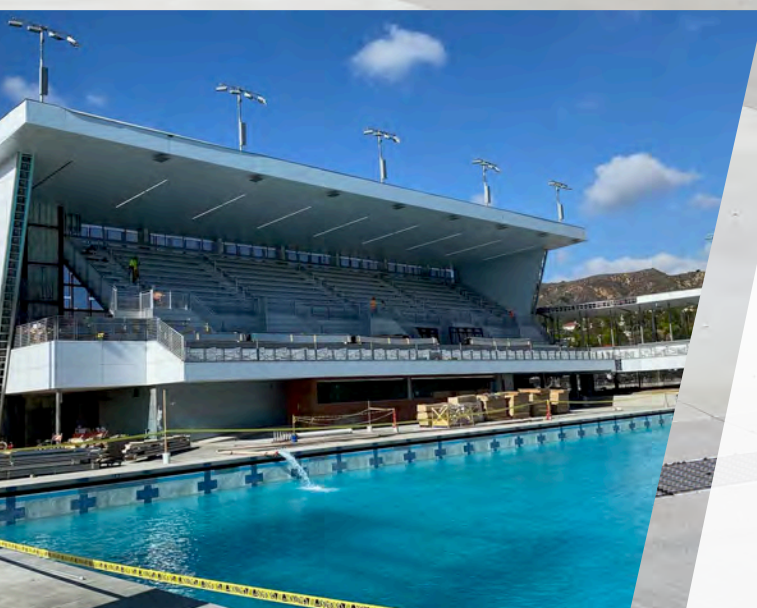
Construction of two of the college's largest projects – the Student Center and Gymnasium/Wellness/Aquatics Complex -- made progress over the past year and are scheduled to open next Spring to great anticipation.

The long-awaited Student Center, now very visible from Temple Avenue, will fundamentally change the entire character of the interior of campus. The new 100,000-square-foot, three-story building will replace the existing, much smaller center from the 1950s. The first floor will have a convenience store and an increased number of spaces for students to study either individually or in groups. The second floor of the center will feature a multi-cultural center, a student club kitchen and an updated room for Associated Students to hold its meetings. The building, which will be outfitted with an extensive array of audiovisual and messaging technology, will also provide much-needed event space and conference rooms on all three floors. The facility will be available for the community to use as well.

Rising next to Hilmer Lodge Stadium and Heritage Hall on the south side of campus is an 110,000-gross-square-foot complex that is home to a new Gymnasium, which includes two courts capable of hosting competition basketball, volleyball, wrestling, and badminton games/matches, it also has a weight room and locker rooms. The facility will also have a Wellness Center that will offer an indoor running track, exercise equipment, yoga room and multiple classrooms. The center will be open to the students, staff and the community. Nearby, the cutting-edge Aquatics Complex will have a long-course Olympic-size competition pool, a diving/teaching pool, and seating for 2,500.

In the Fall, work started on six new Beach Volleyball courts and a new entrance to the Wildlife Sanctuary, just off the intersection of Temple Avenue and Mt. SAC Way. A new soccer entrance and restrooms are also planned, with all the projects set to be completed by September 2023.

All of these projects were funded by voter-approved Measure GO and state funds. For more information about the college's construction projects, visit www.mtsac.edu/construction.



Foundation and Alumni Association

BY THE NUMBERS



\$560,698
Scholarship Dollars

583
Awards Presented

400
Student Recipients

\$1,626,674
Total Dollars Raised

1,519
Total Donors

Foundation Board President's Message



As Dr. Scroggins prepares to retire, I would like to thank him for his tremendous work as the ninth president and CEO of Mt. San Antonio College. His impact has been extensive. However, many in our community might be unaware of his role in some of the big changes on campus over the last decade. We at the Foundation like to call this the "Scroggins effect."

While serving on the Foundation board, I have seen his positive influence, including his work to improve student success through the introduction of guided educational pathways. For me, though, the biggest Scroggins effect was Measure GO, the \$750 million education bond to update Mt. SAC's buildings and infrastructure. I am proud that the Foundation was an early partner with Dr. Scroggins and was the campaign's largest donor.

