



Career Education (CE) Committee

Tuesday, October 7, 2025
Dresher Hall- Loft and Zoom
1:00-2:15pm

In attendance: Rebecca Agonafir, Ruth Casillas, Victoria Charles, David Hall, Laurel Joe, Estela Narrie, Jenny Landa, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Lisa Lewenberg, Debbie Perret, Redelia Shaw.

Zoom: A.J. Adelman, Leigh Allen, Tracy Beidleman, Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins, Ruth Casillas, Mario Franco, Amanda Garcia, Gillian Grebler, Ann Marie Leahy, Samantha Manuel, Esmeralda Martinez, Kas Metzler, Jacqueline Monge, Maria Muñoz, Dana Nasser, Sharyn Obsatz, Debbie Perret, Steven Sedky, Josh Withers.

Call to Order: 1:12pm

Public Comments and Announcements:

Maria Leon-Vazquez shared that Beverly Hills High School students will visit the college on Wednesday, November 5th for a tour. She thanked all the departments at CMD and the main campus for supporting the visit. She also noted that Santa Monica College supports K–12 Strong Workforce projects. Maria will be reaching out to Communications/Media Studies as the high school plans to expand its Film program. Additionally, a nearby charter school in West LA, U.S. Charter, is growing its IGETC offerings, now providing two courses per year with three active cohorts. They plan to begin with 9th and 10th graders, aligning with the Vision 2030 goals for California Community Colleges. Maria mentioned upcoming discussions with the Journalism program regarding the development of dual enrollment opportunities in Journalism.

The Communication & Media Studies and Cosmetology departments are collaborating on an upcoming event on Tuesday, October 28th, during College Hour (11:15 a.m.) in HSS 104. Guest speaker Kyle Parker, founder of ClipDart, will share his journey as an entrepreneur who created a platform connecting people with culturally competent barbers. His business evolved to include nonprofit work, providing free haircuts to homeless individuals, seniors, and college students across the country. The event ties into Business, Cosmetology, Media, Mental Wellness, and community engagement—showing how one idea can grow into a nationwide movement. Faculty are encouraged to invite their students and attend to learn from this inspiring story.

Victory Charles attended the National Recycling Coalition event, where SMC received an award for Sustainable Materials Management (SMM) — a program that has been active on campus for 19 years. The program was previously known as Recycling and Resource Management. SMC's



SMM program was honored alongside top schools like Stanford University (last year's winner). The award itself is upcycled and recycled, symbolizing sustainability. This recognition reflects a strong collaborative effort by everyone involved.

Redelia Shaw mentioned the Esports program was invited to participate in an Esports and Game Design event last Tuesday September 30th which included several industry professionals. SMC Esports hosted a table to share information about the program, and one of our team coordinators helped connect us with a company that will now be supporting our Esports initiative. There will be a Game Day event on November 19th, kicking off a week-long celebration. One of our alumni, now working successfully in the gaming industry, will also be involved. This is an exciting step as we continue to grow and launch our Esports program.

Approval of Minutes: September 16, 2025

Redelia Shaw motioned to approve, Rebecca Agonafir second. All were in favor, no abstentions, no oppositions.

Reports:

Chair: Debbie Perret

Vice Chair: Steven Sedky

Information and Discussion Items:

Core Indicator Training, Ruth Casillas

Ruth Casillas discussed the need to improve *Core Indicators* for Perkins funding. If indicators don't improve over three years, funding could be affected. Most programs need to raise completion rates. A training session is scheduled for November 18th and this training will explain how the data is calculated and how to improve results. Committee members encouraged faculty to explore creating short term (9-unit) certificates and promoting industry certifications in capstone classes to boost completions.

Below are the steps to view core indicator reports for Fiscal year 24-25 and Fiscal Year 25-26. Faculty leads are encouraged to compare the two fiscal year reports.

Go to the SMC home page > academics > career education > resources > CE faculty resources > core indicators.

Parker Dewey Micro-internship, David Hall and Lisa Lewenberg

David Hall and Lisa Lewenberg introduced *Parker Dewey Micro-Internships*, a pilot program offering short-term, paid, remote projects (10–40 hours) for college students. These flexible, online opportunities connect students with employers nationwide, paying \$15–\$25 per hour or by project. Faculty can share the platform on Canvas to help students access work-based



learning without needing to enroll in an internship class.

Brown Act Overview, Tiffany Inabu

N/A – postponed.

CPL Update, Maria Munoz

Maria Muñoz shared updates on *Credit for Prior Learning (CPL)*, a program that gives students college credit for skills and knowledge gained outside the classroom (e.g., work, military, or certifications). CPL helps students save time and money, close equity gaps, and increase degree completion. Faculty decide which courses qualify and how students can demonstrate their learning—through exams, portfolios, or certifications. While UC schools only accept credit-by-exam, CSU accepts all CPL types. SMC is building its CPL process and website, with more courses under development and examples from other colleges like Palomar guiding progress.

AI Use & Cheating, Lynn Dickinson

Lynn Dickinson and the CE committee discuss AI use and cheating in education. Instead of focusing on catching students who use AI, they encourage faculty to rethink teaching methods for an AI-driven world. The book “Who’s Cheating?” offers practical strategies for authentic assessment and motivating students. The book stresses knowing your “why” behind assignments, using AI transparently and ethically, and helping students learn how to use it effectively. Faculty are advised to start small experiments with AI tools personally before integrating them into classes.

Adjournment 2:15pm

Next scheduled meeting: November 4, 2025, 1:00-2:15. Location Loft-Drescher Hall and Zoom.

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