

Mt. San Antonio College

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019









# Ready, Set, Play

**M**t. San Antonio College's new artificial turf football practice field, seen here in spring looking east. In the background, the new Historic Hilmer Lodge Stadium takes shape. The new facility will feature a 10,000-seat stadium, a new Field House and 60,000 square feet of teaching space. It is set to open in April in time for the world-famous Mt. SAC Relays.

Read more about the new Athletics Complex East project on page 7.





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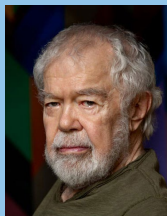
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## On the cover:

A detail of a mosaic based on the "Triangle Series" by internationally renowned artist Karl Benjamin. The mosaic project is mounted on 6' by 6' square panels on the front of the Mt. SAC's Art Complex.



# College President's Message

## *Putting the Pieces Together*

When a visitor steps onto campus, it doesn't take long to recognize that Mt. San Antonio College has an incredibly diverse student body that represents our region. Less obvious, however, is the diversity that extends beyond the traditional categories of race and ethnicity to include income level, country of origin, physical ability, gender expression, and more. Recognizing and respecting these differences is reflected in our core values and how we create equal opportunities for student success.

Inside you will read about our Equity Center, which brings together resources and enhanced services to help students from historically under-represented backgrounds so they can pursue their academic goals, launch careers, and become active members of our community. By having an Equity Center, we are reaffirming our commitment to breaking down barriers to opportunity by championing support services for our students. Some of our students face incredible barriers, and our focus on equity ensures that we help a population that needs us most – not just in classrooms but in all life situations.

As a first-generation college student myself, it is of great importance to me that we provide an atmosphere where our students are motivated by seeing those of similar backgrounds who have succeeded. I am so proud to lead a college where more than 50 percent of our faculty come from varied backgrounds and that we have an elected Board of Trustees that also reflects those we serve.

On the cover is a detail of the newest section of murals featuring the art of Karl Benjamin recreated by mosaicist Alba Cisneros. The Art Complex Mural Project has been brought to life thanks to the efforts of the college's Public Arts Advisory Council and Mt. SAC Foundation.

Many of our students, staff, and faculty refer to the college as a family. I like to think of us also as a mosaic – a collection of unique pieces assembled together to create something beautiful, inspiring, and enduring.

**William T. Scroggins**  
*President and CEO*



### 2019 Board of Trustees

Pictured L to R: Judy Chen Haggerty, *Esq.*, Member; Rosanne Bader, Member; Dr. Manuel Baca, Member; Jay Chen, Vice President; Robert F. Hidalgo, President; Laura Santos, Clerk; Gary Chow, Member; (not shown) Maricela Vazquez Aviles, Student Trustee





# Table of Contents

**06** Café 91  
Opens

**07** Stadium  
Construction

**08** *Mosaic  
Mural*

**11** *Commencement*

**12** *New Student  
Center*

**18** *Equity  
Center*

**22** *Foundation  
& Alumni*

**24** *Alumni  
Stories*

**26** *Golf  
Classic*

**27** *Scholarship  
Recap*

**28** *Edison invests  
in Fire Students*





# Café 91 Opens for Business

## Student-Run Restaurant Offers Unique Dining Experience

Two guests walked in the glass doors of Café 91 recently and were ready to try something new. Students Tony Britton and Adrian Olivares are training to be chefs, but were operating as waiters this day. One went to greet the guests and another went through the “In” swinging doors to the kitchen to let the three students there know that their first order of the day was coming. The guests ordered the ancient grain bowl and brioche club sandwich.



Café 91, named after the Culinary 91 class that puts students in the restaurant, is located on the bottom floor of the Business & Computer Technology Building and is designed as a working classroom. All front-of-house food service, cooking and kitchen duties are performed by students. The restaurant had its trial runs in September, and officially opened in October. The Fall menu is an assortment of American items sprinkled with modern world cuisines like *albondigas* and baked crostini.

all payment has to be done by credit card. Guests’ after-meal input and thoughts are considered the tip in this restaurant since students may not accept any financial gratuity. The restaurant is open Wednesday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

All of this front-of-house service and direct contact with the guests is proving to be the most eye opening for students like Tony, majoring in Culinary Arts Management.

“I have learned how communicating what the guest wants to the kitchen is critical,” said Tony. “We discovered last week that guests were expecting malt vinegar or tartar sauce with their fish and chips. But we serve it with a honey-malt vinaigrette. So, we needed to figure out whether we serve what guests expect or do we do a better job communicating with the guest how that meal will be served.”

Adrian agreed. “It is one thing to hear in a classroom what guests may want, but there are a lot of nuances and details you can’t understand until you are really waiting on a guest in a full-service restaurant like this.”

“The students have been doing an amazing job and the customers have been really happy,” said Richard Hanna, the Culinary Arts professor that runs the café. “This is the culmination of the entire Culinary Arts program here at Mt. SAC. Each student will not only have the hard skills needed in a kitchen, but the soft skills of dealing directly with customers. This ‘double duty’ is what any executive chef will be doing day in and day out.”

All seating is done by online reservations only (<https://www.mtsac.edu/cafe91/>) and





# New Stadium on Track for Spring Opening

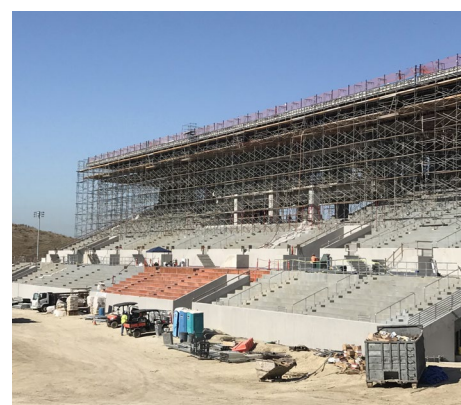
**M**t. SAC is scheduled to celebrate the opening of its new stadium in April, just in time for the world-renowned Mt. SAC Relays. The new 10,000-seat Hilmer Lodge Stadium has been designed as a state-of-the-art venue for football as well as track and field, and in the spring, the campus celebrated the installation of the final girder.

For the past two years, the Mt. SAC football team has played its home games at Covina District Field and the Relays have been run at Cerritos College. Commencement has also been held off site during construction.

