

Fall Professional Development Day

August 27, 2026



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

2026 FALL SMC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

FINDING COMMON GROUND

**FROM FOUNDATIONS
TO FUTURE**



Common Ground Essentials: Initiatives at SMC and their Student Impacts

Success at SMC is a shared effort across every department and role. Common Ground Essentials brings a sample of major campus and state initiatives into focus, by grounding strategic goals and how they can translate to real student success. While it does not cover every initiative across the college, this two-page overview spotlights key efforts that drive student outcomes. Created for all employee groups, this snapshot shows not just what programs we lead, but who they empower.

Student Centered Funding Formula (SCFF)	Vision 2030	Student Equity Plan	Guided Pathways
The SCFF shifts state funding from enrollment alone to equity and outcome metrics aligned with Vision 2030. During the transition to SCFF, the state established a "hold harmless" provision to protect funding levels while they adapt their programs and practices to SCFF. SCFF is calculated based on 3 parts: • Base Allocation: Overall enrollment. • Supplemental Allocation: Target funding based on enrollment of Pell Grant, California College Promise Grant, and AB 540 students. • Student Success Allocation: Based on degree/certificate completion, transfer, first-year gateway Math/English, career tech units, and living wages. The Chancellor's Office distributes SCFF funding data quarterly on a SCFF Dashboard that the District can use to project funding. Find additional resources and information, including the SCFF Dashboard here. 	Vision 2030 is a California Community Colleges roadmap prioritizing equity, student success, and economic mobility. The framework aligns colleges around three primary goals: • Equity in Access (expanding enrollment) • Equity in Success (boosting completion) • Equity in Support (increasing financial aid and reducing excess Associate Degree for Transfer (ADT) units) We aim to achieve these goals through innovative teaching, equitable workforce development, and streamlined pathways to baccalaureate degrees. Much of the work done locally based on the Student Equity Plan, and coming out of DPAC is intended to achieve the Vision 2030 goals. Interested in learning more? See this document for more details about how Vision 2030 and Guided Pathways work together to achieve student success. 	The 2025–2028 Student Equity Plan was developed by the cross-campus Equity, Pathways, and Inclusion (EPI) Working Group formed in Fall 2024. Informed by statewide equity frameworks and campus data, the plan integrates insights from over 130 faculty, staff, and students. The Student Equity Plan tracks five key metrics to identify and eliminate equity gaps across critical stages of the student journey: • Successful Enrollment • Term-to-Term Persistence • Completion of Transfer-Level Math & English • Vision Goal Completion • Transfer to a Four-Year Institution Our plan establishes targeted strategies to fully close equity gaps across each metric. See the full Student Equity Plan on the Equity, Pathways, and Inclusion (EPI) website. 	The Guided Pathways Framework is an approach for redesigning institutions to address challenges to student completion, retention, and support through four pillars. • Pillar 1. Clarify the Path: Program maps and course sequences align with student academic and career goals; student choice tracked by race and gender. • Pillar 2. Enter the Path: Support students through onboarding, guided career exploration, and completion of gateway courses. • Pillar 3. Stay on the Path: Provide academic and non-academic support through proactive and holistic support and intentional class scheduling. • Pillar 4. Ensure Learning: Students achieve learning outcomes and workforce competencies through applied learning, culturally responsive pedagogy, and decolonized curriculum. The pillars support the goals of Vision 2030. See this document for more about how the pillars intersect with goals of Vision 2030. 

Discussion prompt: How does this information or these student stories resonate with you in your specific role here at SMC?



