



Orange City manager and Santiago Canyon College alumnus Jarad Hildenbrand with his family

PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

CAREER BUILDER

ORANGE CITY MANAGER RECALLS SANTIAGO CANYON FELT 'LIKE HOME'

Hildenbrand's career sparked by what he learned

RSCCD Communications

For Orange City Manager Jarad Hildenbrand, public service isn't just a profession — it's personal.

Appointed by the Orange City Council in June 2025, Hildenbrand stepped into the top administrative role in the city where he was raised, bringing with him more than 17 years of local government experience and a deep-rooted passion for his community. He officially started on Aug. 11.

From his early days as a Fire Explorer with the Orange City Fire Department to managing municipal operations across several Southern California cities, his career has been shaped by a strong sense of place and purpose.

Though he originally planned to become a firefighter, Hildenbrand's path

shifted after enrolling at Santiago Canyon College, which he chose for its proximity, affordability and welcoming environment.

"SCC gave me the academic preparation and confidence to continue at Cal State Fullerton and later at Cal State Long Beach," Hildenbrand said. "Just as importantly, it instilled the discipline, communication skills and collaborative mindset that are essential in city management and public service."

He credits SCC's supportive environment, including approachable faculty, small class sizes and a culture of encouragement, for helping him transition smoothly into higher education. "It was the right environment to grow. It felt comfortable. Like home," Hildenbrand said.

At Cal State Fullerton, an introductory public administration course re-

quired an internship, which was a turning point in his journey. That internship led him to the city of Villa Park, where then-City Manager Ken Domer offered him a chance to contribute. What began as six months of unpaid work turned into a decade-long career in city management, culminating in Hildenbrand becoming the city manager of Villa Park.

"Honestly, the career path sort of chose me," he said. "I liked what I did ... and I've never applied to a fire department."

Hildenbrand went on to be the city manager in La Habra Heights, Stanton and Laguna Hills, gaining broad experience in budgeting, operations, public safety and community engagement.

He continues to be particularly drawn to the immediacy and visibility of local government work.

"Local government has the most impact on everyday citizens. What we do, you can see it out on the street. Your changes are visible, and that's what I absolutely love," Hildenbrand said. "So what we do in the course of government, especially local government, realistically with the ordinance adoption process, you can change something in 60 to 90 days."

As the city manager in Orange, Hildenbrand leads a full-service city of about 140,000 residents, a vibrant Old Towne district and a long history of civic pride. His leadership focuses on responsiveness, transparency and long-term sustainability, all values he believes are essential to maintaining Orange's unique character while planning for future growth.

"Orange is home. I am so happy to be

HILDENBRAND » PAGE 5



Dr. Heidy Sasvin credits the community at Santiago Canyon College for encouraging her to pursue a career in medicine.

PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

PROFESSIONAL PATH

Alum found the right prescription, resources to become a doctor

Practicing family medicine became her dream

By Nicole Gregory
contributing writer

Heidy Sasvin's path to becoming a family medicine doctor was not a traditional one. While typically medical students graduate from a four-year university before entering medical school, her college career began at Santiago Canyon College.

Yet the support and encouragement Sasvin received during her years at SCC motivated her to keep working toward her dream of becoming a doctor despite financial obstacles, she said.

Today, Sasvin, 36, is a family medicine doctor at Pavilion Family Medicine in Orange, a group practice that is affiliated with Providence-St. Joseph.

"I had always had a passion for medicine and the pursuit of knowledge," Sasvin said. "Unfortunately, I did not have the financial means to attend a four-year

university, and that's what led me to community college."

The SCC community supported her desire to become a doctor, including through scholarships. "My biology teachers encouraged me to continue pursuing my dreams even though we all knew that it was going to be a financial burden," she said.

Born in Guatemala and immigrating to the U.S. at age 8, Sasvin grew up mostly in Santa Ana. She graduated from Foothill High School in 2006, and at one point as a teenager, she worked at Pavilion Family Medicine as a clerk.