I am happy to report that the Mt. SAC Foundation again had a successful year. We had 1,519 donors and raised more than \$1.6 million. Our donors supported 583 scholarship awards, directly helping Mt. SAC students train for their careers, realize their dreams, and become productive members of our community. In the past 10 years, we have seen a 301% increase in the number of donors, from 378 in 2012 to 1,519 this year. We have seen tremendous growth in scholarships too: since 2012, the number of scholarship awards has grown by 140% and the total dollars by 242%.

Those scholarships are particularly important because it is hard for many Mt. SAC students to attend college without financial aid. More than 80% of our students receive some kind of financial aid to help them pay for tuition, supplies, and living costs.

On behalf of the Mt. SAC Foundation, I would like to thank our numerous donors for their generous gifts last year. Those gifts had a big impact on the lives of many Mt. SAC students, their families, and our community.

I encourage you to join me in supporting the Mt. SAC Foundation's good work in the future.

David Sonner
President, Mt. SAC Foundation



2022 Scholarship Recap

After two years of virtual recognitions, the Scholarship Ceremony welcomed back students, families, and donors at Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry. While the pandemic forced some students to make difficult decisions about continuing their education, the Scholarship Program remained a reliable source of support to carry others through difficult times. The generosity of our donors continues to grow each year providing more opportunities for Mt. SAC students.

The Foundation added 17 new scholarships to those awarded in June.

Over the last 10 years the Foundation has experienced a 140% increase in the number of awards and a 242% increase in scholarship dollars awarded to students. This year, 583 awards were presented, totaling \$560,698 in scholarship aid to 400 student recipients.

With gratitude and appreciation, the Foundation would like to thank all the individuals, organizations, and foundations who demonstrate their commitment to a Mt. SAC education by supporting the scholarship program.

A DECADE OF GROWING SUPPORT

242%

Percentage increase in scholarship dollars since 2012

140%

Percentage increase in number of scholarship awards since 2012

Associated Students' Scholarship Commitment Embodies Mt. SAC Ethos

The spirit of giving runs throughout all branches of the Mt. SAC community, and it is especially gratifying to see it thriving inside Associated Students (AS), the college's student government. In fact, AS is one of the Foundation's major donors, and provided \$922,750 across 83 scholarships and book awards in 2021-22. "The AS commitment to scholarships has been strong over my time here. They have increased the amount of funding as well as created many new scholarships over the years," says Leslie Hennings, who has been the administrative specialist for AS since 2011.

Associated Students' role on campus is multi-faceted, but all of their work is governed by six principles: co-curricular engagement; civic engagement and advocacy; diversity, equity, inclusion, social justice, anti-racism, and access (DEISAA); leadership development; recognition of service; and retention and transfer. It is easy to identify that supporting students is at the core of AS's work, and that mission is directly in line with its scholarship initiative. AS's generous batch of scholarships is funded through the \$11 student representation and activities fee that each student has the option of paying. The fee also funds activities, clubs, leadership opportunities, cultural events, discounted tickets, and many other co-

curricular programs and services.

AS members have a hands-on role in managing these scholarships through budget meetings and review of scholarship applications. These dedicated students know that it is important for Mt. SAC students to support each other through this fee, which enhances the entire campus experience. The efficient and judicious use of that fee is a significant responsibility, says AS President An Ha. "It is empowering to know that as a student, I have the right to positively influence students' college experiences and contribute my voice at the college through both small-scale and large-scale changes," she says.

The relationship between AS and the students it serves exemplifies the attitude that makes Mt. SAC special. It is students helping students to make their college the best it can be, not just for themselves but also for everyone who comes after them. Mt. SAC serves a diverse population, and these scholarship opportunities are available for every type of student. "Students should always know that they come first, and Mt. SAC does a great job of supporting students across all walks of life," says John Yu, AS Senate Chair and STEM Senator.



An Ha, AS President



John Yu, AS Senate Chair and STEM Senator

Employees Take Their Position as Students' Biggest Champions to Another Level

Given their close interactions with students each day, it should come as no surprise that Mt. SAC employees are eager to provide financial support in any way they can.

Last year, the Mt. SAC Managers Scholarship was established and has been widely supported. "As managers, we have the privilege of serving in varying levels of responsibilities at Mt. SAC to support our students' educational experience and goals," says Koji Uesugi, dean of Student Services. "Contributing towards scholarships for our students provides us an additional way to support our students."