Jeremy



Candice



Alex

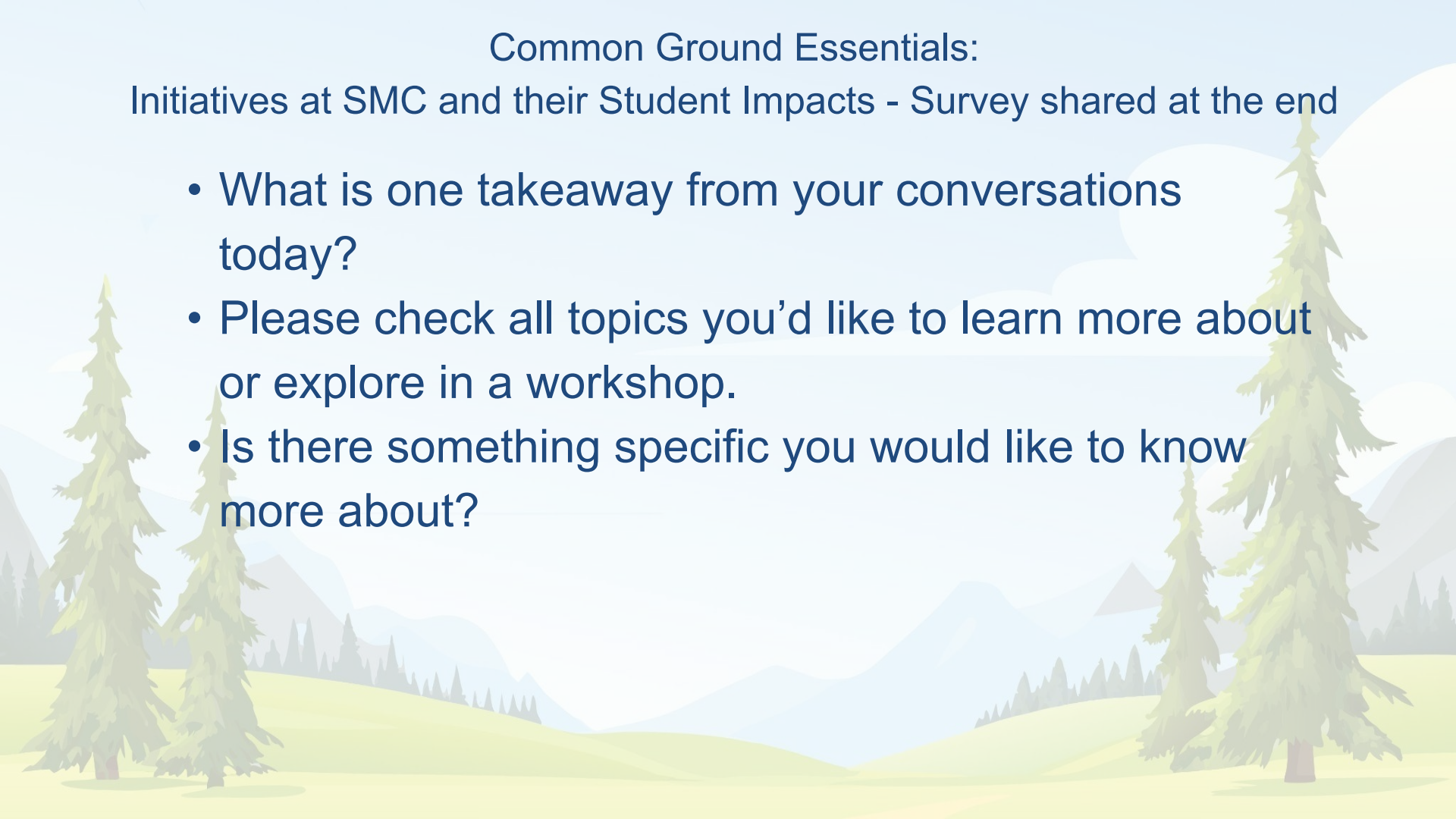
If you would like to read the full student stories, please check out this QR code.



Common Ground Essentials:

Initiatives at SMC and their Student Impacts - Survey shared at the end

- What is one takeaway from your conversations today?
- Please check all topics you'd like to learn more about or explore in a workshop.
- Is there something specific you would like to know more about?