Her passion for medicine grew from a series of positive experiences she and her mother, a single mom who worked as a housekeeper, had with local doctors. "They were so caring," Sasvin said. "Even though we didn't have means to afford excellent health care, they would

DOCTOR » PAGE 5

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LIFTED BY LANGUAGE

Instilled with a joy for learning, she's paying it forward

Graduate is embedded tutor at Santiago Canyon

By Jenelyn Russo
contributing writer

When Melanie Montoya entered Santiago Canyon College in the fall of 2018, she wasn't sure where her higher education journey would take her. Coming from a high school experience that admittedly wasn't filled with much success, she hoped that community college would give her the chance to start over and rewrite that path.

Today, having earned an associate degree from SCC and bachelor's degrees in English and ethnic studies from San Francisco State, Montoya is currently completing her master's degree in English at Cal State Long Beach.

Additionally, under the guidance of a CSULB professor, Montoya is one step closer to her goal of becoming a college professor herself as she teaches a freshman composition class this semester. She has also returned to SCC as an embedded tutor for English courses —

opportunities she credits to the experience she had while at SCC.

"For the first time, I really felt like I was being supported, and school became this place for me where I felt like I actually belonged," Montoya said of her time at SCC. "I wasn't just trying to get to the next goal post of finishing this class and graduating, but I really started to enjoy my time there."

With a lifelong love of reading and writing, and as a first-generation college student who learned English as a second language, Montoya began envisioning a future teaching English to others. Inspired by her SCC professors, she took something she once saw as a weakness and turned it into a strength.

"English is not my first language, and I'd always seen that as kind of a deficit," Montoya said. "But a lot of my (SCC) professors challenged that way of thinking and instead made me see English and my experience with ESL as something that



Melanie Montoya with her mother, Patty

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE MONTOYA

could be positive and actually an advantage."

One of the professors who brought the classroom to life for Montoya was SCC English professor Nidzara Pecenkovic, whose student-centered approach to teaching connected with Montoya in a way she had never experienced in high school.

Now, Montoya serves as an embedded tutor in Pecenkovic's English 101 course.

"At SCC, it was a very different learning community," Montoya said. "Especially in my English courses. ... I wasn't just being taught by Nidzara, but I was being taught

by my classmates. ... There was a joy in learning that I hadn't felt in a really long time, even in classes where I struggled. The professors really try to make things collaborative and get students as engaged as they can. That was beneficial for me."

Another connection Montoya made while at SCC was with English professor Sara Gonzalez. As her first exposure to a Latina English teacher, Gonzalez not only provided important representation for Montoya, but she inspired her career path.

"I had never pictured myself teaching in a college classroom, but when I met Sara, she gave me so much guidance and

support ... that I started thinking I would like to come back and teach at community college," Montoya said.

It was Gonzalez who recommended that Montoya pursue the master's program at CSULB, where she is currently gaining invaluable classroom experience.

"My time at SCC made me super interested in education because it really challenged me," Montoya said. "Both Nidzara and Sara have given me so many opportunities that I wouldn't have had before."

By choosing to pursue teaching, Montoya gained access to SCC's Pathways to Teaching Program, a resource for students interested in becoming teachers. The program provides specialized advising, workshops and campus field trips to help students successfully transfer to a four-year institution and earn their teaching credential. It was that program's support that led her to San Francisco State.

"The community and support I found at SCC while I was a student was really impactful to my education and my overall career goals and plans," Montoya said.

During her time at SCC, Montoya also received significant support from her family, including her twin sister, Millie, who completed her bachelor's degree at UC Santa Cruz and currently works in the Transfer Student Center at UCI. The sisters attended SCC at the same time and shared similar positive experiences.

"We both had such a special time there together," Montoya said. "We both enrolled at the same time and were able to take some classes together, so that was a really fun experience for us."