The new facility will feature a nine-lane 400-meter track, a natural turf infield, and a new press box. It will also have a new Field House (weight room and locker rooms) and 60,000 square feet of teaching space. Four auxiliary buildings will provide ticketing, food service, restrooms, and telecommunications services. The stadium's new scoreboard will be 85 feet wide by 37 feet high featuring a LED modular screen and sound system.

The stadium is named after the college's first track coach, Hilmer Lodge, who was hired in the late 1940s not only as a journalism professor but also to develop a track program. Built at a cost of just over \$100,000, the stadium was dedicated on Oct. 8, 1948 by then-Congressman Richard M. Nixon. In 1957, Lodge convinced the Mt. SAC Board of Trustees to install a track at the stadium as part of his vision to host first-rate competitions. Two years later, with the new track ready for action, the college hosted the first Mt. SAC Relays.

Since its early days, the stadium has been host to football championships, cross country competitions, Olympic trials and the site of dozens of world records. "Mt. SAC has been recognized as one of the top community college athletics programs in the country," said Joe Jennum, dean of Kinesiology, Athletics and Dance. "This new facility will continue the tradition of Mt. SAC being home to 'where the world's best athletes compete.'"







*Karl's daughter Beth Marie celebrated her father at unveiling.*



*Karl Benjamin shown in his Claremont studio with Beverly Jean*



# Mosaic Mural is Designed to Inspire

**M**t. SAC this spring celebrated the completion of a 10-year art project: the final installation of mosaics designed by esteemed and internationally renowned artist Karl Benjamin, an influential part of the California art scene since the early 1950s.

The Art Complex Mural Project, based on Benjamin's "Triangle Series" paintings, is composed of eight colorful and abstract mosaics, each measuring six feet by six

feet. Local mosaicist Alba Cisneros, pictured, was the clear choice to recreate the paintings because of her family's close relationship with Benjamin's family.



Benjamin, who died in 2012, generously offered his "Triangle series" to be turned into a mosaic mural. "The vibrant colors and strong geometric abstractions of the Karl Benjamin murals provide students with a masterful depiction of his 'hard edge' style painting," explained now-retired Arts Division Dean Dr. Sue Long.

"The mural is an anchor to the entire arts complex," said Long, "and it offers the students an invaluable perspective on a contemporary art form that we hope inspires them to explore, express, and create for decades to come."

**"Color is the subject matter of Painting"**

*– Karl Benjamin*



with wife



# By the Numbers

*Diversity is what brings our campus to life. Our students come from unique backgrounds and can be at very different stages in their lives.*

## TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS

66,559\*



53.37%



44.32%

2.3% Decline to state

This figure includes credit and noncredit students served throughout the year.

Source: <http://datamart.cccco.edu/datamart.aspx>



## ETHNIC BREAKDOWN

Annual 2018-19 Student Percentage

African American	3.23%
American Indian/Alaskan	.15%
Asian	18.00%
Latinx	56.06%
Multi-Ethnic	2.49%
Pacific Islander/Filipino	3.59%
White, Non-Hispanic	9.87%
Decline to State	6.62%

Source: <http://datamart.cccco.edu/datamart.aspx>

## 2018-19 FINANCIALS

Actual Revenues and Expenditures

### REVENUES

Federal Revenue	\$342,946
State Revenue	138,1230,075
Local Revenue	77,200,810
Other Financing Sources	1,732,664

**TOTAL REVENUE \$217,396,495**

### EXPENDITURES

Academic Salaries	\$90,519,069
Classified and Other Non-Academic Salaries	\$46,191,779
Employee Benefits	\$47,105,981
Supplies and Materials	2,653,411
Operating Expenses and Services	18,739,131
Capital Outlay	1,964,098
Other Outgo	1,895,926

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$209,069,395**



## DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES PROGRAMS OFFERED

266



## DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES AWARDED

3,888



## STUDENTS TRANSFER TO A 4-YEAR UNIVERSITY

2,416



# *“This degree is not an end in our journey. It is a beginning.”*

*Shadiyah Omar, President, Associated Students*

*“Confidence and courage is to navigate yourself in a journey, of love, pain, struggle, triumph, and growth. Take a moment to remember all of the significant educational battles you’ve all faced throughout your life. For some it means living in car, losing a loved one, living paycheck to paycheck, being a parent, being brown, first generation, trans, or a Dreamer but you all have had the beauty of courage and confidence lifting you up and carrying you toward your goals. This degree is not an end in our journey. It is a beginning. We will be working together to build our communities and our country. Class of 2019, let’s show the nation our passion, skill and innovation. Let’s prove to the world our worth!”*

Mt. SAC celebrated its 73rd Commencement and the Class of 2019 in June at the Toyota Arena in Ontario. In all, 4,280 degree petitions were filed – the largest number ever at Mt. SAC. The youngest graduated was 18; the oldest was 77.



# A New Center for Students

The last of Mt. SAC's historic row buildings were demolished over the summer as the college prepares to build a new three-story Student Center. The building is set to open in 2022, replacing the one opened in 1953 and designed to serve a much smaller college in a very different era. The one-story space currently is home to the Student Life Office and Associated Students offices, but has limited group meeting space.

The 100,000-square-foot building will welcome students into the types of inviting, inclusive, and comfortable places needed to encourage student engagement. 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 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.

Construction of the Student Center is funded by Measure GO, approved by voters in November 2018 and is scheduled to begin this May.









# A Place of Pride



The Pride Center provides Mt. SAC's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students a safe space where they can be themselves while accessing resources to support them in meeting their educational and professional goals.

Opened in 2016, the Pride Center is one of only three such centers in the entire California Community College system. It sees an average of 100 students daily.

The center offers students a quiet place to study, work with tutors, make meals and socialize with friends. "At the Pride Center, you don't have to explain yourself – who you are, why you are," said student Ariel Stubbs.



Students who visit the center are able to explore their identity without judgment and talk about issues they are facing, either with a therapist who visits weekly or during student-led discussion groups.

Whether students are already "out," are considering it or are unsure, are all welcome to visit the center. "Sometimes at home, you can't be yourself," student Darren Elliott said. "At the Pride Center, you can find a second family and connect with people who love you."





