

# Fall Professional Development Day

## August 28, 2025

Part of Superintendent's Report presented by Kiersten Elliott, Lea Hald & Abigail Orosz from the PDC & EpiCenter



# With all hands on deck from all across campus, we were back in the Pavilion again!



## An Extra Thank You to

- Maintenance & Operations Team
- Events Team
- Media and IT
- Kinesiology department
- Human Resources
- SMC volunteers
- Dr. Jeffery

**The Pavilion is fantastic for PD Day! But it is only possible with collaboration and communication across campus.**



2025 FALL  
SMC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# PLANTING THE SEEDS NURTURING CHANGE



# Planting the Seeds: Nurturing Change

- Our theme, Planting the Seeds: Nurturing Change is a call to action - an invitation to imagine the powerful transformation that begins with small, intentional steps, much like planting seeds in a garden.
- Our keynote, Dr. Gina Ann Garcia was here to inspire us to think about the changes we would like to see.

# Keynote: Dr. Gina Ann Garcia

- Dr. Garcia helped us explore how intentional practices can transform our work, both inside and outside the classroom and within our student support services.



**Thank you to everyone who helped make  
Dr. Garcia's keynote possible!**



# Representation from all employee groups with our emcees

- Ashanti Blaize-Hopkins (Management)
- Brian Rodas (Faculty)
- Abigail Orosz (Classified)



# Dream Resource Center Advisory Team

The Dream Resource Center Advisory team gave a very powerful and timely presentation entitled *"From Seed to Sanctuary: Growing a Culture of Servingness for Undocumented Students."*



# Bright spots Opening session in the Pavilion

- Remarks about centering relationships came from leaders representing each employee group:
  - Cindy Ordaz, CSEA President
  - Dr. Vicenta Arrizon, Academic Senate President
  - Jose Hernandez, Management Association President



# More bright spots Morning Session

- Dr. Sara Nieves Lucas, department chair of Counseling gave a beautiful land and labor acknowledgment.
- The community was eager to hear updates about the state of the college from Dr. Jeffery.



# More bright spots Morning Session

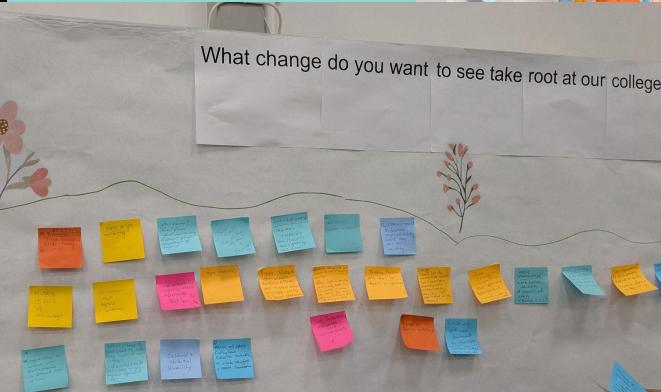
- And we heard from the SMC community about the positive changes they would like to see at the college.



# Seeds of Change Prompts

- What change do you want to see take root at our college?
- What does transformation at work mean to you?
- What do you need to bloom at work?
- What does it mean to serve a community?

# What change do you want to see take root at our college?



# What change do you want to see take root at our college?

Nine themes came out of the responses.

- College structure, Leadership
- Communication and Transparency
- Collaboration, Connection, Empathy, Joy, no silos
- Support and offerings for students
- Working conditions, Pay, benefits, etc.
- Centering Equity work
- Sustainability and Environment
- Satellite Campuses Needs
- Job Support needed and Professional Development

