

# COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOCUS

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The faculty and staff are integral to the college's Regional Child Development Teacher Apprenticeship Program. From left are Enrique Perez, vice chancellor, Educational Services; Janet Deussenberry, SAC interim director of Special Programs; Sarah Shawesh, SCC faculty coordinator; Regina Lamourelle, SCC co-department chair of Child Development; Sara Santoyo, assistant vice-chancellor, Educational Services; Chancellor Marvin Martinez and Janneth Linnell, executive director, Child Development.

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

# DISTRICT TO LEAD STATEWIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGE APPRENTICESHIP PROJECT

## Students earn credits and learn a skill

By Lou Ponsi,  
contributing writer

Because of the success of apprenticeship programs at Santiago Canyon College, Rancho Santiago Community College District Chancellor Marvin Martinez has been selected to take the lead on the formation of a master plan to establish and expand apprenticeship opportunities at other community colleges in the state.

Chancellor Martinez was appointed by California Community Colleges Chancellor Sonya Christian to take the lead on the Apprenticeship Pathway Demonstration Project, which aims to create a roadmap for colleges to expand apprenticeships and give college credits for classroom instruction and on-the-job training in the curriculum.

Plans are to implement the program in a cohort of 25 of the existing 116 community colleges within the system.

"We're going to help those colleges develop their organization so they can create more apprenticeships," Martinez said. "If you're an apprentice, you get two big things. One is you get to be an apprentice and complete the hours, and so forth. But the other thing is that we can convert all of the hours that you're generating as an apprentice into college credits."

SCC currently offers 10 apprenticeships that serve about 5,400 students in fields that include carpentry, mechanics, surveying, cosmetology and construction.

Working closely with Chancellor Martinez on the project is Elizabeth Arteaga, dean of Apprenticeship Programs and former associate dean of Business and

Career Technical Education.

"It's helping the colleges with the traditional and nontraditional apprenticeship programs and how to start them," Arteaga said. "Because some community colleges have no idea about apprenticeship programs, about this initiative, about the funding that's available for them — because there are millions of dollars available for the colleges, up and down the state, that they're just not taking advantage of right now."

California currently serves roughly 100,000 apprentices.

Funding for apprenticeship programs can be acquired through Proposition 98, a voter-approved initiative that provides funding for community colleges through the California Apprenticeship Initiative and New & Innovative Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Grant Programs.

In a November statement, Gov. Gavin Newsom cited the allocation of \$240 million across multiple initiatives "to grow high-quality apprenticeships and help ensure that people from diverse backgrounds can access these opportunities to upskill, reskill and thrive."

In the statement, the governor set a goal of serving 500,000 apprentices by 2029.

"Apprenticeships provide vital on-the-job training and job skill development that lead to meaningful careers," the governor stated. "Investing in the next generation of skilled workers is crucial to the prosperity and vitality of our state."

Apprenticeships are typically associated with trades such as carpentry and plumbing, but one of Arteaga's roles moving forward will be establishing apprenticeships in fields where they haven't

APPRENTICESHIP » PAGE 5



PHOTO BY SAM GANGWER, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER/SCNG  
John Hanna during a press conference in March 2017 at Westminster City Hall

## A FAMILY HISTORY

# Academics, athletics build strong foundation for the Hanna clan

## Siblings play soccer, find their careers at SCC

By Jenelyn Russo,  
contributing writer

When John Hanna was appointed to the Rancho Santiago Community College District Board of Trustees in 1998, he didn't realize his connection with the district, and specifically with Santiago Canyon College, would become a family affair.

Hanna and his wife, Cynthia, have seven children between them, including six who were part of RSCCD men's and women's soccer programs, with five of them having played for the SCC Hawks.

Now having served more than 22 years as an elected member representing Trustee Area 2, Hanna is not only a long-time public servant of the district, but also an RSCCD parent who has watched his children grow and flourish during their time on campus as student-athletes.

The son of a Navy supply officer, Hanna was born at the Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego. After moving around the country, his father's last duty station assignment was in 1964 at the Marine Corps Air Station in El Toro. He attended Tustin High School and Cal State Fullerton and then went on to Loyola Law School in Los Angeles.

In addition to serving on the RSCCD Board of Trustees, he has spent his career as a political attorney and is currently the government affairs director/special counsel for the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters.