# 4th Annual Disability Athletics Fair

*hosted by Mt. SAC*

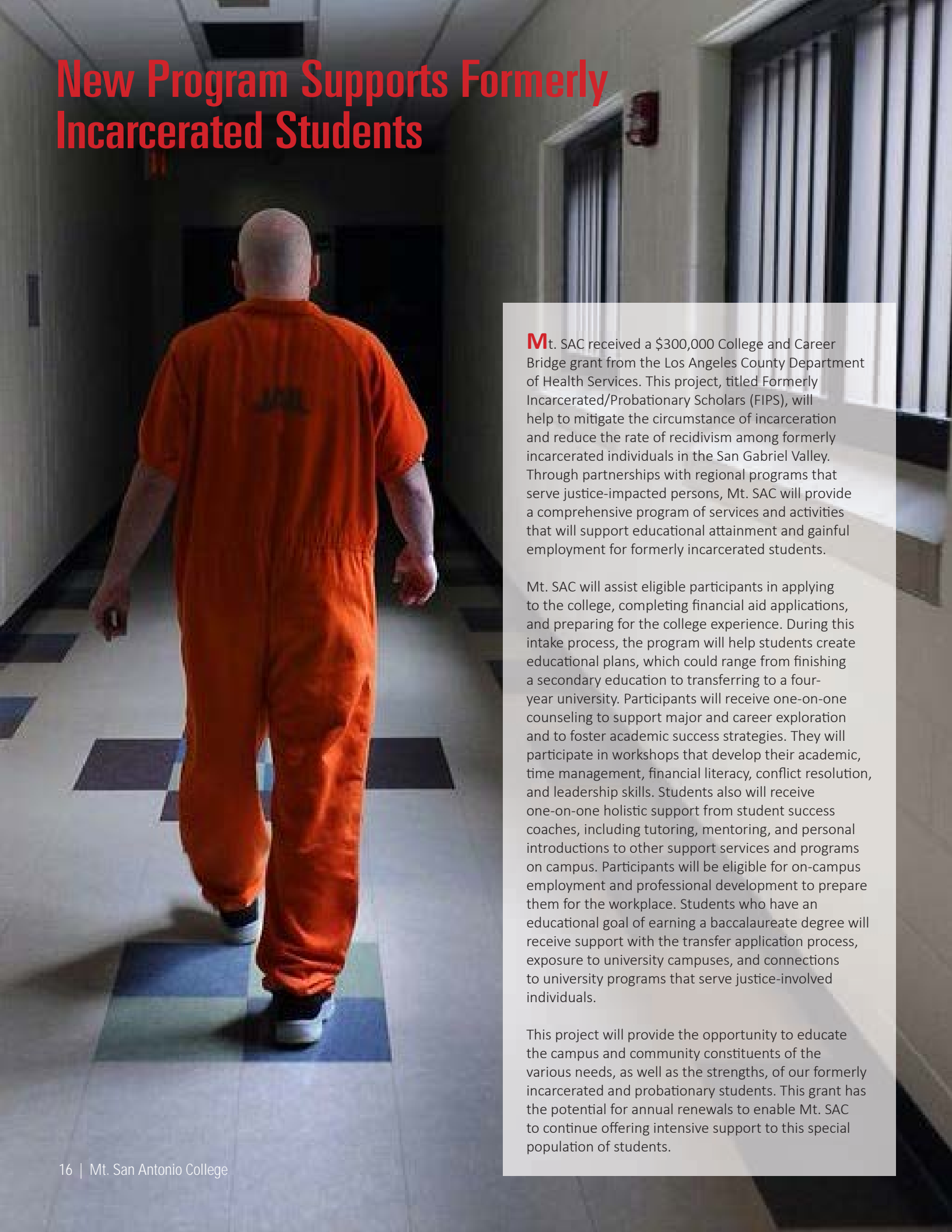


Mt. SAC played host to the Disability Athletics Fair in April. The free event was organized by the Service Center for Independent Life, a Claremont-based nonprofit organization dedicated to advocating for the rights of persons with disabilities. For the fourth year, people of all ages and abilities came to campus to participate in rock climbing, kayaking, soccer, martial arts, basketball and swimming. Former Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Dennis Powell was the event's guest speaker.





# New Program Supports Formerly Incarcerated Students

A person wearing an orange jumpsuit is walking away from the camera down a long, dimly lit hallway. The hallway has a checkered tile floor and barred windows on the right side. The person is walking towards a dark doorway at the end of the hallway.

**M**t. SAC received a \$300,000 College and Career Bridge grant from the Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. This project, titled Formerly Incarcerated/Probationary Scholars (FIPS), will help to mitigate the circumstance of incarceration and reduce the rate of recidivism among formerly incarcerated individuals in the San Gabriel Valley. Through partnerships with regional programs that serve justice-impacted persons, Mt. SAC will provide a comprehensive program of services and activities that will support educational attainment and gainful employment for formerly incarcerated students.

Mt. SAC will assist eligible participants in applying to the college, completing financial aid applications, and preparing for the college experience. During this intake process, the program will help students create educational plans, which could range from finishing a secondary education to transferring to a four-year university. Participants will receive one-on-one counseling to support major and career exploration and to foster academic success strategies. They will participate in workshops that develop their academic, time management, financial literacy, conflict resolution, and leadership skills. Students also will receive one-on-one holistic support from student success coaches, including tutoring, mentoring, and personal introductions to other support services and programs on campus. Participants will be eligible for on-campus employment and professional development to prepare them for the workplace. Students who have an educational goal of earning a baccalaureate degree will receive support with the transfer application process, exposure to university campuses, and connections to university programs that serve justice-involved individuals.

This project will provide the opportunity to educate the campus and community constituents of the various needs, as well as the strengths, of our formerly incarcerated and probationary students. This grant has the potential for annual renewals to enable Mt. SAC to continue offering intensive support to this special population of students.