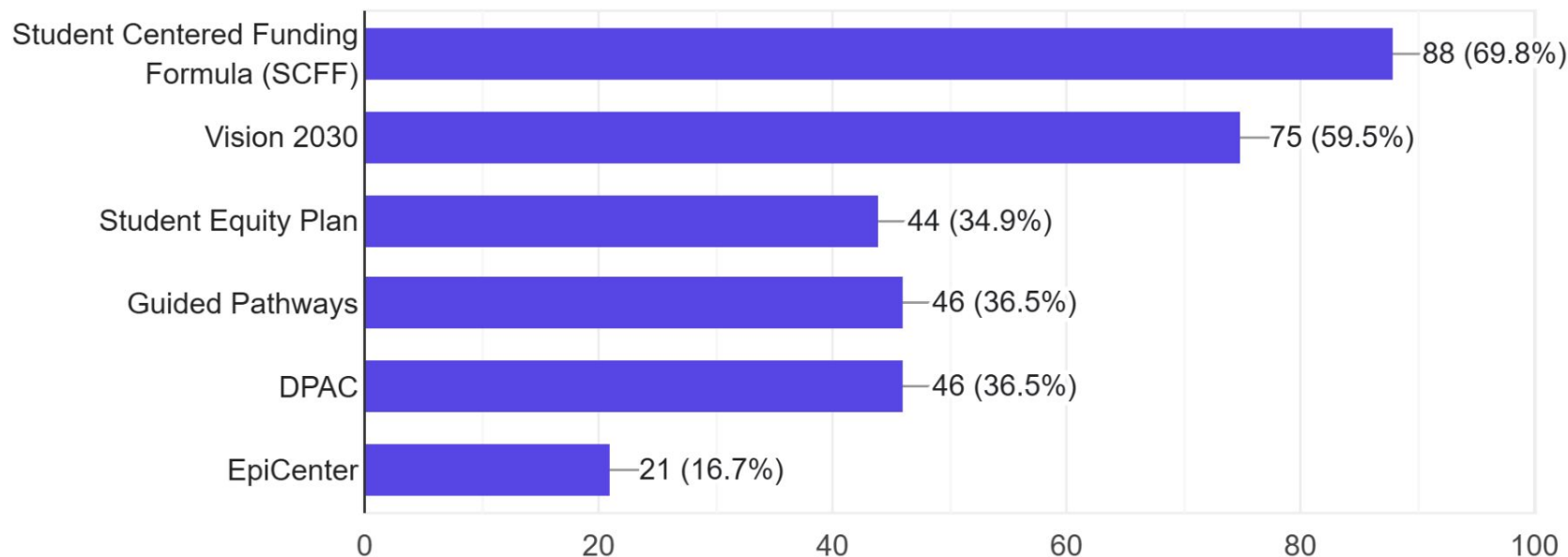
Snapshot of Some Key Takeaway Themes

- Importance of connecting with students: ***“Making connections with students. It’s not just about teaching but developing relationships and helping them see themselves as an important part of SMC!”***
- Everyone plays a role in student success: ***“Every interaction has the potential to make or break a student’s experience.”***
- The college faces great challenges: ***“All of us feel the weight of the challenges facing the college”***
- Appreciate the chance to connect with colleagues: ***“Great chance to bounce some ideas around with other departments (eg title II).”***

People want to learn more

Please check all topics you'd like to learn more about or explore in a workshop.

126 responses





- Alphabet soup/acronym overview of SMC and statewide initiatives.
- Hybrid event September 30 from 11:00 am - 12:00 pm in the EpiCenter or on Zoom.

Organized by the

EpiCenter

EQUITY-MINDED PROFESSIONAL INNOVATION CENTER AT SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Representation from all employee groups with our emcees

- Scott Silverman
(Management)
- Brian Rodas
(Faculty)
- Abigail Orosz
(Classified)



VP presentations

- *Shared what they oversee and their goals for this semester.*
- Hope to make this a routine presentation.
- Next time we plan to have our other senior leaders, Senior Director Don Girard & Chief Director Calvin Madlock included going forward.



Some bright spots from the Morning Session

- Dr. Sara Nieves Lucas, department chair of Counseling presented an updated land and labor acknowledgment.
- Mark Tomasic, MFA, Certified XPT Breath Coach and chair of the Dance department led a short breathing exercise to ground us.
- Schools First Federal Credit Union gave a brief presentation about what they can offer SMC employees.



SMC FOUNDATION PRESENTS

Launch the Future Fundraiser

One night under the stars – a lifetime of impact for SMC's next generation of scientists

Saturday, Sept. 26 | 6–9 p.m.



Funds raised support STEM programs & the student experience

- Rooftop cocktail lounge with seasonal drinks
- Expert-led stargazing through fleet of new telescopes
- LIVE experiments & showcases by SMC's brightest students
- Chef-curated tasting stations
- Immersive planetarium journeys through the cosmos

Employee Discount: Use code **SMCSTEM**



Helping us find our common ground

- Cindy Ordaz, CSEA President
- Dr. Vicenta Arrizon, Academic Senate President
- Jose Hernandez, Management Association President



Helping us find our common ground

- Dr. Jeffery shared a video of 10 wins the college has had over the past 10 years.
- This is expected to be Dr. Jeffery's final state of the college presentation ahead of her planned retirement.