The couple settled in the foothills of Orange and call Holy Family Catholic Church their parish home. Of their seven children — Caitlin, Caroline, Jacqueline (Jocko), Janelle, John Patrick (JP), Kelly and Kiera — Caroline, Jacqueline, Janelle and John Patrick played soccer

HANNAS » PAGE 3

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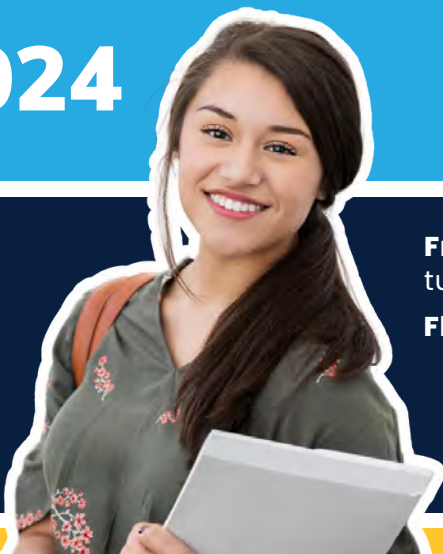
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CAREER STRATEGY

# Future physician credits SCC for prepping her

## Planning to provide trauma-informed care

By Nicole Gregory,  
contributing writer

Madelyn Walker is well on her way to fulfilling a lifelong dream to become a doctor — and she credits Santiago Canyon College, where she was able to take most of her premed requirement classes, for helping to make this dream a reality.

Today, Walker, 24, is on track to complete her master's degree this spring and hopes to begin medical school this summer. Her goal is to become an ER physician, trained in trauma-informed care.

Trauma-informed care recognizes that behavioral and health problems in many adults and children can be the result of trauma, such as abuse, gender-based violence or a war experience, even years after the trauma took place. Appropriate care and practices related to this understanding are now taught in medical schools and other institutions. Last summer, the California Surgeon General initiated a special training program for educators and child care providers in this field.

Walker's first role model as a medical professional was her mother.

"My mom is a nurse, and that was my first exposure to anything medicine-related growing up. She took care of my brother and me, and worked nights," Walker said. "I really admired her compassion and work ethic."

As a high school student, Walker participated in Health Occupation Students of America for future health care professionals.

A pivotal moment came when her grandfather died suddenly while in the emergency room.

"That was an eye-opening experience that led me specifically toward wanting to be a physician," Walker said. "When I arrived at the ER to meet the rest of my family, I walked into a room to see a phy-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELYN WALKER  
Santiago Canyon College alum Madelyn Walker

sician talking with my dad and aunt. He patiently answered their questions, and I could sense his empathy in our moment of loss.

"I wanted to be that person for others, and I felt becoming a physician would allow me to best do that. I wanted a role where I could combine lifelong learning with compassion, leadership and medical decision-making."

It has been a journey of hard work for Walker. When she first applied to UCLA, she was put on the waitlist. She decided to attend nearby Santiago Canyon College and take premed classes. She became a member of SCC's STEM Academy and an honors student. She also volunteered, assisting nurses at a nearby hospital.

In her second year at SCC, she entered a competition for the crown of Miss City of Orange, where she was living at the time. For this, she had to submit a resume, answer questions from judges and create a platform statement on a topic she was passionate about.

"Mine was 'Be the Voice of Sexual Harassment Awareness and Prevention,'" Walker said.

She was crowned Miss City of Orange in November 2018 and used her prize money to pay for all her classes at SCC.

Through her own experience and stories from peers and friends, she developed an interest in working with the victims of sexual harassment and assault. "It's something I'm really passionate about," Walker said. "I volunteered as a sexual assault crisis counselor. There's a location called Safe Place where volunteers would accompany victims or survivors of sexual violence to have their forensic examination."

By the time she finished at SCC, in 2019, she'd completed most of her premed requirements and went on to complete her undergraduate studies at UCLA.

Today, she is a graduate student at the California University of Science and Medicine in Colton and will receive her master's degree in May, putting her one step closer to her dream career. She hopes to continue at that university for

four years of medical school.

"In your fourth year of medical school, you apply to your specialty of choice. And at that time, hopefully, I will apply to emergency medicine," Walker said.

Even with her busy schedule, she still makes time to volunteer. "I volunteer for an organization called Waymakers, which is Orange County's Chapter of RAINN — the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network. It's a longstanding way for me to continue advocating for that social impact," she said.