# Funding to Help Develop Equity-Minded Campus Culture

**M**t. SAC became one of only 43 colleges nationwide selected to receive a Title V: Developing Hispanic-Serving Institutions grant in 2019. This \$3 million project funded by the U.S. Department of Education, titled *Creating an Equity-minded Campus Culture to Improve Student Outcomes*, includes the following major components: (1) support faculty in exploration of new research and teaching models that enhance student learning and improve educational outcomes for students from diverse backgrounds; (2) improve practices that integrate technology with academic excellence to create an enhanced learning environment for a diverse student body; (3) build the capacity of faculty to access, understand, and use data to measure the impact of pedagogies on student outcomes; (4) provide staff with the knowledge and skills required for effectively engaging students in meaningful and culturally responsive ways; (5) enhance students' cultural awareness, personal development, and leadership

skills; (6) increase students' financial literacy, including awareness of financial aid options, financial planning, and debt management; and (7) improve campus-wide cultural competence and cross-cultural dialogue.

This project will provide a comprehensive set of activities to improve the academic achievement and personal development of Hispanic students, low-income students, and other students underrepresented in higher education. Specific activities include: an Equity Certification for faculty, a community of practice for equity, professional development in brain-based teaching and learning, universal design in syllabus creation, an instructional designer for professional learning, podcasts, an annual campus summit on equity, use of open educational resources, professional development for distance education faculty and staff, integration of technology tools to connect students with support



services, data coaching, an onboarding process for student workers, equity workshops for student workers, infusing equity components into new employee onboarding, personal and leadership development workshops for students, online modules for student professional development and financial literacy, the creation of a Consumer Resource Center, financial literacy workshops for students and educators, an annual Consumer Resource Fair, a student-led conference focused on issues of equity, and various events that promote greater campus-wide cultural competence.





# House with Four Rooms —

## *Equity Center Welcomes All*

**W**hen the Equity Center opened in March, there was much reason to celebrate. Not only was it one of the last Measure RR-funded projects to be completed, it allowed for a permanent home for four programs to all be under one roof.

The center provides 7,680 square feet of meeting space, offices and a computer lab for the Arise, Aspire, Dream and Reach programs, which had long operated out of modular buildings or crammed into other offices. Many students and staff compare the center to a house with four rooms that is open to all regardless of program with which they may identify.

Dr. Eric Lara, associate dean of Student Success and Equity, said the center provides a community-based approach that works because students see someone who looks like them and is able to keep them on task and on track.



“Equity is tailoring what we have to the needs of the students. Not what we think those needs are, but what we know they are,” Lara said. “What works for one may not work for the other and so we need to be mindful. That’s where the Equity Center comes in to play.”

People often confuse equity and equality, Lara said. “Equality is giving the same thing to every individual regardless of their need and their educational status. And, a lot of people think that’s ok because you’re giving everyone the same thing and you’re not discriminating in a sense. But, in reality, everybody’s different. Everybody learns in a different manner and everybody has a different knowledge set.”

Lara said the ultimate goal is to ensure students don’t feel left out or unwelcome when they come to Mt. SAC.

“We all have the right to learn. We all have the necessity to learn,” he said. “We are here to serve the student, get them an education and help them with their life goal, whether it’s going to work, learning a trade, being reeducated or moving onto university. Every student has a different outlook and a different goal, and we are here to help them achieve it by any means necessary.”



***‘Equity is tailoring what we have to the needs of the students. Not what we think those needs are, but what we know they are.’***

Dr. Eric Lara, Associate Dean of Student Success and Equity

## What’s Inside



### **ARISE PROGRAM (AANAPISI Grant)**

provides support for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and other students. It assists students to successfully attain their educational goals. Services include tutoring, educational advisement and counseling services, workshops, student leadership training, and basic skills development.

[www.mtsac.edu/arise](http://www.mtsac.edu/arise)



**ASPIRE PROGRAM** provides essential educational support and services to increase the academic success, retention, degree completion, and transfer rates of African American and other students.

[www.mtsac.edu/aspire](http://www.mtsac.edu/aspire)





## Voices from the EQUITY CENTER



*"Once you get in, it's like a family. You know they have your back. It lets me know I'm not alone. That I can come in here, take a breath, focus and get down to business. I think there are some days and weeks that I wouldn't have gotten through without Aspire. It's been critical to my success."*

**Aaron Evans**  
Computer Science major

*"The DREAM Program has been where I spend most of my time. It has helped me become more involved and feel more comfortable with my [undocumented] status. The counselors have helped guide me and made sure I was always on track. Most importantly, it helped me realize that my true passion is helping students like myself and therefore, I hope to pursue a career in counseling."*

**Maria Palma Tejeda**  
Counseling major



*"When the Equity Center first opened, the students couldn't believe REACH had its own space with computer labs and study rooms. It's a game changer because you are telling this population they belong here. There's a level of stigma removed from the moment you walk in here. You aren't just a former foster youth. You can be anyone."*

**Jeze Lopez**  
REACH Program Specialist

*"It's a whole different world for them [Pacific Islander students]. Coming from an island, it's a culture shock being away from your family, not eating your food, little things like that. All of it plays into their everyday life and academic success. Arise offers cultural belonging and the students are able to connect with people who look like them."*

**Patricia Tutasi Asuega**  
Arise Program Specialist



**DREAM PROGRAM** provides services and resources to DREAMers (undocumented students) such as counseling (academic, career, and personal), peer mentoring, resources for California DREAM Act, financial aid and scholarships, legal Referrals for DACA, and health referrals for health services.

[www.mtsac.edu/dream](http://www.mtsac.edu/dream)



**REACH PROGRAM** (Reaching, Empowering, Achieving & Completing with Heart) is a program to assist current and former foster youth in their transition into college. Services include mentoring and support, housing resources information, priority registration, workshops, field trips, Chafee grant, and textbook loans.

[www.mtsac.edu/reach](http://www.mtsac.edu/reach)



# Trustee Chen Deployed to Kuwait



**B**oard of Trustees member Jay Chen, a member of the U.S. Naval Reserve for nine years, got called up in August for his first long-term deployment. Chen will serve in Kuwait and support an Army unit in *Operation Inherent Resolve*, the U.S. mission to intervene against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Trustee Chen, who represents the communities of Hacienda Heights and La Puente, is a lieutenant and serves as an intelligence officer. He will be on mission for a minimum of 270 days, but with training, could see that extended to as long as a year.