COFFEE
and
Community

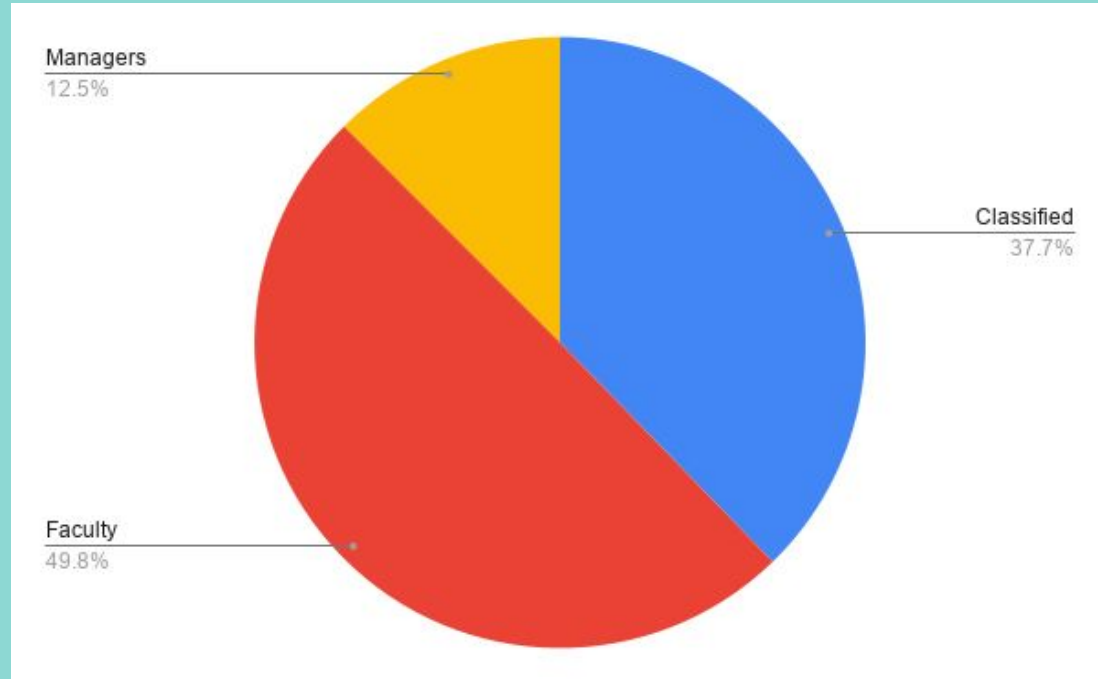
EpiCenter

EQUITY-MINDED PROFESSIONAL INNOVATION CENTER AT SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

And bingo!

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

- Approximately 520 people attended on campus in the morning.
- Down ~30-40 people from Fall 2025.



Workshops session 1

- **Hands-On Course Accessibility Support Lab for Title II Compliance:** Digital Access Coaching, Presenters: High-Tech Support Team, DE Team, & Accessibility Ambassadors
- Campus Culture: Understanding Workplace Boundaries, Presenter: Dr. Flavio Medina-Martin
- Supporting Student Success: Understanding Basic Needs, Presenters: Julyssa Guevara, MSW, LCSW - Basic Needs Case Manager, Sharlyne Massillon, MSW, LCSW, Basic Needs Director, and Hannah Mock, Basic Needs Project Assistant
- International Student Experiences @ SMC, Presenters: Pressian Nicolov, Lindsay Poland, and Jeremy Lange
- WebISIS/APEX Tips and Tricks for Speed and Efficiency, Presenter: Sara Eazell, Academic Scheduling Specialist, Academic Affairs
- The Use of Drones for Teaching and Research, Presenters: Robert Myers, Campus Counsel, Professor Jing Liu
- Campus Safety: Awareness, Prevention and Response, Presenter: Chief Johnnie Adams

Workshops session 2

- **Student Success & the SCFF: Connecting What We Do to How We're Funded**, Presenter: Chris Bonvenuto
- Upward Mobility: Preparing for the next promotion, Presenter: Dr. Flavio Medina-Martin
- You Can't Pour from an Empty Cup, Presenter: Dr. Natalie Vázquez
- Pause and Restore, Presenters: Julyssa Guevara, MSW, LCSW; Basic Needs Case Manager
- Job Creep, Reclassification, and Taking Back Your Job: Understanding Classification, Higher-Level Work, and Career Advancement, Presenter: Cindy Ordaz, President, CSEA Chapter 36
- Continuing Education - the New Noncredit, Presenters: Scott Silverman, Dean of Noncredit & External Programs; Luis Jauregui, Project Manager Noncredit Initiatives; Liz Koenig, Faculty Lead Noncredit
- **Update on Guided Pathways, Presenters:** Jessie Garcia and Kristin Lui-Martinez
- **Accessibility Toolbag - Learn the basics of a Screen Reader**, Presenters: Juan Ramos, Ahra Roh - Adaptive Technology Specialist at the High-Tech Center