With her eye on becoming an ER physician, Walker said her experiences have prepared her for that role. "I think that the experiences I've had as a volunteer will help me. We focus a lot on trauma-informed care — I actually do research in that field at my graduate school. Trauma-informed care is a way that I've found to combine my interest in emergency medicine and working with victims and survivors of violence. I hope to merge the two and hopefully serve in that way."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADELYN WALKER  
Walker was a member of the SCC STEM Academy during her premed studies.



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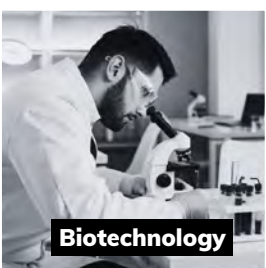
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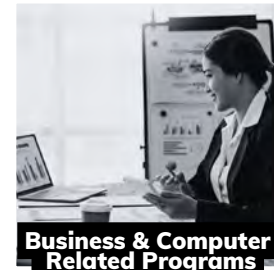
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## OPPORTUNITIES

# Popular nursing program expanding to include new certificates

## Classes prepare students for jobs

By Nicole Gregory,  
contributing writer

Santiago Canyon College's nursing program enables students to become certified nursing assistants and sets them on the path to employment in the growing health care field. Soon, three more medical certifications will be added to the program.

Employment in health care is expected to grow much faster on average than other occupations from 2022 to 2032, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"There is no lack of jobs," said Christine Gascon, SCC's dean of instruction and student services, continuing education. Gascon oversees the short-term vocational department, which offers certificates that qualify students for specific jobs. "One of the biggest areas that's booming in my division is health care," she said.

By state law, noncredit continuing education programs at community colleges like Santiago Canyon College are tuition-free. "We're really here for the basic needs of our community," Gascon said.

For-profit institutions offer similar programs to achieve these same certifications but for a fee of \$1,500 or more, according to Gascon. But at SCC, the medical occupations certificate programs can be obtained at no cost. "We want to be the not-best-kept secret in Orange County, but we really are," she said.

The continuing education department attracts people from the community who want to further their education, she explained. "It might be that they didn't get their high school diploma, so we have a full high school diploma program. It might be that they're recent immigrants and they don't speak English, so we have a full ESL program. We also have a citizenship program. All these programs assist them to come up to a level where they would be successful in going to a full college, if that is their route, or going into the workforce."

SCC's certified nurse assistant program began about five years ago with one cohort. Today the college offers four cohorts per semester; each cohort consists of about 15 students. The program is one semester, or about 15 weeks long.

Upon completion of the program,



Nursing assistant students Giovanni Anthony Flores, Lillian Alicia Chrispens, instructor Teddie Smith, MacKenzie Palmer, and Noori Arazou

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE GASCON

students are certified to be nursing assistants. After that, they can sit for their state licensing exam from the California Department of Public Health.

"We have a 96% pass rate on our licensing exam," Gascon noted. "Once they pass that, they can go out and get a job as a certified nurse assistant."

This entry-level position can lead to higher-level careers.

For the certified nursing assistant program, SCC has five instructors, including a registered nurse director, who have met the minimum qualifications set by the California Department of Public Health.

Students may take classes in this program during the day or in the evenings, a schedule that accommodates people who have jobs. "We are very flexible in our scheduling," Gascon said.

As part of the program, students work in simulated hospital situations with mannequins in hospital beds. They also

are required to perform 100 hours of clinical work in a skilled nursing facility under the supervision of an instructor and a certified nurse assistant or licensed vocational nurse.

Students in the SCC nursing assistant program are a diverse group, Gascon says, and most are between the ages of 20 to 40.

In addition to the nursing assistant program in the medical occupations certificate program at SCC are programs to become a lactation educator specialist, personal caregiver, medical assistant, medical billing worker, behavior technician who works with children on the autism spectrum, and home health aide.

Enrollment is growing for SCC's certificate programs. "When we first started, we only were doing one cohort at a time, but we have 50 students going through right now," Gascon said. "The number of students getting to know about our

program and entering our program is expanding all the time."

The ultimate purpose, Gascon said, is to enable students to earn a living wage as quickly as possible. "That's our goal. We're setting them on that pathway and hopefully boosting them into the next step. For example, our CNAs could then go into a program for LVN or registered nurse, or they can move beyond that because now they've got experience."

Programs like this in California's community colleges are supported by the governor. "It's a big, big push in our state to get people to have skills," said Gascon, "so that's what we're trying to do."