Jennifer Galbraith, dean of the Business Division, echoes this sense of responsibility: "It has always been a motto for Mt. SAC to put students first. There is a great need for scholarships at this time, and when we are so blessed to have employment here at Mt. SAC, it only makes sense that we share the wealth."

Just like Mt. SAC students, Uesugi and Galbraith have diverse backgrounds, which

.....
\$134,892.61
Total dollar amount contributed

.....
59.21%
Percentage of employees supporting scholarships

.....
231
Number of employee donors

inform how they approach their work. Uesugi benefited from needs-based scholarships to get through college, while Galbraith's family paid for her education. Both consider themselves fortunate. "I was grateful to the individuals or organizations that awarded me the scholarships, and although I could not repay them for their generosity at the time, I now have the opportunity to pay it forward to support our students and future generations," says Uesugi. "I was a very lucky first-generation community college student," says Galbraith. "I believe it is important to give back to a system that put me where I am today and help the students who might not have the support that I did."



Blanca Juarez Alvarado



Among the managers who contributed to a new scholarship are, back row: Tom Mauch, Joe Jenum. Front row: Lesley Johnson, Sylvia Ruano, Koji Uesugi, LaTasha Hagler, Malia Flood, Jennifer Galbraith, Marlyn Holt and Patricia Quinones.

Blanca Juarez Alvarado, an outreach specialist in the High School Outreach Department, started a scholarship after finding inspiration from the students she encounters. The Pomona Talent Scholarship provides \$1,000 to a Mt. SAC student from a Pomona-area high school. "As a Mt. SAC employee, I work with students, families, and the community every day and see the barriers students face to obtain a college education," she explains.

Like Uesugi and Galbraith, Alvarado considered her own college experience when she was planning her giving strategy. "It is important for me because this is the way I can give back and support students who come from similar backgrounds as me," she says. "I was

a first-generation, low-income student when I went to community college. It was challenging at times, but I received lots of support, which helped me eventually transfer and obtain a bachelor's degree. I'm very grateful for the support and want to give that support to students."

Many faculty are also motivated to support students through scholarships. Math professor Michelle Johnson supports the Mathematics and Computer Science Scholarship in Memory of Gerald Peter and Joe Franko.

"It is important for faculty to support scholarships because students are the

most important aspect of our job," says Johnson. "As educators we should be helping our students in every possible way. So many students need to juggle academics, family, and work. Other than being excellent educators, this is one way to support our students."

Inspired by the creation of the Mt. SAC Managers Scholarship, the Police and Campus Safety Department also got in on the action. "We're pleased to be able to offer scholarship support to Mt. SAC students. They work so hard and they deserve to know we have their backs in this way. Plus, we know the education they receive here will end up

benefiting us all as they go to work in the community," says Chief Mike Williams.

Uesugi summarizes a feeling shared by all Mt. SAC employees who choose to give back to the students through scholarship support. "I consider it a privilege to work at Mt. SAC with colleagues who are passionate about empowering our students by providing a supportive educational experience," he says. "Given the immense challenges that students today are experiencing, especially with basic needs insecurities, contributing towards student scholarships is the right thing to do and will go a long way towards their success."



Police and Campus Safety Department

O. F. Wolfinbarger Inc. Expands its Legacy, Support for Mt. SAC Horticulture Students

O. F. Wolfinbarger Inc., a local, family-run business since 1929, has long maintained strong ties to the community, including Mt. SAC. That is in part because the college has been a Wolfinbarger customer for decades, purchasing construction and maintenance materials from the Chino-based company. More recently, the landscape materials company has been hosting field trips for students enrolled in soil science classes. The visit is always a highlight for the students, according to Brian Scott, chair of the Horticulture department.

For the 2021-22 academic year, Wolfinbarger made the decision to extend its support by giving \$10,000 for scholarships for Mt. SAC horticulture, agriculture, and landscape students. "In the 94 years we've been in business, we have witnessed growth, and along with growth there is change," explains company president Randy Wolfinbarger. "We realize that preserving agriculture, horticulture, and nurseries is vital for the future and to be able to help students financially with scholarships means that the students have extra opportunity to strengthen their education for their careers."