Trustee Chen owns a real estate business

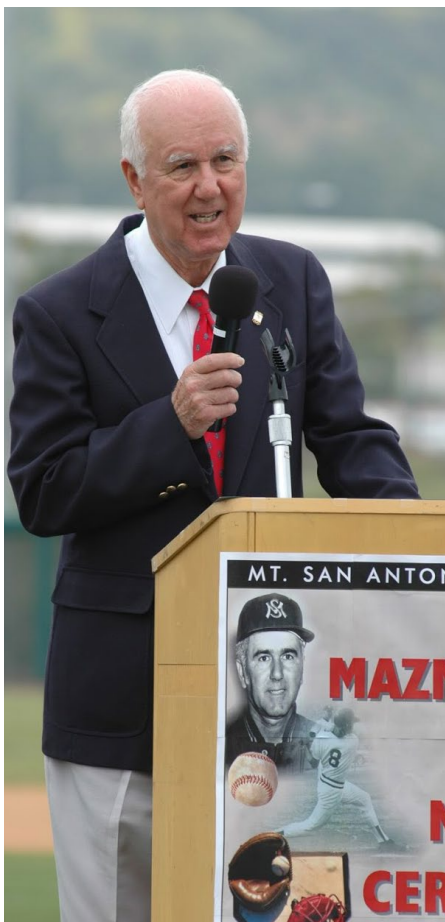
that his wife will take over during his deployment. Although serving in the military is a great sacrifice, Chen believes the rewards are greater than the personal and professional cost.

"I wish more people would be involved in the military," said Chen. "What I found in military service is that you interact with so many people, of so many different backgrounds, but everyone has one singular purpose. As an Asian American, I enjoy reflecting on the diversity of our nation. There may be no other military on Earth as diverse as ours. When we serve abroad, we are all ambassadors to our country."





# Legendary Coach Maz Dies



**M**t. San Antonio College mourned the loss of legendary baseball coach Art Mazmanian, who passed away on March 22, 2019 at 91 years old.

Mazmanian coached Mountie baseball for 31 seasons, from 1969 to 1999. In that time he notched 709 wins and had only two losing seasons. He spent his summer managing rookie teams for several major league organizations and was the only community college coach for the 1984 US Olympic Baseball Team. He mentored countless players, coaches and managers, and helped more than 120 players transition to the professional ranks.

“He was one of the most beloved people on the planet,” said Debbie Cavon, associate athletics director at Mt. SAC, who

had coached soccer on a field adjacent to Mazmanian. “He was a beautiful soul who only had kind things to say. People from all over the country knew him and loved him.”

In 2006, Mt. SAC dedicated its baseball stadium in the retired coach’s honor, dubbing it Mazmanian Field.

Before joining Mt. SAC, Mazmanian was a high school baseball coach at his alma mater Dorsey High School in Los Angeles. He also played at the University of Southern California, where he was an All-American and a part of the 1948 national championship team. He then signed with the New York Yankees, playing professional baseball for six years and reaching the Triple-A level.

“We are deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Coach Mazmanian,” said Mt. SAC President Bill Scroggins. “Coach Maz was an inspirational leader on and off the field. He was dedicated to Mt. SAC and the craft of baseball, but most of all, he was passionate about his students. People of all ages learned a great deal about baseball and life from this incredible man. On behalf of the Board of Trustees and the entire Mt. SAC family, we extend our condolences.”

Mazmanian is predeceased by his wife of 55 years, Shirley. He is survived by their son Steve, daughter Nancy and daughter-in-law Susan.



## Foundation Board President's Message



Many Mt. SAC students have great financial need that often gets in the way of finishing their community college education. About 75% of our Mt. SAC students receive some kind of financial aid. In fact, it would be impossible for many of our students to attend college without help.

As you might know, among other careers, community colleges educate 70% of all nurses and 80% of all firefighters in California. Last year, our Mt. SAC foundation raised more than 3.9M dollars and awarded hundreds of scholarships, helping our students train for their careers, realize their dreams, and become more productive members of our communities.

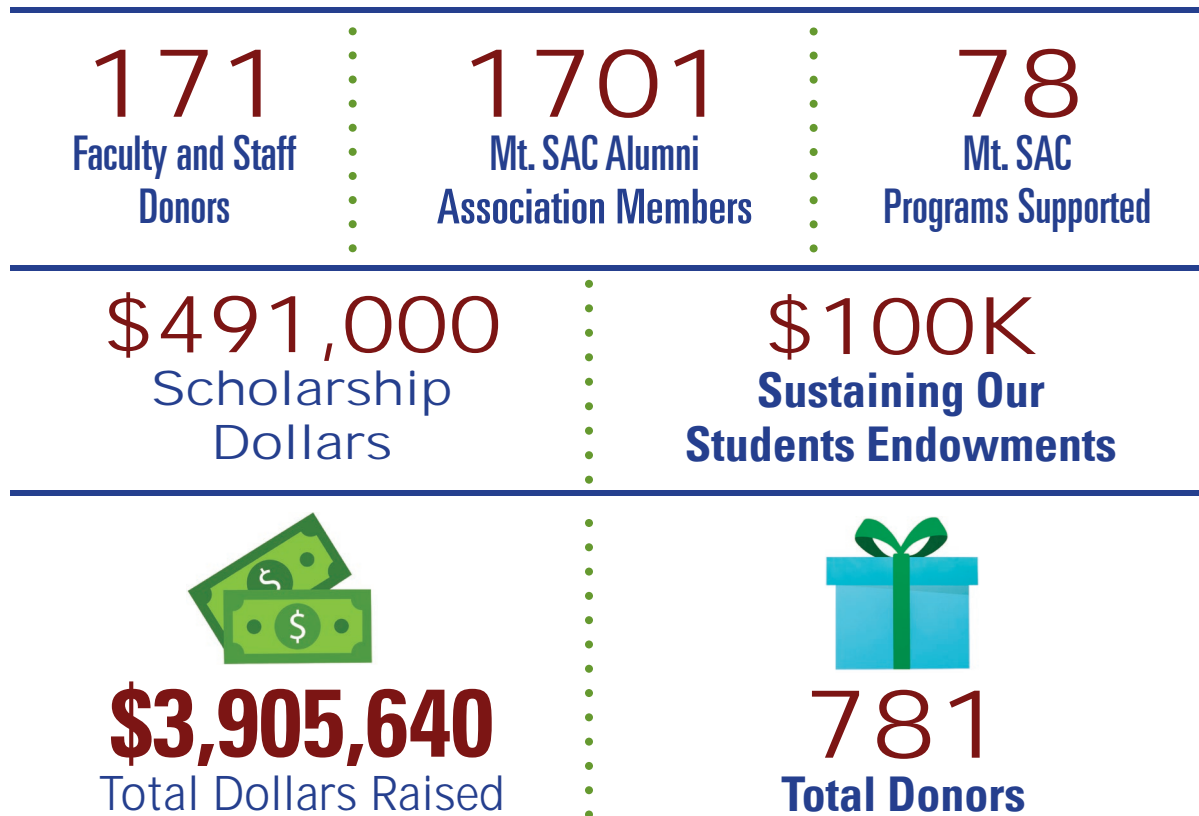
Historically, students who earn a certificate or degree from a California community college nearly double their earnings within three years. Our foundation has helped many Mt. SAC students toward their community college certificate or degree, and eventually into productive and rewarding careers.