Workshops session 3

- **Hands-On Course Accessibility Support Lab for Title II Compliance:** Digital Access Coaching, Presenters: High-Tech Support Team, DE Team, & Accessibility Ambassadors
- Small Moves, Real Change, Presenter: Dr. Natalie Vázquez
- Reclaim & Restore: Dance is Great Medicine, Presenter: Mark Tomasic, MFA, Certified XPT Breath Coach
- **Equity in Action: EPI Division Updates and Progress on the 2025–2028 Student Equity Plan,** Presenters: Dr. Llanet Martín, Paige Glaves
- Career Education at SMC: What It Is, Who's Involved, What's New, Presenters: Steven Sedky, Associate Dean, Career Education (Interim) | Debbie Perret, Cosmetology Professor & Chair of the Career Education Committee | Ruth Casillas, Director, Workforce and Economic Development

Previously Recorded Workshops

- **Five workshops from the Summer DE Accessibility and UDL in Action series, including:**
 - Canvas quick wins.
 - PowerPoint with Purpose.
 - PDF, Word, or Canvas Page?
 - Pope Tech Training
 - Captioning Cafe: Plan, Record, Caption and Share Accessible Videos.
- **Two recorded Faculty Forum events from Spring 2026**
 - Free Expression and Academic Freedom in the Classroom and Beyond
 - ASCCC visit debrief: Participatory Governance

Lunch and Recognition Event!

- Lunch was served from Tut's Authentic Egyptian Cuisine



Caring Campus Award



Faculty Equity Award

- Trisden Shaw
- Rebecca Romo
- Chyna Tucker



Trisden is pictured here with Steph Anderson and Tram Dang from the Academic Senate Equity and Diversity Committee.

Manager of the Year Award

Human Resources VP
Tre'Shawn Hall-Baker



Classified employee of the Year Award

Martha Romano from Veterans Success Center

STUDENT SUPPORT

Veterans Success Center



CPDC & PDC Committee Members

CPDC

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

PDC

- Lea Hald (chair)
- Kiersten Elliott (co-chair)
- Tracy Beidleman
- Ciarán Brewster
- Jessica Krug
- Esmeralda Martinez
- Brian Rodas

With immense support from Abigail Orosz, Professional Development Coordinator at the EpiCenter

With our great appreciation and thanks to:

- Maintenance & Operations Team
- Events Team
- Media and IT
- Kinesiology department
- Reprographics
- Marketing
- Human Resources
- People who signed up to support us
- All of our speakers
- Dr. Jeffery

Special shout out to Domingo Gonzalez from Operations!!!





Onboarding & Retention Events

Dr. Kiersten Elliott

Dean, Community and

Academic Relations

Office of Student & Community

Outreach

Office of Student Life





22nd annual

VIP Welcome Day 2026

Tuesday, August 25

Areas of Interest Fair

Department Showcases (1 - 2 pm)

Enrollment Lab

Workshops

Resource Fair



Numbers at a Glance **VIP Welcome Day 2026**

Total # of Students

- 1928 students registered
- 1659 participated
- Total meals served: 1907
- (Staff 407, Students 1222, guests 276)

Staff, faculty, and administration support:

- 60 staff
- 140 faculty

Thank you VIP Super Group Planning team:

Marketing/Communications: Rebecca Agonafir

Check-In/RSVP Leads: Esau Tovar & Aaron Delatorre

AOI Integration: Kristin Lui Martinez & Jessie Garcia

Workshops: Kiersten Elliott & Edwin Cruz

Enrollment Lab Lead: Stuart Ortiz

Resource Fair: Janette Luevanos

Food/Logistics: Kiersten Elliott & Sandra Franco

Rentals: Sandra Franco & Sandra Hernandez

Staffing/Volunteers: Estela Ruezga & Laura Nario

Budget: Kiersten Elliott, Sandra Franco, Sandra

Hernandez

Opening Ceremony/Lunch Entertainment: Cedric Hackett/

Sandra Franco

Campus Tours Deyadra Blye

Student Services Triage: Tracie Bucsa

Problem Solving Heroes: David Dever & Matt Wong

Hydration Leads: Ferris Kawar & Lizzy Moore

Maintenance and Operations: Jose Tostado, Dennis Biddle, Emily Raby, Robert Villanueva, Hector Guitierrez





SMC START UP!

***Your One-Stop Campus &
Community Resource Fair!***
September 15, 2026

**Tuesday
10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Main Campus Quad**



SMC Start-Up

Goals:

- A mini-VIP day experience for all students during week 3
- Help students connect with a club, have fun, and enjoy some free food.
- Power 106 participation/Bank of America Sponsorship
- **NEW: Partnership with 30+ Community Support Agencies**
- *Thanks to the partnership with Basic Needs/Health Center (Jullyssa Guevara)*

Rest of Fall Semester:

- Midterm Motivation
 - Tuesday, October 20
- Homecoming, Sat. Oct. 24
- Club Row, Oct. 29
- Fuel for Finals - Finals Week