As she completes her master's degree this December with a specialization in 19th-century English literature, Montoya hopes to return to her alma mater as a professor and pay forward the opportunities she received to the next generation of SCC students.

"I had such a special experience of going to community college, and I think SCC has such a great culture," Montoya said. "All of the professors I had when I went to SCC were super welcoming and caring and passionate, and I would love to be a part of that community."



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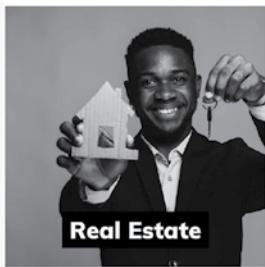
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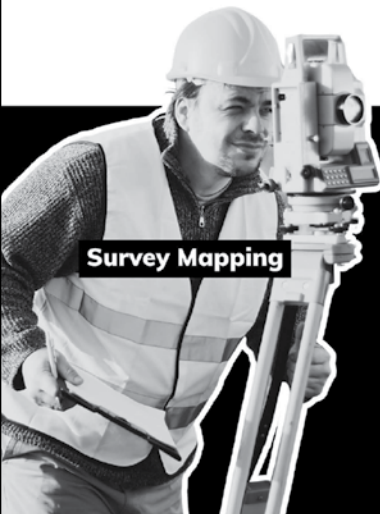
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The Community College Focus section is produced by The Orange County Register for the benefit of its subscribers. While the Santiago Canyon College is the section's primary advertising sponsor, all editorial decisions are independent of the college's control.

Published on select Sundays by The Orange County Register 1920 Main Street, Suite 225 Irvine, CA 92614 ocregister.com

OPPORTUNITY

SCC-UCI partnership benefits accounting students

Program is fast track to a master's degree

By **Larry Urish**
contributing writer

Students who earn an associate degree in accounting at Santiago Canyon College are well-prepared for a variety of entry-level positions, as well as promotional opportunities, in such areas as accounts receivable/payable, income tax preparation, payroll and more.

However, those seeking to aim higher are encouraged to enter a unique program that will fast-track them toward an eventual master's degree in this in-demand field.

Created through a partnership between SCC and UC Irvine, the SCC and UCI 2+2+1 Masters of Accountancy Pathway Program closes the gap between a community college and a graduate degree. Students spend two years completing prerequisite courses at SCC, earn a bachelor's degree at UCI (or another accredited four-year university) over the next two years and complete UCI's Master of Professional Accountancy Program the final year: hence the term "2+2+1."

"Students are so much more marketable with a master's degree," said DeAnna Martin, SCC accounting professor. "They're far more valuable with any accounting firm that hires them to be an upper-level employee. And this advanced degree is especially helpful if students want to get their CPA license."

In partnership with UCI staff, Martin and Melissa Shirah, a fellow SCC accounting professor, were instrumental in creating the 2+2+1 Pathway Program four years ago.

Interested students meet with a Santiago Canyon College counselor, with the plan to complete Accounting 101 (financial accounting) and Accounting 102 (managerial accounting) while maintaining a 3.0 grade point average. They later transfer to UC Irvine, or another accredited four-year university, to earn a bachelor's degree in any major. While doing so, they're expected to complete the following UCI under-



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

The SCC and UCI 2+2+1 Masters of Accountancy Pathway Program gives students a course plan that streamlines the community college to bachelor's to master's degree process.

graduate classes (or their equivalent at another university): Intermediate Accounting I and II, Taxation and Auditing. The final year involves matriculating into and completing UCI's MPAC Program.

"UCI is keeping it wide open for any student who wants a career in accounting," Martin said. "Anyone who takes Accounting 101 and 102 here at SCC can jump on the UCI Pathway. Students with a 3.0 GPA can then receive conditional admittance into the graduate program, along with a minimum \$10,000 scholarship once they matriculate."

"Those interested in the Pathway Program can major in anything, but students should also consider the (business-related) prerequisite undergraduate courses," Shirah said. "We have a lot of students who major in other things and then come back to accounting because accounting is very employable."