On behalf of the Mt. SAC foundation, I would like to thank our many 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 local communities.

I am proud of the good work of our foundation and hope that you will join me in supporting its good work in the future.

**David Sonner**  
President, Mt. SAC Foundation

## By the Numbers





# Kepler Scholarship Dinner Continues to Dazzle



One of the College's most popular events, the Kepler Distinguished Lecture and Scholarship Dinner, is celebrating its 10th year this year. Named for the now-retired NASA telescope, this scholarship encourages students to pursue the space sciences (astronomy, cosmology, and physics), and the event is a chance to showcase student research, learn from experts, and—of course—raise money for the scholarship.

As a Mt. SAC trustee, Dr. Manual Baca has always held a special place in his heart for the Mt. SAC space students. The scholarship and its dinner began when Dr. Baca, a political science professor with a passion for astronomy, wanted a new way to support these students. He worked with Mt. SAC professors Julie Bray-Ali and Mark Boryta, as well as his wife Gloria, to put on the first dinner, which was held in conjunction with the re-opening of the College's planetarium. That initial event's popularity has allowed it to continue and grow over the past decade.

The event itself is well-attended, and there are plans to seek out a larger venue in order to expand the event in future years. Like the College itself, the Kepler Scholarship Dinner puts students at the core of the program by providing the opportunity for them to present their research.

There is also a featured expert speaker who has field experience on subjects ranging from the mission of the Kepler Telescope to research on the planets and moons of the solar system.

The current significance of the space sciences can't be underestimated. "In terms of the big picture, it continues to be important for our state and country to be competitive globally, in the sciences and technology," says Dr. Baca. "This kind of event, where students get a chance to learn from and interact with professionals in the field, exposes them to all the opportunities and possible career paths that their futures hold."





# The Road Between Mt. SAC and Unical Aviation is a Two-Way Street

The relationship between Mt. SAC and Unical Aviation has been going strong for several years, and it represents a new incarnation of philanthropy. The College's experience with corporate philanthropy has typically been more of a one-way street. A business would donate to the non-profit, and that was that. Of course, the business benefited from a spirit of goodwill and perhaps a tax incentive, but the results were not always more tangible than that. What Mt. SAC and Unical are doing is creating a substantial benefit for both sides of the equation. Dominique Tan, Unical's Chief Social Innovation Officer, refers to the company as a "relationship-based organization" and explains that "Unical is excited to continue responding to evolving needs of the students, workforce, and broader community."

Unical is a family-run company headquartered in City of Industry. Unical Aviation supplies aircraft parts and components to over 3,500 customers around the world. Unical Defense is a military-focused business providing product support to OEMs (original equipment manufacturers), as well as government and maintenance repair stations. Unical 145 provides the maintenance, repair, and overhaul of all aircraft parts, components, structures, and landing gear. Currently, a dozen Mt. SAC graduates work in this facility. Unical Aero is a U.S.-based engineering certification and manufacturing company

of FAA-PMA/STC approved aircraft parts, components, and systems for commercial applications. Finally, the Unical MRO at San Bernardino International Airport makes an ideal location for parking and storing aircraft.

The philanthropic relationship between Mt. SAC and Unical began in a traditional way, starting with scholarships in the business and aircraft maintenance programs. Then the company responded to "the growing need identified by Mt. SAC," says Tan, and "began a fund to assist [future] mechanics to obtain their certificates." Unical continues to provide scholarship support for Mt. SAC students, particularly for aircraft maintenance students to complete their degrees and take their licensing exams. For three years now, the company has sponsored scholarships totaling over \$40,000.

However, these scholarships are only a part of the total picture. A community college like Mt. SAC's uniqueness is due in large part to the way it prepares its students for specific jobs, not merely careers in a field. Part of that commitment to preparedness is advisory panels for each vocational program. The College invited Unical employees to sit on these panels, and the relationship between the entities became deeper and more formalized. The advisory capacity allows Unical to contribute to each program's development. It's a win-win:



they give input on curriculum, which means the courses and programs stay current, relevant, and tailored to the specific needs of the industry, and Mt. SAC grads are easily employable. Thusly, there is a pool of desirable candidates for jobs at Unical and other aviation-related companies.

"We appreciate Mt. SAC's commitment to make education accessible to the local community while providing a quality education. The quality education provides Unical with eager and hungry candidates who contribute a lot to their teams in the company. We also appreciate how responsive Mt. SAC is. As part of the advisory committee, we are able to influence content of the programs to meet our needs and anticipated trends in the industry," says Tan.





# Scholarship Is Just One More Thing These Sisters Have in Common

**S**isters Silvia and Evelyn Torrico are a year apart, but people often assume they are twins. It's an easy mistake to make; the sisters have a lot in common. And now they can add a scholarship from Mt. SAC to that long list. Earlier this year, Silvia and Evelyn both received the long-standing California Retired Teachers Association Scholarship. While it may be unusual for two sisters enrolled at the same college to get scholarships at the same time, the Torrico sisters are used to this sameness. They even have the same major.

