



The Monday Minute. *April 20, 2026*

We are in Week 9! This week brings us to the midpoint of the semester and a moment to pause and acknowledge the effort along the way.

This Monday Minute includes:

- **What is an IRB** (Institutional Review Board)?
- **Multi-Factor Authentication** (MFA) – Supporting Account Security
- **DEADLINE EXTENDED: Accessibility Standards** and Revised ADA Title II Regulations (Memo ESS 26-17)
- **Mt. SAC Speech and Debate Team** Achieves Historical Milestone!
- **Learn More About AI:** [Landscape of AI Across California's HEI's \(2025\)](#)
- **Important Dates and Information**



Did you know? Mt. SAC has an IRB!

[Mt. SAC's Institutional Review Board \(IRB\)](#) reviews research involving our students and employees to ensure it is conducted ethically and protects participant privacy.

If you receive emails from external researchers asking you to share recruitment flyers, please **do not distribute them unless the Mt. SAC IRB approval has been verified.** All external research must be approved by Mt. SAC's IRB before recruitment can begin.

Instead, please forward these requests to [Patty Quiñones](#). If a

researcher indicates they have approval, you can ask for an official Mt. SAC IRB approval letter with an approval number. **Please note that even with Mt. SAC IRB approval, you are not obligated to share recruitment materials.**

Thanks for helping us protect our campus community!

**Faculty MFA Setup
Request Form**

Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) – Supporting Account Security

As part of our ongoing efforts to support campus cybersecurity, faculty are invited to sign up for Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA).

MFA adds an extra layer of protection by requiring a second form of verification during login. MFA reduces the risk of account compromise due to phishing by up to 99%. Getting started is simple and flexible. Please choose the option that works best for you. Guided support from IT by submitting the Setup Request Form or completing the setup independently using step-by-step instructions.

[Faculty MFA Setup Request Form](#)
 [Download MFA Setup Directions](#)

If there are any questions, please contact [Jonathan Singh, Assistant Director of Information Security](#).

Thank you for helping keep our campus systems secure.



DEADLINE EXTENDED: Accessibility Standards and Revised ADA Title II Regulations (Memo ESS 26-17)

The Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dr. James Todd, at the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office released this announcement last week (below). Look for additional information soon as we continue to address these accessibility regulations.

Dear Colleagues,

This morning, a federal announcement was made that extends the compliance deadline for the revised ADA Title II regulations. The compliance deadline for meeting the Web

Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.1 Level AA standards has shifted from April 24, 2026 to **April 26, 2027**. (Please see U.S. Department of Justice - [Extension of Compliance Dates for Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability; Accessibility of Web Information and Services of State and Local Government Entities](#); this notice will be officially published Monday.)

While the compliance deadline has been extended, please note that our responsibilities are unchanged. Web content and mobile applications are to meet WCAG 2.1 AA standards as directed by the [final regulation effective April 24, 2024](#).

Our office will send out a memo soon updating the information provided in the [February Memo ESS 26-17](#).

Warm regards,
James

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Learn More About AI: Landscape of AI Across California's HEI's (2025)

A recent statewide study examines how higher education institutions across California are responding to generative AI. The 2025 report highlights growing use of AI across colleges, while also noting gaps in governance, policy development, student AI literacy, and equitable access to tools, particularly at community colleges.

These findings align with ongoing work at Mt. SAC to expand AI literacy, support faculty, and explore responsible implementation across all areas of the campus community.

The full report is available here: [Landscape of AI Across California's HEI's \(2025\)](#).



Speech & Debate Team Wins 2026 National Championship!

For the first time in school history, the Mt. SAC Speech and Debate team has won the Phi Rho Pi National Championship three years in a row. The team scored 350 total sweepstakes



points — the highest in team history. Mt. SAC earned 44 total awards, including 20 gold, 13 silver, and 11 bronze medals.

Mt. SAC placed first in overall sweepstakes, first in individual events, and fourth in debate in the Wyman/Petrello Large School Division, finishing ahead of Diablo Valley College (296 points), El Camino College (174.5 points), and Orange Coast College (165 points). The tournament held April 6-11, in Bethesda, Maryland, featured 337 total competitors from 52 community colleges from ten states.