Santiago Canyon College students interested in this program may gain admission to UC Irvine through the university's Transfer Admission Guarantee, provided they've met the requirements prior to transferring.

The scholarship is only one benefit of the 2+2+1 Pathway Program. Stu-

dents receive early mentoring with SCC professors and counseling staff, assistance from an SCC transfer success coordinator and UCI student ambassadors, continued mentorship and career guidance at UCI, and all manner of networking and professional-development opportunities through the university's Paul Merage School of Business.

Those in the fast-paced MPAC Program, ranked No. 2 in California in 2024 by online business- and tech-news platform the TFE Times, can choose from two specialized career tracks, Data Analytics or Tax, and may also explore the university's new ESG (Environmental, Social and Governance) Pathway. More than 98% of UC Irvine MPAC students are employed within six months of graduation.

SCC/UCI Pathway Program students who receive a master's degree have an inside track to an assortment of promising careers in accounting. "The Big Four Firms (Deloitte, Ernst & Young, PricewaterhouseCoopers and KPMG) recruit students specifically from UCI's MPAC," Martin said. "Their top candidates come out of this program."

The majority of accounting master's degree students eventually take the CPA (Certified Public Accountant)

exam. CPA-exam preparation is a particular focus of UC Irvine's MPAC Program. "The CPA is the gold standard of accounting," Shirah said. "If you have your CPA, you're most employable, and it shows that you've reached a certain level of understanding in accounting."

Damian Lara, a second-year accounting major at Santiago Canyon College, has gained provisional approval into the 2+2+1 Pathway Program. Signing on, he said, was simple. "UCI counselors reviewed my resume and interviewed me," he said. "They asked things like why I'd like to be an accounting major, what I plan to do with the degree, and how I plan to make an impact as an accountant. ... Along with counselors, UCI student ambassadors guide incoming students, answering questions and providing helpful insights."

Lara noted that Martin recommended him for the Pathway Program and that college staff have been exceedingly helpful throughout the process. Put simply, he said, "The SCC accounting professors are great."

"This program provides an amazing opportunity that a lot of people haven't known about for years," Martin said. "If more students knew about it, they'd jump on it."

NICHE.COM RATING

Santiago Canyon College ranked No. 1 in Orange County

RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College has once again earned top honors as the No. 1 community college in Orange County and continues to rank among the best in the state and nation, according to Niche.com's 2026 Best Community Colleges rankings.

In the 2026 list, SCC is ranked No. 7

in California and No. 19 nationally, continuing a trend of strong academic performance and student success. The rankings reflect SCC's steady rise in national recognition.

Niche, a trusted source of college data and student reviews, compiles its rankings using comprehensive data from the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, the U.S. Department of Ed-

ucation, and millions of verified reviews. Factors considered include academic quality, faculty expertise, student experience, diversity, and career outcomes.

"These rankings are a testament to the dedication of our students, faculty, classified professionals, and administrators," said SCC President Jeannie G. Kim "They reflect our shared commitment to educational excellence and student achieve-

ment. At SCC, 'What Happens Here Matters'—and that shows in everything we do."

From preparing students to transfer to top-tier universities like UCLA, UCI, Stanford, and CSUF, to offering workforce-ready degrees, apprenticeships, and certificates in fields like business and technology, SCC continues to serve the diverse needs of the Orange County region.



PHOTO BY DREW A. KELLEY, CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

Students walk to class on the first day of the fall semester at Santiago Canyon College in Orange in August 2024.

ART GALLERY

'Recuerdos de Rosario' exhibit inspired by Argentine tango

RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College opens its Fall 2025 Art Gallery season with "Recuerdos de Rosario," a vibrant and emotionally rich art exhibition inspired by the culture, rhythm, and memory of Argentine tango. The exhibition runs through Oct. 2 in the SCC Art Gallery in the D Building.