Scott is proud of the relationship between his program and Wolfinbarger, and is thrilled to be able to offer his students another



Olin and Jessie Wolfinbarger

scholarship opportunity. The horticulture program is able to offer many scholarships for students "thanks to the generosity of people like Randy," he says. "It shows that we take the time to foster relationships with the industry and the students, and then connect them with each other. It will give more students an opportunity to overcome hardships and focus more on being able to take classes and eventually begin new careers."

Like all Mt. SAC programs, the horticulture community is made up of students from varied backgrounds and at different points in their lives and careers. Many are making a career change, and this type of financial assistance makes the transition so much smoother, Scott says.

The horticulture program at Mt. SAC is also award-winning. In 2005, Scott started a turf team that has earned many accolades. "We have won eight national championships and countless top 3 finishes over the 17 years we have competed," Scott says. "The industry now contacts us when looking for the next generation of sports turf professionals."

With legacies as rich as Wolfinbarger's and Mt. SAC's, it is safe to say the region's horticulture future is bright. Randy Wolfinbarger expressed his company's attitude toward protecting these legacies in this way: "The relationship we have developed over the years with Mt. SAC has a special meaning for us. The opportunity for students to further their careers in the agriculture and landscaping fields will forever keep our communities grounded with knowing that we need agriculture for food, landscape materials for nutrition and beautification."



Mt. SAC Golf Classic Returns

The 33rd Annual Mt. SAC Foundation Golf Classic returned and welcomed more than 220 golfers across two courses at the beautiful Industry Hills Golf Club at Pacific Palms Resort in May. Following tradition, Mt. SAC student-veterans opened the tournament by presenting the colors and Matthew Feger, a member of Mt. SAC award-winning Chamber Singers, sang the national anthem. Everyone enjoyed their time on the green before the reception, where raffle and silent auction winners

were announced. Thanks to online bidding and first-time popular items, such as Lakers, Raiders and Chargers tickets, the auction was a huge success.

The Foundation is grateful to the individuals and organizations that believe in the impact that Mt. SAC has on its community. A thank you to all sponsors for their generous support, in particular, Tilden-Coil Constructors as the presenting sponsor.



The 33rd Annual Mt. SAC Foundation Golf Classic

Platinum Sponsors: MAJESTIC REALTY CO., Capital Markets, RBC

Presenting Sponsor: Tilden-Coil CONSTRUCTORS Building with Integrity Since 1938

Gold Sponsors: HPI, NEW LOCAL 11, PRESIDIO

Silver Sponsors: STIFEL, HMC Architects, P2S INC

Bronze Sponsors: [Logos for various smaller sponsors]



Scholarship to Aid Early College Academy Students

A strong investment in and commitment to the community is just one of the jewels in the Mt. SAC crown. The Mt. SAC Early College Academy in West Covina, which graduated its first class in June, is the latest example of this. The Mt. SAC Early College Academy is a public high school at which students earn up to two years of college credit at no cost while they also work on obtaining their high school diploma.

An added boost for these students is the possibility of financial help once they graduate, thanks to a new scholarship from the Lapsi Family Foundation, which donated \$170,000. This scholarship is the first specifically intended for dual enrollment students and will follow them to whatever college they choose. “The amazing partnership between the Mt. SAC Early College Academy and Mt. SAC has created new opportunities for students to achieve their dual goals of completing high school and an associate’s degree at the same time,” says Dr. Meghan Chen, associate vice president of Instruction. “Thanks to the Lapsiwala family’s generous donation, graduates from the Mt. SAC ECA will benefit from the community’s robust support.”

The Lapsiwala family has been active in the San Gabriel Valley since the 1980s. Dr. Arvind Lapsiwala and his wife, Bharati, raised three children here, and they have all remained in Southern California to build their lives and careers. Amar is a corporate attorney, Anand is an interventional radiologist and Aparna is a healthcare consultant.

Education was an important part of growing up in the Lapsiwala family, Amar says, and they want that legacy to continue. In fact, the Lapsiwala kids all cycled through Mt. SAC at some point in their educational journeys. While in high school, Amar took chemistry at the college, an experience he describes as intimidating, challenging, and worthwhile. Yet, he also remembers feeling impressed by the college, and feeling lucky to have access to it. “It gave us a thirst to explore what our interests were,” he says. “Knowing that something with such extensive resources existed in our backyard was eye-opening.”

