

**Mt. San Antonio College**  
**President's SEEC Initiative Update**  
**"Societal Education for Equity Challenge"**  
**April 26, 2021**

*The Call to Action for SEEC is to create a campus societal culture that values, celebrates, and empowers all populations and breaks down barriers by creating a new culture built on unity of purpose through recognizing the value of diversity for both Mt. SAC and for overall American Society. The foundational principles of SEEC are: advocacy, recognition, unity of purpose and transformation.*

Mt. San Antonio College's commitment to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice is an intentional effort to ensure that the college's beliefs, actions, plans, and policies are genuine and impactful. Over the last few years, we have developed and implemented several initiatives ranging from keynote speakers, seminar participation, specialized training, book reads, conference attendance, and even the formation of committees and workgroups. As a campus, we have taken critical steps toward learning more about diversity and equity. As a campus, we are still learning about inclusion and justice and systemic practices of disempowerment and disrespect. We have a good start. But it is only a start.

Many have experienced injustices in their personal lives, in the community, and in the workplace – including Mt. SAC. We intend to continue to have direct, frank, and meaningful dialog about these lived experiences and the long-lasting impacts. We intend to develop meaningful ways to be more responsive in our actions against injustices and mistreatment. As a college community, it is our intention to be both respectful and open-minded and to be accepting of criticisms, pitfalls, and ways in which we must learn to be more sensitive in our thoughts and equitable in our actions.

Our Board of Trustees unanimously adopted Resolution No. 20-08 "Commitment to DEI and Declaring April as DEI Month" on April 14, 2021, committing the college toward "creating an equity-minded campus community" and responding to a call of action to "strategize against structural racism and racial inequalities and create a campus societal community culture built on unity of purpose through recognizing the value of diversity and social justice."

In order to develop a more comprehensive approach to what we are doing, we will be undertaking an inventory of all that we have been doing, the measurable impacts and outcomes of our work to date, and plans that are under development.

But that is only the beginning. What we create and commit ourselves to must be infused with actionable steps. We will need the involvement of everyone on campus to make this a reality,

to change the way we think and act toward each other, to our students and with our communities. We will hold ourselves accountable to not just talking, but walking our talk.

### **President's SEEC Initiative**

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*Advocacy.* Our approach is to be proactive and forward acting and to address critical issues boldly and purposefully.

*Recognition.* We will address issues as well as individuals to expand our awareness and commitment to change.

*Unity of Purpose.* We will be united in our mission and committed to change as a unified force.

*Transformation.* We will not retain the status quo but intentionally transform our institution, our thoughts, and our actions.

Some of you signed up to be a part of the SEEC effort and may be wondering what happened. Some of you may have been reluctant to complete the SEEC questionnaire related to this effort. Some of you may have participated in other dialogs and efforts related to diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and anti-racism.

As we move forward, we will be inviting those who applied, have participated in related dialogs and those of you who remain interested, even though you have not submitted the SEEC questionnaire, to be involved in our DEIJA efforts.

### **Next Steps**

- Existing groups/programs/departments that we are able to identify will be sent a questionnaire that describes their purpose, membership, and DEIJ efforts to date and plans for the current and coming year.
- A convening on May 14, 2021 of all interested parties to review the inventory of existing efforts and to initiate the work to make recommendations about actionable steps that will hold us accountable for creating and implementing change in our policies, plans, actions, treatment of each other, and establishing of specific services, programs and interventions.
- We will review collective, actionable and measurable steps that we can take as a campus community as well as specific interventions, programs, training, and other efforts that can be implemented campus-wide to address identified areas of needed improvement.

As part of this, we will unabashedly discuss and uncover our systemic weaknesses, our mistreatment of one another, and our racialized, discriminatory, stereotyping, and isolating actions. Our purpose and intention is to be forthright, actionable and accountable. We will

embrace new ways of approaching, understanding and supporting one another. Change starts at home. We will be the change we hope to see in our world.

Together we can and will make a difference. We want to move together as a united campus community valuing every individual. We will join as one to be more aware, caring, purposeful, and actionable. Mutual respect will be our guide. We appreciate your commitment and involvement!

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