She sees it as a clear return on investment for the county and state to have qualified workers who can bring their skills into the local economy. These programs are a great value "for the person, for the community, for their children," she said.



Teddie Smith, left, instructs students Blanca Rodriguez Sanchez and Angela Louise Alban.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE GASCON



Nursing assistant students gain practical hands-on experience through the program.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTINE GASCON

## Hannas

FROM PAGE 1

for SCC, while daughter Kelly played for Santa Ana College. Kiera is in her final year at SCC and also plays for the Hawks' women's soccer program.

Like many families in Orange County, the Hannas started their kids in youth soccer when they were young. They all found a love for the game and went on to play for local club teams, as well as the varsity team at El Modena High School. Outside of a short stint as a goalkeeper for Jacqueline, all the Hanna kids play on the defensive side of the ball.

When it came time to choose a college path, SCC made perfect sense, from the quality of instructors and athletic opportunities to the affordability and proximity.

"I honestly felt that they were going to get a good education those first two years," Hanna said. "They had a great experience. They were happy with the friends they made, they were happy with the soccer program, and they were close to home."

Contributing to their positive experience was the rise of the Hawks' women's soccer program. Head coach Ian Woodhead brought a depth of experience to campus in establishing the program, and during his time at the helm, the Hawks have earned 16 Orange Empire Conference championships, four state titles and one national championship. Caroline, Jacqueline, Janelle and Kiera all played for Woodhead's championship-winning teams. Jacqueline was on the team that earned the national title in 2009.

Additionally, Hanna credits the commitment of college leadership to build the natural-grass field that not only brought his kids to the campus, but many other students and families who have discovered SCC.

"We couldn't have done it if we didn't have a couple of things — one is a good soccer coach, and two, the vision of this college to build that soccer field," Hanna said. "Woodhead transformed it because he was the first coach. They built that field and people started coming in."

Caroline, Jacqueline and Janelle went on to Cal State Los Angeles to play soccer and earn their bachelor's degrees. Caroline works alongside her husband at their trucking company, Jacqueline and Kiera are personal trainers and Janelle is a nurse.

John Patrick attended Chico State and is following in his father's footsteps working as a governmental affairs and political strategist in Sacramento. Kiera is currently considering her options for college programs that will allow her to continue playing soccer while pursuing a degree in nursing.

Hanna and his wife spent many days in the stands at SCC cheering on their children as they competed on the pitch, a role he feels has fostered a unique connection with the community.

As for the Hanna children, their time as Hawks not only allowed them to pursue athletics at the next level, it also enabled them to set an academic foundation for their future career paths.

"They look back on their lives, and they told me that those are the days that they long for," Hanna said of his kids' time at SCC. "Every one of them says it was the best time of their lives. They loved the school."



Four of John Hanna's seven children: Janelle, holding her daughter Kinsley, Jacqueline, Caroline and Kiera

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HANNA FAMILY

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS****Where dreams take flight: Cultural diversity enriches education***RSCCD Communications*

At Santiago Canyon College the International Students Program is not just a program; it's a commitment to enhancing the cultural and educational experience of enrolled students. In collaboration with staff, faculty, and administration, SCC strives to ensure that students are enriched academically, socially, and culturally. The ultimate goal? To make a significant contribution to cross-cultural understanding and exchange.

One exemplary example of this commitment is Yuanyuan Zhou, a talented and ambitious student from Guangzhou, China. Arriving in the U.S. in July 2022,

Yuanyuan pursued her passion for art at SCC. Reflecting on her college journey, she notes the stark differences in the teaching systems between the U.S. and China. However, these differences became opportunities for learning, as she gained knowledge and formed friendships with international students from around the globe.

"I found SCC in China with my agency's help," said Zhou. "The teaching system in the U.S. is very different from that in China. My goal after SCC is to transfer to CSULB to study Fashion Design."

SCC's International Students Program Director Jetza Torres commends Yuanyuan's contributions. "Yuanyuan is a smart, talented, and professional young adult. She's served as a student assistant

at the SCC International Students Center since fall 2023. She will be graduating in spring 2024 and then transfer to a four-year university to complete her bachelor's degree. I have no doubt that she will excel in her studies and professional career in the future," Torres said.

The SCC International Students Center, with students from 27 different countries, has a profound impact on the campus community. Jetza emphasizes the positive contributions of international students, providing authentic opportunities for domestic students to learn about different cultures. In classrooms, international students bring diverse perspectives, creating a more productive and dynamic learning experience.