Both women chose to attend Mt. SAC right after high school because they were unsure of their career path and didn't want to invest time and money on a major at a four-year college if they weren't certain it was the right major for them. Silvia especially was disappointed in herself for choosing a community college. "At first I did not like it because it was not a university," she says. "I felt like a failure for going to a community college and that all my hard work in high school was taken for granted such as my 4.0 GPA the fact that I was one of the top 10 percent of my graduating class." Of course, it was her sister who helped her see that Mt. SAC was the right choice, not a second choice. They attended workshops together on everything from time management to

scholarships, and pretty soon, Silvia realized Mt. SAC was one of the best decisions she has ever made.

Unsurprising to anyone familiar with Mt. SAC, both sisters found a career path and so much more. Since they both excelled at math classes in high school, Silvia and Evelyn were originally mechanical engineering majors. However, they were unhappy in their STEM courses and decided to focus back on what made them happy: the M part of STEM. As math majors, both women plan to pursue careers in math education. Evelyn wants to be a middle school math teacher because it combines her love of math with her other love: helping others.

One of the most prominent examples of how being at Mt. SAC has helped prepare Evelyn and Silvia for their futures as math teachers is the STEM Teacher Prep Program. Through this program, the sisters got hands-on experience working with middle school students at a summer science camp. Signing up for the program was Silvia's idea, and Evelyn is more than happy to give her the credit. Support and gratitude form the foundation of how their relationship works.



The sisters have always been close. Growing up, they even used to wear matching outfits to Disneyland when they took family trips there. These days, they spend most of their time together. At Mt. SAC, they had all the same classes and would book a study room together. In addition to school, they also spend free time together, which Silvia describes as "going to the movies, Knott's Berry Farm, visiting family, and just going on little adventures." Of course, Silvia and Evelyn aren't exactly alike. Their differences make them "a good team," according to Evelyn. "I am good at introducing ourselves and Silvia is good at continuing conversations. Silvia is also good at planning trips and I am good at getting her the directions to the places," explains Evelyn.

The Torrico sisters have since finished at Mt. SAC and while Evelyn considered transferring to University of California, Irvine, she ultimately decided to follow Silvia to Cal Poly Pomona. Their sisterly support system has served them well. Why mess with a good thing? Silvia says, "At the end I did not want to leave Mt. SAC and now that I am at CPP I really want to go back, but I know that I have to go out and grow and show Mt. SAC that the opportunities that they gave me were worth it and will help me in my journey ahead."

The sisters' scholarships transferred with them—and so did the confidence, skills, knowledge, and experience they acquired as Mounties.







# Annual Golf Classic Raises \$168K

The 32nd Annual Mt. SAC Foundation Golf Classic on May 31 welcomed more than 220 golfers across two courses at the beautiful Industry Hills Golf Club at Pacific Palms. Following tradition, Mt. SAC student-veterans opened the tournament by presenting the colors and Sarah Sweerman, a member of the Mt. SAC's award-winning choir, sang the national anthem. Everyone enjoyed their time on the green before the banquet. During dinner, alumnus and NBA referee J.T. Orr spoke about his experience at Mt. SAC and the trajectory of his career. Also 2018 Mt. SAC Spring Student-Athlete of the Year Jason Harary shared his story and thanked everyone for their support.

The Foundation is grateful to the individuals and organizations that believe in the impact that Mt. SAC has on the community. A thank you to all sponsors for their generous support, in particular Tilden-Coil Constructors, The Sugimoto Family Foundation, Majestic Realty Co, and HPI Architecture for their leadership giving.

Thanks to the hard work of dozens of staff, students, volunteers and sponsors the tournament raised more than \$168,000! Proceeds help fund the Mt. SAC Athletic programs and provide essential operational resources for the Foundation. The Foundation team is grateful to everyone who helped make this annual event the second most successful in its 32-year history!





# Scholarship Program Recap

The Mt. SAC Foundation raised \$491,000 in scholarship monies that produced 632 awards! In June, more than 1,100 Mt. SAC students, family, faculty, staff and friends celebrated all scholarship recipients.



From left to right: **Olga Fernandez**, Mt. SAC Foundation Board Member, **Adrienne and George Steward**, scholarship donors, established in honor of their son and Mt. SAC football player George Steward; **Alta Skinner**, Mt. SAC Foundation Board Treasurer, and **Dr. Manuel Baca**, Mt. SAC Board of Trustees



**David White Memorial (Earth Sciences) Field Scholarship**



**CANTEEN Veterans Scholarship**



**Roberta M. Berns**, Child Development Legacy Scholarship





# Edison's Investment in Fire Students

## *is an Investment in Southern California's Future*

The public utility company Southern California Edison (SCE) has long been a supporter of Mt. SAC's STEM students, and recently the company has expanded its support to include the College's Fire Program. "We need qualified and well-trained fire service professionals, and dedicated students should not have to turn down acceptance into a Fire Academy because they cannot afford the training materials and equipment," explains Lisa Woon, SCE principal manager for Corporate Philanthropy.

The need of the fire students mirrors the need of Mt. SAC's student body at large, over 75 percent of whom are underserved in some way. What makes the fire students unique is that the structure of the 16-week fire academy makes it nearly impossible for students to hold jobs while they are doing it. The academy isn't just demanding on students' time; it is also physically and mentally exhausting. Therefore, Fire Chief Ray Mosack strongly encourages students to devote all their time to the academy so that they can be successful. He understands the predicament of need, though, and knows that SCE's scholarships are making a big difference. It is not uncommon for a student to qualify for the academy but be unable to attend because of the financial commitment, and Mosack has countless stories of students who make tough decisions and sacrifices for the fire academy.

Because a fire department is a semi-military organization, the fire academy

functions much like a boot camp. About 30 students enter the fire academy each semester. They take a total of 23 written and 26 manipulative exams. The academy takes place every day Monday through Friday, beginning with physical fitness at 4:45 a.m. Because the academy uses a facility borrowed from the Chino Fire Department, students are responsible for cleaning up at the end of each day, which often extends the day past 5 p.m.

The benefit of a fire academy like Mt. SAC's is that although different fire departments have different requirements, Mt. SAC fire academy students graduate with 12 certifications, making them well-qualified for any fire department. "We invest in fire technology programs at selected community colleges across Edison's service area because our partners, like Mt. SAC, are best equipped with the knowledge and expertise to make a positive, direct impact in these students' education," says Woon. For the most recent academy, SCE provided five full tuition scholarships.