Curated by SCC alumnus and gal-

lery assistant Damián Acosta, "Recuerdos de Rosario" features original oil and acrylic paintings, along with heirlooms and artifacts passed down from Acosta's family in Argentina. The show is a personal tribute to his hometown of Rosario and the tango music that shaped his creative identity.

"Tango is more than music—it's history, identity, and emotion," said Acosta. "Every piece in this show is a memory, a rhythm, a moment I've lived

or imagined through the lens of my culture."

A lifelong artist and proud SCC graduate, Acosta credits the college's art faculty with helping him refine his skills and artistic voice. His painting process is guided by music, often working through the night as tango melodies influence the mood and motion of each piece.

"I don't paint with the expectation that people will like what they see,"

Acosta said. "I just hope they feel something—because every brushstroke comes from something real."

Gallery hours are Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., and Wednesdays and Thursdays from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., or by appointment. A live tango performance and reception are planned later in the month.

For more information, contact the SCC Art Gallery Office: (714) 628-4831 or visit www.sccollege.edu.



PHOTOS COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Bold brushwork and expressive movement define "Recuerdos de Rosario," Santiago Canyon College's Fall 2025 Art Gallery exhibition, which runs through Oct. 2.



SCC alumnus and gallery assistant Damián Acosta speaks about growing up with his family in Argentina.



Damián Acosta, right, speaks with a gallery visitor about the exhibition.



A pair of worn dance shoes, captured in rich oil tones in "Passion Variation," symbolizes the soul of tango.



"Passion Carpani," one of several emotionally charged works by Acosta.

SCIENCE

Geology student overcomes childhood abuse, reaches for stars

Free tuition a big draw to come back to school

By Greg Mellen
contributing writer

As a child, Sara Gasca couldn't imagine where she is now and the future opportunities ahead. Her concerns were more basic — finding food, avoiding abuse, survival.

Her mother used streetwalking to pay for her habit, she said. Gasca's family was racked by drugs and abuse. She was shuttled around to grandparents, a father who was barely able to keep a family together. Her siblings were in and out of jail, and the family was regularly visited by Child Protective Services.

The 30-year-old first-generation college sophomore at Santiago Canyon College said she doesn't want to "trauma dump," but in her youth "college was not on the table."

Although Gasca has reconciled with her mom, who is about 20 years sober and shares her story with church groups, her early life was roiled by turmoil.

Today, Gasca is a mother of twin 3-year-old girls, sports a 3.89 GPA and is considering pursuing bachelor and possible master of science degrees in geology at either Cal. State Fullerton or UCLA.

Her future could even reach out to the cosmos, as after several internships with NASA, one of her growing interests is in space geology.

Keen intellect and an unshakable spirit helped carry Gasca through, but she doesn't necessarily see, or at least accept, that her exceptionalism is unique.

Gasca said she has met many students at SCC who come from similar backgrounds and survived immense challenges.

And "they are so capable," she said.

If she has advice, Gasca said, "Don't count yourself out. Don't let your environment or your past dictate your future. It's easier not to care. You have to get out of your comfort zone. I'm all about breaking cycles."

Escape through academics

To break her cycle, Gasca had to shatter the shackles.

To avoid the mayhem that swirled through her world, Gasca found refuge in school work, libraries and anywhere that wasn't "home." She ensconced herself in documentaries about stars and earth sciences.

Although her dad didn't provide much, she remembers when he gave her something that endures.

The two were out poking around outdoors, where Gasca loved to collect rocks, when they came across several petrified bones.

"My dad told me they were dinosaur bones," she said, although now she suspects he knew they were likely rabbit bones.

The gift was the idea, the thought of dinosaur bones, which spurred her to imagine and wonder about all sorts of alternatives.

Since then, she has done whatever she can to maintain that sense of awe, a thirst to learn.

It was a quality she didn't often get at home.