In addition to the team awards, **Sophia Trugerro** earned the Bovero-Tabor Top Speaker in the Nation award, earning more points (37.5) than any other student at the tournament. Sophia, a first-year team member, won gold medals in Parliamentary Debate, IPDA Debate, and Extemporaneous Speaking, along with a silver medal in Impromptu Speaking. Sophia is the tenth Mt. SAC student to earn this award since 1963 and the first since 2016. Sophia shared, “My achievements are not mine alone. They belong to my coaches, team, and family. Gracias por creer en mí y estoy orgullosa de representar Mt. SAC.”

Additional standout performances included **Riese Ili** (tied for 2nd, 35 points), **Asha Longsworth** (tied for 3rd, 32.5 points), **Kenneth Park** and **Angela Tanjuakio** (tied for 4th, 30 points), and **Max Ibarra** and **Sophia Allen** (tied for 5th, 27.5 points).

In individual events, the team had numerous students win multiple national titles including Asha Longsworth winning golds in Informative and Persuasive Speaking, Max Ibarra winning golds in Communication Analysis and Persuasive Speaking, and Riese Ili winning golds in Programmed Oral Interpretation, Poetry, and Speech to Entertain. In Informative Speaking, Mt. SAC advanced five students to the final round and captured four gold medals (**Alex Sacramento**, Asha Longsworth, **Isabella Catalan**, and Sophia Allen). Professor **Sarina Wang**, who primarily coached the speech events this year, shared, “To earn four national titles in the Informative event alone is extraordinary. It reflects not just the student’s discipline, but the passion they brought to every round.”

In the debate events, the team won four gold medals. Kenneth Park won three gold medals in debate including NFA-LD, Parliamentary (with Sophia Trugerro), and IPDA. Sophia

Truggero went undefeated in all seven debates in IPDA on her way to a gold medal, winning both elimination rounds on 2–1 decisions over El Camino College and Moorpark College.

Professor Danny Cantrell, Director of Debate, shared that “This was an outstanding performance in the debate events. Securing the program’s first-ever gold medal in NFA-LD and our first parliamentary gold in many years highlights the dedication and preparation of our debaters. Their hard work was clearly reflected in their success.”

In Interpreters Theater, Mt. SAC advanced two theaters to final rounds. “Out of the Ashes,” with students Riese Ili, Asha Longworth, and Sophia Allen, a performance focused on the 2025 Altadena wildfires, earned bronze. “Brutal,” with students Alex Sacramento, Angela Tanjuakio, **Sebastian Obeso**, and **Wisam Hagsaleh**, a performance centered on student protests, earned silver. Mt. SAC was the only program to advance more than one theater to the final rounds.

What made this historic win especially significant was the team had 11 first-year team members who joined the team last fall. Mt. SAC earned a gold medal in 12 out of the 15 different events offered at the tournament. For the second consecutive year, all fourteen Mt. SAC competitors advanced to elimination rounds.

This marks Mt. SAC’s 13th Phi Rho Pi National Championship (2025, 2024, 2019, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2006, 2003, 2001, 2000, 1998, 1994). The team was coached by Communications professors **Thuy Pham**, **Jedi Curva**, **Danny Cantrell**, **Alissa Duong**, **Alix Lopez**, and **Sarina Wang**.

Congratulations!

Important Dates and Information



- **First 8-week Classes Final Grades Due:** Tuesday, April 21, at 8 pm
- **[Mt. SAC 2035 Mini-grant Applications](#) Due:** Thursday, April 30, 2026
- **Memorial Day (Campus Closed):** Monday, May 25, 2026
- **Summer 2026 Canvas Merged Requests Due:** Friday, June 5, 2026
- **Spring 2026 Finals Week:** June 8 – June 14, 2026

- **Mt. SAC Commencement:** Friday, June 12, 2026 (evening)
- **Fall 2026 Final Grades (16-week classes):** Tuesday, June 16, 2026 (at 8 pm)
- **First Day of Summer 2026:** Monday, June 22, 2026
- **Fall 2026 Canvas Merged Requests**
Due: Thursday, August 6, 2026
- **First Day of Fall 2026:** Monday, August 24, 2026
- [Mt. SAC 2025 - 2026 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Mt. SAC 2026 - 2027 Academic Calendar](#)
- [Mt. SAC 2035 Education and Facilities Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Mt. SAC Calendar of Events](#)

As we move through the second half, thank you for continuing to show up for students and for each other in ways that make a difference every day. Please continue to work closely with your [Dean or Division Office](#) to share your concerns and identify any assistance needed.

We are here to support you.

Thank you,
Kelly Fowler



Kelly Fowler, Ph.D.

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(she/her/hers)

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