# Importance of community





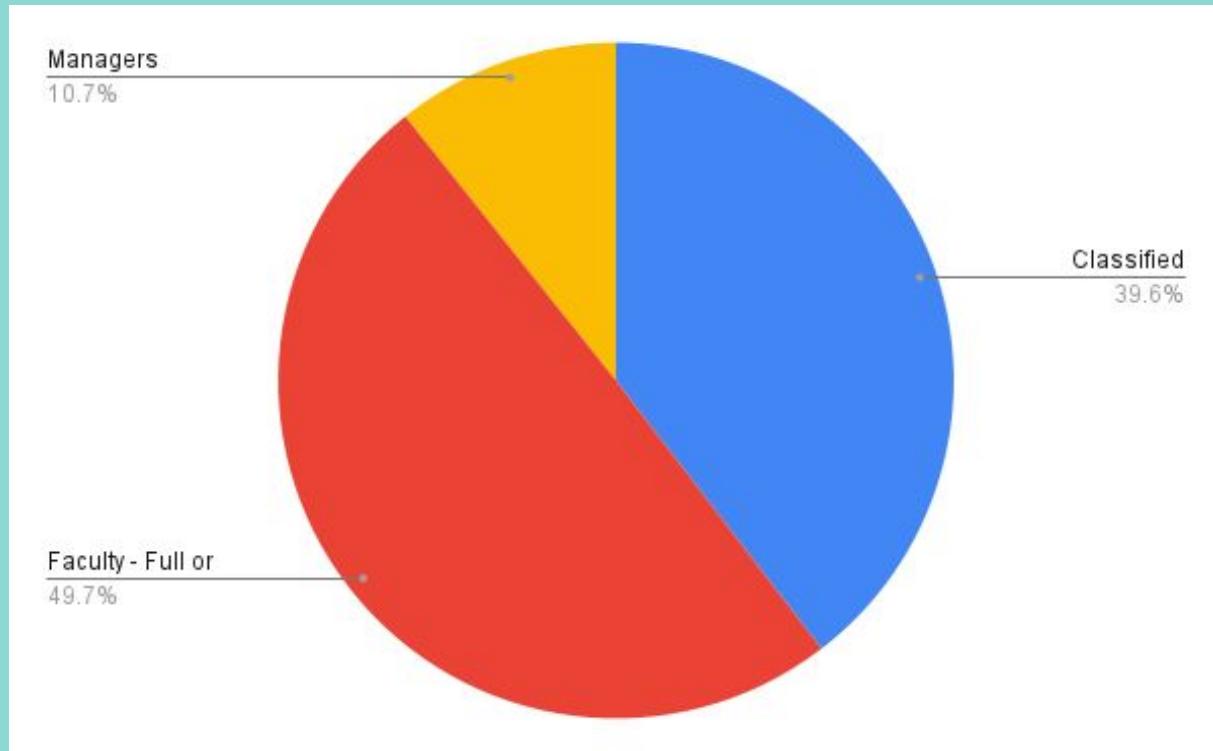
**COFFEE**  
and  
Community

# EpiCenter

EQUITY-MINDED PROFESSIONAL INNOVATION CENTER AT SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

# Opening session & keynote were in-person and recorded for later viewing

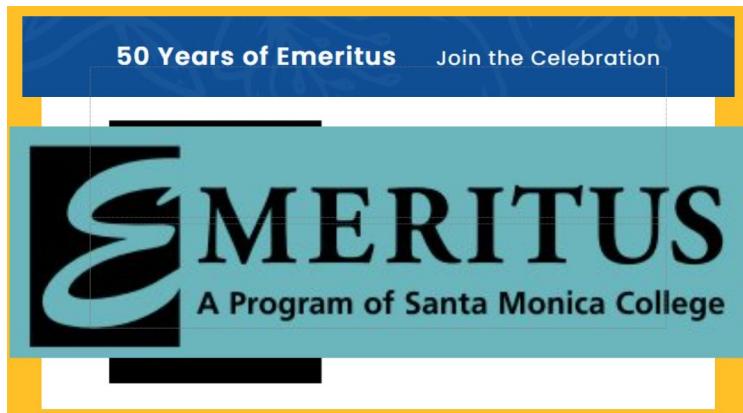
- 552 people attended on campus in the morning.
- Up 100+ people from Spring 2025.



# Lunch and Recognition Event!

- Hot lunch was served from Tut's Authentic Egyptian Cuisine

Thank you to our sponsor!



**Thursday, August 28, 2025**  
**12:15 P.M. - 1:15 P.M.**

# Longevity Recognitions



Retirement Class of 2024-2025



## Club 25: 25-Year Employee Recognition

# Faculty Recognitions

Student Services Faculty  
Leadership Award: Trisden Shaw



Newly Tenured Faculty

# Manager of the Year Award

Terry Kamibayashi

Director

Facilities

Maintenance &  
Operations



# Classified Staff Members of the Year Award

Adrian Thomas

Michael  
“Gunner” Gunderson

Events Team



# Workshops session 1

- **Lawsuits and Dissent: Defending Higher Education During a Time of Lawless Federal Actions** by Robert M Myers
- **Recognizing Trauma and Crisis in the Classroom: Strategies and Resources** by Julyssa Guevara and Thaddeus Phillips
- **Precision Campus in Action: Hands-On Training for Classified Staff** by Anne Marre Bautista and Yosief Yihunie
- **Slingshot- All of Your Books. None of the Hassle.** By Mitch Heskell and Gustavo Kalinec
- **2025-2028 - Student Equity Plan Progress** by Llanet Martin, Silvana Carrion-Palomares, and Paige Glaves
- **The Mentor Mindset: "10-25, The Science of Motivating Young People,"** by David Yaeger Yaeger
- **Presenter: Marlea Welton, Roxana Maria Cruz**
- **Faculty Studio Lab Open House: Explore, Connect, and Create!** By The SMC Distance Education Team
- **Opportunities for faculty to learn more about AI in teaching and learning** by Lynn Dickinson and Kas Metzler
- **New Faculty Institute Meet & Greet** by Erin Cue
- **Developing Positive Communication Strategies for Difficult Conversations: A Preview,** by Delphine Broccard & Fariba Sadeghi