Jetza, once an international student herself, finds joy in serving and connecting with students from various backgrounds. Her personal experience allows her to understand the needs of international students. Every day brings a new opportunity to learn something new, driving the center's dedication to providing excellent supportive services.

SCC's international student center concentrates on customer service. The motto, "What Happens Here Matters," places students at the forefront, recognizing that every student's journey is unique. As students like Yuanyuan continue to shine, SCC reaffirms its commitment to excellence, diversity, and the belief that every student's story matters.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Student Yuanyuan Zhou is studying art at Santiago Canyon College with a goal of pursuing a career in fashion design.

**MEN'S BASKETBALL****Hawks topple defending state champ Fullerton College***RSCCD Communications*

The Santiago Canyon College men's basketball team rallied from a 12-point deficit to edge visiting Fullerton College, 69-65, Feb. 7 in a crucial Orange Empire Conference game.

Sophomore Kai Smith scored a game-high 26 points and sophomore Chico Smith added a career-high 22 points with three rebounds as the Hawks (18-6, 9-3 OEC) handed Fullerton, the defending state champion and the third-ranked team in the state this season, its first loss in conference play.

The victory gave Santiago Canyon, ranked 28th in the state, a firm hold of second place in the conference standings and extended the Hawks' winning streak to three games.

Fullerton (20-4, 11-1) came out of half-time and extended its 10-point lead with an early basket, but Santiago Canyon went on a 9-2 run to cut its deficit to five points with 16 minutes left. Smith was the catalyst as he netted all nine of the Hawks' points, included a set of three-pointers.

Freshman guard Eli Arthurton cut the lead with one point on a three-pointer with 13 minutes left and seven minutes later pocketed a steal that led to a transition layup for Smith to give the Hawks their first lead.

Lopez and Smith handled the remaining bulk of the offense down the stretch mixed in with a pair of free throws from freshman guard Trevor Manning and one from sophomore guard Joey Longo en route to the winning margin.

Arthurton scored nine points.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Joey Longo looks for an opening to pass.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Chico Lopez shoots for the basket against Fullerton's defense.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Damien Parker prepares a free throw.

## O.C. POET LAUREATE

## Gustavo Hernandez's work captures his personal journeys

## His writing takes readers into community

By Greg Hardesty,  
contributing writer

In high school, when his love of creative writing took root, Gustavo Hernandez wrote poems in a journal.

That passion took full flower more than two decades later when Hernandez decided to finish his college degree.

One of the first classes he took in 2014 at Santiago Canyon College was creative writing taught by novelist and professor Lynnette Beers.

"On the first night of that class, he had such a welcoming presence, but he also didn't realize just how talented he is as a writer," Beers recalled. "He admitted that he was late to the game as far as getting his bachelor's degree, but he was always open to learning and so helpful to other students."

Although skilled at writing short stories, Hernandez, then 34, embraced poetry. He graduated from SCC in 2018 and went on to earn his bachelor's degree in creative writing-poetry from Cal State Long Beach in 2021.

"My experience at SCC was amazing," Hernandez recalled. "I ran into so many professors who were great at their jobs and who really encouraged me to keep going."

Hernandez's first collection of poems, "Flower Grand First," was published in 2021 by Moon Tide Press. His two-year appointment as poet laureate of Orange County started Jan. 1.

"This has honestly been one of the best things to happen to me," said Hernandez, who was 6 when his parents and three siblings immigrated from Jalisco, Mexico, to Santa Ana. "The poetry community has meant so much to me. Geography is everywhere in my work, and to be able to represent poetry in Orange County is a dream come true."

## Personal journeys

The position of Orange County poet laureate was created by the arts cooperative LibroMobile, which operates a bookstore in Santa Ana. Poet laureates



PHOTO COURTESY OF GUSTAVO HERNANDEZ

Orange County's poet laureate Gustavo Hernandez was featured at a local library.

are considered among a region's most esteemed poets and are appointed to represent and advocate for poetry in the region where they live.

"When I found out that Gustavo was chosen as poet laureate of Orange County, I was incredibly proud," recalled Beers, a mentor and now close friend of Hernandez who will use two of his poems in her classes this semester when she covers the topic of immigration. "As a Mexican American poet, he bleeds his soul onto the page."