"I looked at my family and thought, 'I want to be the opposite of them,'" she



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SARA GASCA

Sara Gasca credits two major influences in her studies: SCC professor Angela Daneshmand, who encouraged her to pursue her research, and Matthew Kirby, her mentor for her internship at the Cal State Fullerton Paleoclimatology Laboratory.

recalled.

Gasca tried college immediately after graduating from high school in rural Ohio.

It didn't work out.

"I was homeless, living in my car, working 60-hour weeks and dealing with PTSD (from my childhood)," she said.

However, she persevered and joined law enforcement as a 911 dispatcher and records specialist. A gaming enthusiast, she met her husband, Bryan, online and the couple moved to his home area in Orange County. She was able to gain part-time work as a records specialist at the Westminster Police Department. In 2021, she gave birth to the twins.



A sediment core sample collected from the dry lake bed of Silver Lake in the Mojave Desert. The different colors show what conditions used to exist at different periods when the area was covered in fresh water pluvial lakes.



Crucibles filled with sediment collected from the sediment core sample above. The cups are cooked twice in a process called "loss on ignition" to remove organic and carbonate materials from the sample.



Gasca shows off some sediment from the core sample with deionized water, in preparation for grain size analysis and examination for microfossils.

Although her life was better by magnitudes than what she grew up around, Gasca still ached for something more.

Two breakthroughs

One day, while out driving, she saw a billboard advertising free tuition at Santiago Canyon College. For months, she mulled the idea, alternately considering and dismissing the chance for a second try at college academics.

Eventually, however, she asked herself, "How can I pass up the opportunity of a free education?"

She made an appointment to visit the school.

It was then that she experienced her second epiphany.

Counselor Maria Chaidez asked what Gasca wanted to study, and she halfheartedly answered, "Criminal justice, because that's what I knew." But it wasn't her passion.

Chaidez asked her what she wanted and enjoyed, and Gasca said she enjoyed collecting rocks.

Chaidez suggested geology.

"I said, 'Don't you have to be smart to do that?'" Gasca recalled.

It wasn't easy, but again, Gasca persevered because she knew how to do that.

"I was lost and felt out of place," she said. "Again, that was my mentality."

However, she stuck it out and eventually, "I found a community!"

Actually, a number of them, including more than a half-dozen student groups and clubs that opened doors to opportunities. These included NASA internships, one in which Gasca was one of 500 selected from more than 6,000 applicants. She later became a mentor for fellow students with another NASA program.

This summer, through another partnership with New Mexico Tech, Gasca was part of a group studying how severe climate patterns affect stream flows, information that may be used to help avert tragedies such as the recent Texas floods.

Earth sciences hold vast wonder for Gasca.

I love looking at "the stories the Earth has to tell."

It is more than just rocks, she said; it also is about conservation.

"I want to make sure my daughters have a green earth to walk on," she said.

Fitting it all in

With the two toddlers, as well as a husband who is also a student at SCC with his own online businesses, time is a precious commodity.

"I have a calendar that would hurt most people's eyes," Gasca joked.

After she lost both her dad and a brother, Gasca says she reframed her ideas of time and how limited and precious it is.

Now, "every moment is scheduled," she said, ranging from study and family time to weekly hikes — all fit around five hours of sleep if she's lucky.

Although Gasca has interest in paleoclimatology, her NASA experiences may change that. Not to mention new studies of Mars rocks and the strongest evidence yet that life once existed there.

"My co-workers and I have been talking about that all the time," Gasca said.

She is also intrigued to learn about scientists who study the Martian climate.

"A weatherwoman on Mars," she said with a laugh. "How cool is that?"

Doctor

FROM PAGE 1

still provide us with great quality of care," she said. "Those interactions with the doctors and my mom and myself, they sparked that initial interest in medicine."

Doctors who employed Sasvin's mother also served as positive role models for the young woman.

Aware of the intense competition to get into medical school, Sasvin, the first in her family to go to college, made sure to keep her grades high — and her efforts paid off.

Sasvin transferred from SCC to Cal State Fullerton and graduated with a bachelor of science degree. She was accepted into The Ohio State University College of Medicine.