# Workshops session 2

- Immigrants Are Welcome Here: Supporting Our Undocu+ Students Through Uncertain Times by Dream Resource Center Advisory Members
- Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Workshop and Q&A by Maria Muñoz, & Candace Rose (CPL Coach)
- Grant Writing 101: Understanding the Basics by Tracy Beidleman and Nane Zadouri
- Infobase Learning Cloud: Strategies for Dynamic Student Engagement by Alberto Romero
- Burnout Prevention by Danilo Donoso
- When Does a Job Change become a Classification Issue? By Carol Long, Amy Gurjian, and August Faustino
- Learn How to Enhance Your LinkedIn Profile by Destiny Johnson and Esmeralda Martinez
- Yes, SMC has a bachelor's degree! By Presenters/ Panel: IxD Alumni (Dee Foster, Di Xu) and Current IxD Students (Marcus Thoms and Alexander Johnson)
- Unlock Inner Calm: Beginner Breath & Movement Session by Mark Tomasic

# Three types of workshops

- 10 were hyflex (on campus and online participation possible).
  - Thanks to support from IT & Media Center.
- 8 were on campus only.
- 1 on Zoom only.

# CPDC & PDC Committee Members

## CPDC

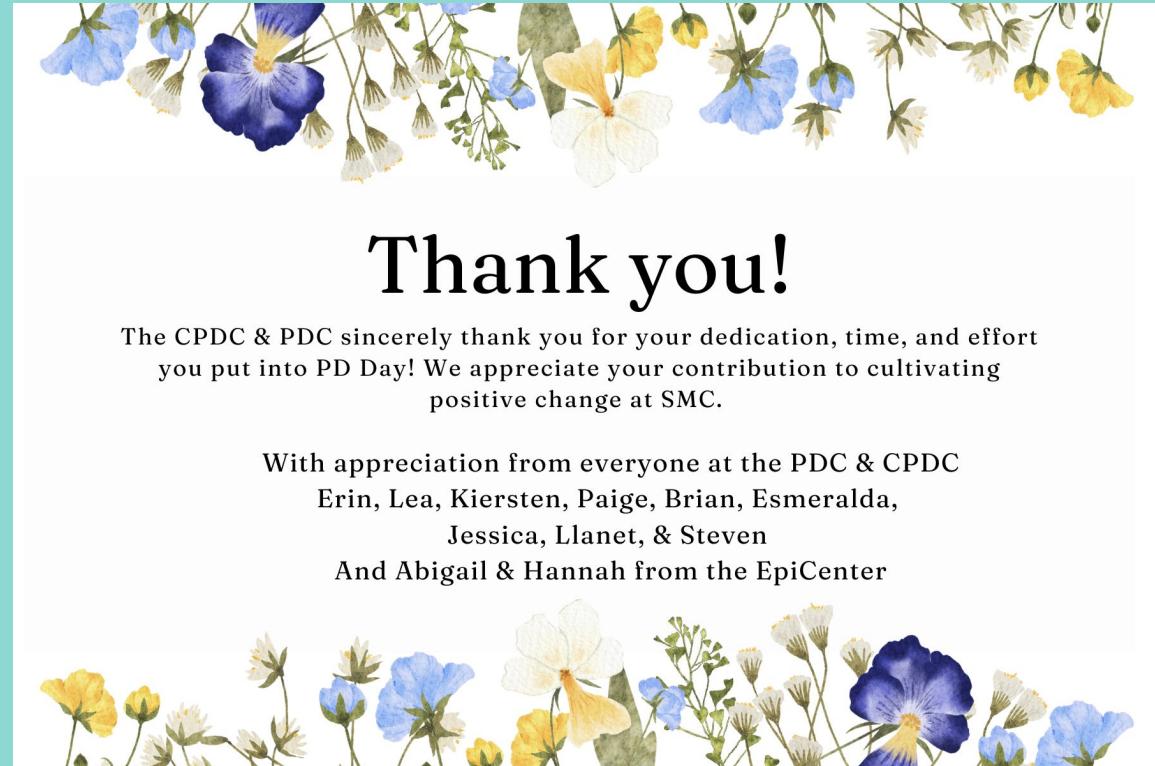
- Erin O'Neill (chair)
- Paige Glaves
- Mitch Heskel

With immense support from Abigail Orosz, Professional Development Coordinator and Hannah Mock, AA at the EpiCenter

## PDC

- Kiersten Elliott (co-chair)
- Lea Hald (chair)
- Jessica Krug
- Llanet Martín
- Esmeralda Martinez
- Brian Rodas
- Steven Sedky

**With our great  
appreciation and thanks  
to: Dr. Jeffery, Events  
Team, the Foundation,  
Maintenance &  
Operations Team,  
Marketing Team, Media  
Team, HR,  
Reprographics Team &  
SMC volunteers!**



# Thank you!

The CPDC & PDC sincerely thank you for your dedication, time, and effort you put into PD Day! We appreciate your contribution to cultivating positive change at SMC.

With appreciation from everyone at the PDC & CPDC  
Erin, Lea, Kiersten, Paige, Brian, Esmeralda,  
Jessica, Llanet, & Steven  
And Abigail & Hannah from the EpiCenter