Career Education (CE) Committee
Tuesday, December 2, 2025
Dresher Hall 300E- Loft and Zoom
1:00 - 2:15pm

In attendance: Rebecca Agonafir, Ruth Casillas, Victoria Charles, Sheila Cordova, Gillian Grebler, David Hall, Amanda Howard – Johnson, Gary Huff, Laurel Joe, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Lisa Lewenberg, Esmeralda Marinez, Debbie Perret, Steven Sedky, Redelia Shaw.

Zoom: A.J. Adelman, Leigh Allen, Jenny Landa, Ann Marie Leahy, Eddie Lin, Sharyn Obsatz, Katya Rodriguez, Brenda Rothaupt, Perviz Sawoski, Josh Withers.

Call to Order: 1:04pm

Public Comments and Announcements:

Approval of Minutes: November 15, 2025
Maria Leon-Vazquez motioned to approve, Redelia Shaw second the motion. All were in favor. Abstentions: Gary Huff. Oppositions: None.

Reports:
Chair: Debbie Perret
Debbie hopes everyone had a good Thanksgiving and notes there are only two and a half weeks left in the semester. Debbie introduced student Amanda Howard Johnson, a business major, studying entrepreneurship, who will serve as an Associated Students representative and will join the committee, possibly through spring. She is part of a group that sends student representatives to committees to ensure students have a voice and understand what is happening behind the scenes.

Vice Chair: Steven Sedky
Steven mentions that the CE Committee has been discussing how to better connect college to careers through work-based learning opportunities such as guest speakers, internships, and volunteer work. We have been exploring ways to improve these efforts to better prepare students for jobs after completing their programs. Today, we are welcoming guests to talk about a product that supports these goals. Although we do not usually feature vendors, this company (NexusEdge) has partnered with the Chancellor's Office for many years. Representatives and faculty members will explain what the product is, how it is used in classes, how it benefits students, and demonstrate what it looks like in Canvas.

Information and Discussion Items:

NexusEdge Classroom Benefits & Overview, Eddie Lin, Katya Rodriguez, Brenda Rothaupt

Community colleges are using industry-created materials from companies like Google and HubSpot that faculty can easily add to their Canvas courses. These modules focus on real-world, job-ready skills such as AI, digital marketing, communication, resume writing, and professional emails, helping connect classroom learning to workforce needs more quickly. Students complete short lessons and quizzes to earn digital credentials they can share on LinkedIn, and some programs offer paid micro-internships.

Through these micro-internships, selected students work on real company projects for 6–8 weeks with mentors and receive a $1,000 stipend upon completion, with some gaining additional paid opportunities afterward. This approach provides flexible, practical experience for students - many of whom balance work and family responsibilities, and helps colleges keep up with fast-changing industry demands while preparing students from all majors to become job-ready more quickly.

Career Services & Parker Dewey Collaboration, Lisa Lewenberg

SMC is promoting Parker Dewey micro-internships, which are short-term, paid, remote projects that students can complete on their own time. These opportunities are now available through the Career Services job board (GradLeaders/Hire SMC), making it easy for students to find paid work experience and for employers to post projects. Faculty can also invite David Hall to briefly present this opportunity in their classes. In addition, SMC is launching a partnership with Youth Leadership Corps, where 29 students will earn $15,000 over a year while working 10 hours per week in nonprofit areas like environmental work, aquaculture, homeless services, and affordable housing.

Perkins Application Review, Ruth Casillas

The FY26–27 Perkins application is now available on the Academic Career Education website under Faculty Resources (Perkins V), along with the budget spreadsheet. Zoom office hours will be held Fridays from 1 - 2 p.m. until the February 6th application deadline. Applicants should clearly connect all requested budget items to activities described in the proposal and avoid supplanting by checking other funding sources first (such as Associated Students, the Foundation, or Lottery funds). Proposals should reference core indicator data trends and focus on improvement, development, or implementation - they should not include sustaining ongoing costs. If assistance is needed, faculty can attend office hours or schedule a Zoom meeting for support.

Spring Planning

Adjournment 2:00pm

Next scheduled meeting: February 17, 2026, 1:00 – 2:15pm. Location Loft – Drescher Hall and Zoom. www.smc.edu/senate