The poems in "Flower Grand First" (all street names in Santa Ana) not only capture Hernandez's immigrant experience, but also his coming to terms with his sexuality as a gay man. They also are about his father, Juan, whom Hernandez was very close to and who died, in 2017, at age 78.

For a while after graduating from Santa Ana Valley High School, Hernandez worked for his father's landscaping company. His father had weed abatement contracts with the county and did a lot of work in Modjeska, Silverado, and surrounding canyons.

In December 2000, Hernandez got a job as a civil litigation clerk at Orange

County Superior Court, where he continues to work full time.

Poetry, however, has always been his creative outlet – his voice.

## Poetry for the people

Even before his appointment as poet laureate, Hernandez has made it his mission to share his love of poetry with the broader community.

Last year, for example, he conducted a poetry workshop for Keep Runnin' Santa Ana, a club that counts Hernandez as a member.

"I just want to get into the community and bring poetry to people who might not always have access to it," said Hernandez, who in 2023 completed three half-marathons.

Hernandez has completed a second collection of poetry, working title "Bachelor," which he is shopping around to publishers.

"Bachelor" is edited by Diane Seuss, a Pulitzer Prize-winning poet, a good friend of his and one of his biggest poetry mentors.

A big theme of the collection is losing his dad.

"You never finish dealing with that

sort of grief," said Hernandez, who is the full-time caretaker of his mother, Maria Guadalupe, with whom he shares the Santa Ana home in which his family grew up.

## Olive branches

Lisa Alvarez, professor of English at Irvine Valley College, is a longtime admirer of Hernandez.

She attended his inauguration as poet laureate in late January.

"I first met Gustavo on the page, as it were," said Alvarez, co-director at IVC of the Puente Program, an academic, counseling, and mentoring program. "I think the first poem of his I read was 'Santa Ana: Downtown,' sometime before the pandemic, and I thought wow – here's the poet I've been waiting for."

"He's an Orange County poet, a Mexican American poet – someone who respects where we live and can write about it with heart and smart."

Alvarez said Hernandez's work resonates with her students.

"They are so moved to read someone writing about where they are from, about people like them," she said. "I bring his poems into every class I teach and the students, no matter their age or origin, respond so powerfully to what he explores, whether he's writing about the community, the family, or communion between two people."

At the inauguration to celebrate Hernandez's appointment as poet laureate, Alvarez gave him a crown of olive branches plucked from her yard. Alvarez lives in Modjeska Canyon, which is known for its olive trees planted by the husband of the Polish Shakespearean actress Madame Modjeska, shortly after they arrived in 1888.

In the ancient Greek tradition, poets were crowned with laurels.

"I fashioned a crown for Gustavo to celebrate the beginning of his terms as laureate, to look back – to Greece, yes, but also to Orange County's often overlooked history," Alvarez said. "And to celebrate our county's poet laureate with a nod to tradition, with an Orange County twist. So, olive branches instead of laurels. Olives stand for peace. We could all use more of that."

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## College celebrates diversity and champions inclusivity

RSCCD Communications

Black History Month acts as a catalyst for increased awareness and education on Black history and culture, fostering community engagement through events and discussions that promote solidarity and understanding. At SCC, incorporating diverse perspectives into education and everyday conversations helps build a more inclusive and equitable campus and community.

"The goal of SCC truly is to embrace all populations of students and create hubs of belonging and community for each group of students. To allow them to come together to share with each other; to realize that our differences are assets as opposed to liabilities," says Loretta Jordan, assistant vice president of Student Services at SCC.

This dedication to fostering a sense of belonging resonates deeply within the SCC community. It's not merely about acknowledging the past; it's about actively shaping a future where diversity is celebrated, and unity is paramount.

Central to SCC's celebration of Black History Month is the B.L.A.C.K (Black Legacy Achievement Center of Knowledge) Department. Rancho Santiago Community College Chancellor, Marvin Martinez, was the impetus for establishing the Black Student Center on campus, which led to the grand opening in 2022. The vibrant hub serves as more than just a physical space; it's a sanctuary for cultural expression, mentorship, and community-building.

One of the most captivating features of the B.L.A.C.K Department is its collection of artworks by Black artists. The walls are adorned with powerful pieces that depict themes of resilience, identity, and empowerment. From vibrant paintings to striking sculptures, each artwork tells a story of struggle and triumph, serving as a source of inspiration for stu-



PHOTO BY DREW A. KELLEY, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

An SCC alumni artwork depicting John Lewis and Ida Wells in the B.L.A.C.K Department

dents and visitors.

