



Career Education (CE) Committee

Tuesday September 16, 2025

Loft Drescher Hall and Zoom

1:00PM – 2:15pm

In person: Rebecca Agonafir, Leigh Allen, Ruth Casillas, Victoria Charles, Sheila Cordova, Drew Davis, Jeff Gordon, David Hall, Jenny Landa, Maria Leon-Vazquez, Lisa Lewenberg, Esmeralda Martinez, Debbie Perret, Salvador Santana, Steven Sedky, Redelia Shaw.

Zoom: Tracy Beidleman, Gillian Grebler, Jazmin Guzman, Jose Hernandez, Luis Jauregui, Jacqueline Monge, Dana Nasser, Sharyn Obsatz, Juan Ramos, Redelia Shaw, Jessica Trachtenberg, Josh Withers

Call to Order: 1:05pm

Public Comments and Announcements:

Approval of Minutes: May 20, 2025

Maria Leon-Vazquez motioned to approve, Rebecca Agonafir second. All were in favor, no abstentions, no oppositions.

Reports:

Chair: Debbie Perret

Debbie recapped the spring retreat, topics discussed were student outreach, counseling, and AI. It was a successful and enjoyable day, and special recognition was given to Ruth Casillas for her contributions.

Vice Chair: Steven Sedky

Steven reflected on recent challenges and successes, noting the importance of supporting students. A key focus moving forward is adapting programs and teaching to the changing workplace, especially as AI impacts entry-level jobs. The report emphasized expanding work-based learning opportunities—such as guest speakers, internships, and partnerships—to keep education relevant and prepare students for real-world careers.

Information and Discussion Items

Ice breaker and Introductions, Debbie Perret



Debbie asks committee members to introduce themselves and state what excites them this new school year. Committee members introduced themselves and expressed what they are excited about:

- Seeing more students and campus activities
- New programs (Sustainable Materials, Respiratory Care, Barbering)
- Partnerships with high schools and community support
- Upcoming events (conferences, competitions, awards)
- Opportunities to collaborate and support students

Overall, everyone is looking forward to a busy and positive year full of growth and student success.

Academic Senate President Introduction, Dr. Vicenta Arrizon

Dr. Vicenta Arrizon introduced herself as the new Academic Senate President and shared her excitement about supporting Career Education and collaborating with faculty. She highlighted the revival of the Information Technology and AI Committee, which will focus on creating a faculty-driven AI policy. She also spoke about leading the Law Pathway program, building partnerships with local schools like Santa Monica High, and exploring new certificate programs in court reporting and paralegal studies. Additionally, she mentioned plans for a mock trial program in the spring and expressed her interest in continued collaboration with faculty, feel free to reach out to her via email for further discussions.

Career Services Faculty Lead Introduction, Esmeralda Martinez

Esmeralda Martinez, the new Career Services Faculty Lead, shared her background as a longtime counselor and her commitment to supporting students. Career Services has a small but dedicated team focused on employer connections, helping students with career counseling, job opportunities, and skills development. She emphasized the importance of partnerships with faculty, better marketing so students know about services, and adapting to changes like AI's impact on careers. Her goal is to integrate Career Services more into classrooms and campus life to strengthen student support.

Perkins-SWP Local FY 2025-26, Ruth Casillas

Ruth Casillas explained the Perkins-SWP Local 2025–26 grant process. Award notices went out in July, and items must be submitted by October 17 so spending goals are met. The Chancellor's Office requires 20% of funds to be spent by the end of the first quarter (September 30th). Items are not considered spent until invoices are paid. Invoices cannot be paid until items are received and confirmed in good standing. CE programs must confirm receipt of items within 30 days from when the Warehouse received the items to avoid warranty and audit issues.

College to Career & Work-Based Learning, Ruth Casillas



Ruth Casillas discussed expanding work-based learning opportunities, such as internships, guest speakers, field trips, career fairs, and hands-on projects across many programs. The Chancellor's Office wants to focus on expanding work-based opportunities. This information was collected using the Perkins/SWP quarterly reports from CE programs as a way to enhance how we monitor work-based learning.

Discussion Items

What programs are doing Work-Based learning?

Faculty shared examples like barbershop services at the Salvation Army, photography for campus events, podcast editing, theater support, zero-waste event planning, and journalism projects. These activities give students real-world experience; help build skills and often lead to jobs. Future reporting will track student-level participation to strengthen accountability and impact.

Adjournment 2:14pm

Next scheduled meeting: October 7, 2025 1:00-2:15.

Location Loft-Drescher Hall and Zoom. www.smc.edu/senate