In medical school, Sasvin experienced a turning point. "It was around my second and third year of medical school

where I finally realized that family medicine was for me," she said. "There was just something that I felt within me when I was with the family medicine residents. It felt like my people, and it seemed like in this specialty, I would be able to make the most difference in patients. I continued following in that direction and I'm very, very happy about that."

After she graduated, Sasvin came back to Southern California to complete her residency at UC Irvine. She completed the Program in Medical Education for the Latino Communities Family Medicine Residency Training Track in 2022.

Family medicine, Sasvin said, is about building trusting relationships. "I can prescribe anything I want to patients, but if they don't trust me, if there's no patient-doctor relationship established, then we're never going to get anywhere," she said. "The patient's not going to get better. And so I find that in family medicine, we really have that time to establish that rapport, to create and build that relationship so that we can continue actually making a difference in the patient's health care."

Though such relationships can take place with other specialties, "Seeing the patient over time over many years, that's where that relationship and trust really gets established," Sasvin said. "And so I find that my patients are an extension of my family, and that's what family medicine is all about, building that trust and creating those relationships."

Reflecting on her career so far, Sasvin said, "It's been a very nontraditional path to becoming a physician, but it is my own path, especially with the financial burdens that I had. But it has been just an incredible journey, and I wouldn't change it any other way."

Sasvin gives back to SCC through its First Generation Scholarship fund. "While I was at Santiago Canyon, I did receive a biology scholarship. I continue making donations so that other students can have that financial support, because even a small amount makes a huge difference in a student's life."



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Jarad Hildenbrand intends to make Orange his home for life.

Hildenbrand

FROM PAGE 1

here," Hildenbrand said. "My parents still live in the same house I grew up in. I know the streets, history, and the people. It means everything to serve the community that raised me."

Looking back, Hildenbrand credits his experience at SCC for building on

his foundational values.

"I loved SCC because it was close to home, so it felt very comfortable. I love the campus," he said. "It definitely gave me the foundation and the preparation for what I needed to succeed in life."

Looking ahead, Hildenbrand hopes to continue serving Orange for the long haul.

"God willing, council willing, I'm honestly hoping to retire here," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

Dr. Heidy Sasvin, left, with student Jennifer Olivares, recipient of a First Generation scholarship



PHOTO COURTESY RSCCD COMMUNICATIONS

The athletics field at Santiago Canyon College is ready to receive new players for the school's first flag football team.

SPORTS

Recruiting players for first women's flag football season

RSCCD Communications

Santiago Canyon College is looking for players for its first-ever women's flag football team, set to compete in the Orange Empire Conference beginning in the spring. The program reflects SCC's ongoing commitment to expanding athletic opportunities,

empowering student-athletes, and strengthening community involvement.

Flag football continues to gain national momentum, with more than 7.8 million participants reported in 2024 and the sport slated to debut at the 2028 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles. SCC is joining a growing list of California community colleges em-

bracing the game, including Irvine Valley, Saddleback, Cypress, and Santa Ana Colleges.

Recruitment is now underway, and all interested SCC students are encouraged to join — no prior football experience is necessary. The team offers an exciting opportunity to be part of a new legacy, develop leadership skills, and represent the Hawks in one

of the nation's fastest-growing sports.

Players will compete locally and regionally, with practices and games held on SCC's athletic fields. The college invites students eager to learn, grow, and compete to become part of this historic first season.

For more information or to express interest in joining the team, visit www.sccollege.edu/athletics.

Please join us as we celebrate



SANTIAGO CANYON COLLEGE

25TH ANNIVERSARY



6:00PM Friday | 14 | November 2025

PRESENTED BY SCHOOLS FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

THE RICHLAND

137 E Maple Ave, Orange, CA

SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

[HTTPS://SCCGALA.GIVESMART.COM](https://SCCGALA.GIVESMART.COM) OR TEXT SCCGALA 76278