As the month progresses, SCC's campus comes alive with various events and activities celebrating Black History Month. From art exhibitions to guest lectures, from film screenings to panel discussions; the college provides a platform for dialogue, understanding, and celebration. Students and faculty alike

engage in conversations about the past, present, and future of Black culture and contributions to society.

Black History Month serves as a reminder of the importance of acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of Black individuals to our collective tapestry of humanity.

"The goal is to dismantle these belief

systems of divisiveness and begin to build and grow the need of togetherness and humanistic behaviors amongst each other," Jordan said.

For more information and event details, visit SCC's Black Legacy Achievement Center of Knowledge: <https://sc-college.edu/students/student-services/blacklegacyachievementcenter>

## Apprenticeship

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existed previously.

An example is the Early Childhood Education Apprenticeship Program currently offered at Santiago Canyon College.

The 18-month apprenticeship combines on-the-job learning and coursework at SCC.

Students who complete the curriculum can obtain a CA Child Development Teacher Permit from the Commission of Teacher Credentialing.

Other fields being explored for apprenticeship opportunities, either at SCC or other colleges, include cybersecurity, health care and information technology, Artega said.

The majority of SCC's current apprenticeship programs run from two to five years.

Upon completion, apprentices are issued a Certificate of Completion by the state, which officially designates the apprentice as a skilled journey worker.

"These are high-paying jobs," Artega said.

As the program kicks off, Artega will be working with community college administrators to establish policies for each apprenticeship and convert noncredit to credit-earning apprenticeships.

Creating an application process for students will also be part of the process for building an apprenticeship program, Artega said.

Part of the success of SCC's apprenticeship program also stems from flexible scheduling for students in the programs, said Jason Parks, vice president of Academic Affairs for SCC.

"We're known for being flexible with them because they don't necessarily care about the academic year," Parks said. "The fall and spring (semesters) are sort of irrelevant to them. Basically, we mold ourselves around their needs."



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Faculty and staff celebrate the launch of the first Regional Child Development Teacher Apprenticeship Program.

EVALUATION

# SCC ranked among best community colleges in state



RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College begins the Spring 2024 semester as one of the highest-ranked community colleges in California.

Independent college ranking research outlet BestValueSchools.org ranked SCC as the 13th-best out of 116 community colleges for 2024 in California and the sixth-best community college in Southern California.

Among its reasons for SCC's ranking, BestValueSchools.org cited the college's retention rate, completion/graduation rate, the ongoing success of transfer or graduation rate, as well as the strong rate of employment and salary upon program completion.

BestValueSchools.org recognized SCC as a "student-focused college that has thrived in the tight-knit community of which it is a part of. ... SCC offers flexible online courses as well that change student experience but still receive plenty of support and guidance from intelligent, caring faculty."

The recognition comes on the heels of recent 2024 rankings from EDsmart.org, which ranked SCC 8th, Intelligent.com (13th) and Niche.com (16th) in California.

SCC is also ranked 13th in the United States and 3rd in California in CollegChoice.net's most current ranking and 7th in California in BestCollege.com's most current rankings.

"These rankings demonstrate what we see happening on our campus every day, where in partnership with the Orange community, we are working to fulfill our mission of life-changing scholarship, leading to living wage careers and transfers to top UCs, CSUs and private institutions," said SCC President Dr. Jeannie G. Kim. "I am particularly proud to see Santiago Hawks once again recognized for remaining accessible and affordable to our students. We are passionately public and we will continue to make a significant impact on the people of our community and beyond."



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

The E Building on the Santiago Canyon College campus houses the offices for Admissions, Financial Aid and other student support services.

## Santiago Canyon College Foundation 2024 Golf Tournament Pelican Hill Golf Club | March 28, 2024 | 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

The Santiago Canyon College Foundation is excited to announce its 22nd Annual Golf Tournament, a fantastic opportunity for golf enthusiasts and supporters of higher education to come together and make a meaningful impact. Join us for a day of hitting the links and building futures as we raise money to support student programs and scholarships.

**Greens Fees: Foursome: \$2,500**

**Golf for 4, Golf Cart, Range Balls, Food & Drinks**

Also includes entry into all the games and contests on course, 2 mulligans, gifts cards and prizes

**REGISTER**

**DONATE**

[scollegefoundation.org/golftournament](https://scollegefoundation.org/golftournament)

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