Well-staffed and well-trained fire departments are more important than ever. Mt. SAC's Fire Program and ones like it are instrumental in keeping qualified candidates in the pipeline. Woon confirms SCE's commitment to that pipeline: "We recognize that areas at risk for wildfire are expanding across the state, and we remain committed to supporting our nonprofit partners that are helping address the needs of our communities and strengthening our region's disaster response capacity."





# Alumni Profiles

## —J.R. Harrison

J.R. Harrison started off his working life in a career for which he had no passion. All that changed when he entered Mt. SAC's Aircraft Maintenance Technology night program. This program allowed J.R. to turn a lifelong love of commercial aviation into a career. These days he works as an aviation maintenance manager at Mt. SAC partner Unical Aviation. J.R. oversees the repair and overhaul of major aircraft components which are sold to airline customers throughout the world. He assists in developing forecasting and production schedules for three maintenance crews and the paint department, and he plays an integral role in the development and deployment of Unical's training program designed to help mechanics who are early in their careers transition into well rounded knowledgeable members of our team. Of course this work is challenging, but J.R. embraces the challenges. He feels honored to work on a team so dedicated to the safety and efficiency of their work.



## —Suzy (Cortese) Garrett

Mt. SAC Aviation Department graduate Suzy Garrett (formerly Suzy Cortese) made history in September by being the captain of the first mother-daughter flight crew at SkyWest Airlines. Suzy attended Mt. SAC from 1984 to 1986, and was one of the first dozen female pilots hired at SkyWest. She has been flying with the airline for 30 years. Her daughter Donna is a UC Santa Barbara graduate who was taught to fly by her father Doug Garrett, also a Mt. SAC graduate.

Captain Garrett is a trailblazer in many ways. Starting with just a few other female pilots in the industry 30 years ago, she describes how things have changed throughout her career. "[Back then] I wouldn't draw attention to myself at the airport," she said. "Believe it or not, I used to hide. The climate has changed; the reaction from the passengers has changed. Today I feel like I can be a role model for young girls who come on board and show them what's possible. The doors are open: You can be anything!"







# Alumnus of the Year

## Augie Max Vargas

In many ways, Emmy-award winner (and four-time Emmy nominee) Augie Max Vargas' story mirrors that of many Mt. SAC students. The son of Filipino immigrants, he was born in the United States but spent some time in the Philippines until his family settled in Southern California.

Augie spent his early adolescence in Burbank surrounded by the TV industry. "The Wonder Years" sometimes shot scenes at his school, and he could spot "The A-Team's" crew down the street. Warner Bros. and NBC had their studios in Burbank. Evidence of TV and movie making was everywhere.

Although his family moved to Pomona before he started high school, his formative years in Burbank stayed with him, and television production was always in the back of his mind. It took him awhile to consider it as a career, though. He wasn't sure what he wanted to study after high school, but Augie chose higher education anyway. He was drawn to Mt. SAC because of its proximity and affordability, qualities that attract many of its students. After a bumpy start, including a brief stint crawling through the ceilings of office buildings in order to network cable, Augie fell into a groove with video production courses at Mt. SAC. Like so many other Mt. SAC students, he discovered on this campus a foundation for the rest of his life. He was able to dive right into video production work both in the studio and with the video truck on live news and sports productions. The classes exposed him to all aspects of video production like voiceover work, editing, camera work, running audio cables, and mixing audio.



Professor Jillian Bennett Sterkin was instantly one of his favorite teachers. Her humor made her classroom a welcoming environment ripe for learning. She soon recognized Augie's potential (and personality) and encouraged him to take a turn as a host on the College's radio station. Sterkin then connected him with her husband David Doyle who is a producer. That introduction led to an internship which led to a career spanning 19 years and counting.

Legend comes up often when Augie describes some of the people he has gotten a chance to work with, including Dick Clark and multi-Emmy winning director Louis J. Horvitz. Augie has also worked on television projects like the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show, PBS's "In Performance at the White House: Memphis Soul", and even nine Super Bowl halftime shows.

Augie officially started his impressive career on the production team for the 2000 Academy Awards ceremony, but of course the arc of his story started here at Mt. SAC. Looking ahead, Augie would like to give back to men and women wanting to get into the production industry. He sees this designation as a step in that direction. To that end, in April, he visited campus to work with about 20 current Mt. SAC students to put together his honoree video. That quickly turned into a Q&A session in which Augie enthusiastically imparted advice and experience. He then invited Mt. SAC grad Anthony Flores to watch him work at the "Kids Choice Awards". Augie didn't stop there. He also got Anthony an internship at the "Teen Choice Awards", which resulted in Anthony's very first credit.

Being Alumnus of the Year is not something Augie takes lightly. "This honor means the world to me," he says. When he left Mt. SAC, he took with him a certificate in Television Production, invaluable experience, and a lifelong fondness for his alma mater.





# Purpose and Mission

## Our 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.

## We do this by...

- **raising awareness and funds** for campus programs and scholarships
- **supporting and encouraging** diverse groups of students and alumni
- **building relationships** and representing Mt. SAC throughout Southern California
- **recognizing** students, donors, and the community
- **increasing access** to knowledge, resources, and campus community members
- **encouraging** individuals and organizations to include Mt. SAC in their philanthropy

## Foundation and Alumni Association Staff

William Lambert, *Executive Director*

Maria Fierro, *Director of Development and Alumni Relations*

Annette Barrantes, *Advancement Services Specialist*

Ashely Lopez, *Bookkeeper/Development Assistant*

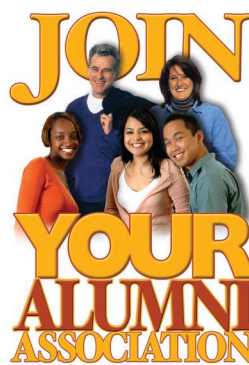
Claudia Ortiz, *Administrative Specialist*

# 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](https://mtsacfoundation.org/alumni-association) and look for the **Mt. SAC Alumni Association** on Facebook. **Go Mounties!**



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