When it came time to choose an institution to support, the Lapsiwalas decided the Mt. SAC Early College Academy was a perfect fit because it ties together support for the community of West Covina and the pursuit of higher education. “It’s thrilling to know we will touch the lives of students who are the foundation of this community,” says Amar. The scholarship targets students who display a commitment to and aptitude for science, math, and the humanities, and demonstrate initiative and clear career goals.

“This scholarship shows these high school students that there is strong support for their dreams,” says Ryan McDonnell, the academy’s principal. “Our school depends on a triangle of support between us at the high school, those at the college, and the West Covina community like the Lapsi family.”



Amar Lapsiwala, left, and Dr. Arvind Lapsiwala visit the Marie Smith Health Careers Simulation Center with HCSC Director Angelica Razo, HCSC Coordinator Virginia Villegas and President Bill Scroggins.

Alumni Advisory Council Formed

The Mt. SAC Alumni Association has been building itself over the last decade - growing the number of members from 120 to 2,101. The Mt. SAC Foundation and Alumni Association has been working with a core group of graduates to launch the Alumni Advisory Council, a committee of the Mt. SAC Foundation Board. These five volunteers met in November to discuss alumni engagement efforts. With more than 1.25 million Mt. SAC alumni, this is a tall task, but Mounties have long proven their ability to soar over hurdles.

We will continue to update the community as this work progresses. If members of the Mt. SAC alumni community are interested in lending their time to this initiative, please send an email to alumni@mtsac.edu.

Purpose and Mission

Mt. SAC Foundation Purpose

In tandem with the college's Mission, the Mt. SAC Foundation and Alumni Association elevates the Mountie experience by engaging the extended community, supporting programs and scholarships, and adding value wherever we can so that together, we all reach new heights.

Mission Statement

The Mt. San Antonio College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that mobilizes financial and non-financial resources to support Mt. SAC programs that enrich students' learning environment and educational experience beyond those achievable through regular funding sources.

Calling all Mounties!

As loyal Mounties we ask you to follow these four simple steps to stay engaged with Mt. SAC:

- 1. JOIN.** Become a member of the Alumni Association.
- 2. COME BACK.** Attend Alumni Day or any other of our 800 annual campus events.
- 3. GIVE.** Make an annual gift of any size to any area. Each and every gift makes a difference and you can too!
- 4. SHOW YOUR PRIDE.** Wear the sweatshirt. Add us to your LinkedIn profile. Follow us on Facebook. Tell your Mt. SAC story. Let people know you went to Mt. SAC and you're proud of it!

If you are a Mt. SAC alumnus and would like to get involved as a volunteer, a donor or would just like to see how the campus has changed since you were here, please visit us at mtsacfoundation.org/alumni-association and look for the **Mt. SAC Alumni Association** on Facebook. **Go Mounties!**



Foundation Board of Directors

President, David Sonner
Retired Attorney

Vice President, Ryan Asao
Keller Williams Realty

Secretary, Alta Skinner
Retired Bonita Unified School District

Treasurer, Ruth Luevand
San Dimas High School, Teacher

Member at Large, Michael Shay
Retired SGV Economic Partnership

Member at Large, Bill Roman
Retired Citizen Business Bank

Reyna Del Haro
Kaiser Permanente Baldwin Park

David Fang
Law Offices of David Fang

Chris Haddow
Bank of the West

Michelle Johnson
Mt. SAC Faculty

Gail Kiralla-Orr
Majestic Realty, Co.

Bruce Lazenby
Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary

Barbara Nakaoka
Cal Poly Faculty

Ahm Qutubuddin
CareFusion

Larry Redinger
Dean Emeritus, Natural Sciences

Linda Rillorta
Mt. SAC Faculty

Marc Ruh
Mt. SAC Athletics

William Scroggins
Mt. SAC President

Mylene Tabing
HPI Architecture

Jane Wibowo
First Way Insurance

Foundation and Alumni Association Staff

William Lambert
Executive Director

Marisa Fierro
Director of Development and Alumni Relations

Annette Barrantes
Advancement Services Specialist

Ashley Lopez
Bookkeeper/Development Assistant



Mt. San Antonio College
1100 N. Grand Ave.
Walnut, CA 91789

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
COVINA, CA
PERMIT NO. 45

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TO:

