

Student Services Newsletter

August 2023



Upcoming Events

New Superintendent/President to Tour Student Services Areas



Monday, August 14th: New Superintendent/President, Dr. Erika Endrijonas, will take a tour of Student Affairs/Services areas with Vice President of Student Affairs, Paloma Arnold, Dean, Christina Llerena, and Associate Dean, Christopher Johnson, between **2:00 and 4:00 pm**. Besides the departments located in the Student Services building, they will visit the Office of Student Life, the CESJ, Basic Needs Center, and the Veterans Resource Center.

Fall 2023 All Campus Kick-Off

August 24th: Fall 2023 All Campus Kick-Off. Student Services departments will be closed until 1:00 pm. Remote and in-person services will open from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Details for the All Campus Kick-Off:

- 8:30 – 9:00 am: Breakfast (outside, upper deck of the gym)
- 9:00 am – 11:45 am: All Campus Kick-Off (Gym)
- 11:45 am – 12:40 pm: Lunch provided (Gym)
- 12:40 pm: All Campus Drone Photo (West Campus Lawn)

Friday, August 25th: Student Services will be open for extended remote *AND* in-person hours from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.





“Actors” Wanted!

Students representing SBCC’s student body are needed as “actors” for the online orientation video to be filmed on September 19 – 21. No acting experience required, and actors will be provided a script. If you know of anyone who would like to participate, please have them contact Vanessa Pelton, Director, Enrollment and Retention Services (pelton@sbcc.edu).

New Faculty to Visit the Student Services Building on a Walking Tour – Tuesday, August 22nd



Full-time faculty Justina Buller and Josh Ramirez, with the help of Margaret Prothero, will lead a walking tour for new faculty in a scavenger hunt-type game on Tuesday, August 22nd from 3:30 to 5 pm. Three groups of six faculty each will go to all of the “key spots on campus that new faculty should know about,” said Dr. Buller. One of their stops will be the Student Services building. A sign will be posted “next to each strategic office/space that we want

them to locate, and the sign will have a password or the answer to a question that they need before they move on in the scavenger hunt,” explained Dr. Buller.

On the Move!

The Dual Enrollment Office has temporarily relocated to SS-272 (the space formerly occupied by the DSPS Lab).

Updated Summer 2023 Hours of Operation

Student Services

Summer 2023 Hours

DAY	TIME
MONDAY	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
TUESDAY	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
WEDNESDAY	9:00 am – 4:00 pm*
THURSDAY	9:00 am – 4:00 pm
FRIDAY	Remote only 9:00 am – 1:00 pm**

*Evening hours (to 6:00 pm) on Wednesdays during peak times: 8/16 and 8/23

**Extended Friday remote-only hours (9:00 am – 4:00 pm): 8/18 and 9/8 AND
Extended Friday remote **AND in-person hours (9:00 am - 4:00 pm): 8/25 and 9/1**

★ On Thursday, August 24th, in-person and remote services will be CLOSED until 1:00 pm, and will open from 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

Please check individual department web pages for specific phone/remote/in-person hours: sbcc.edu/student-services/

News and Notices in Brief

- Congratulations to all 822 recipients of the **2023-24 SBCC Foundation Scholarships!** They were recently featured in an 8 page insert in the *Santa Barbara Independent*. Here is the [link](#) to the insert. Many thanks to the staff, faculty, and administrators who reviewed scholarships, and to all of the donors who continue to help students achieve their dreams.
- **Ocelot** update: Folks from SBCC's IT department and the Ocelot team will meet soon to work on integrating Banner with Ocelot. The hope is to have Ocelot up and running by mid to late September.
- As you are aware, our current portal system will soon be replaced by **Pathify**, the new pipeline portal. A lot of work has been going on to roll out Pathify, and the goal is to have a soft rollout in 5 – 6 weeks.



Welcome to New Staff and Faculty!

Umoja Counselor Jonathan Ward

Jonathan Ward holds an associate degree from Bakersfield College, a bachelor's in psychology and a master's in educational counseling from Cal State Bakersfield. Jonathan has eight (8) years of experience in higher education in the area of student services, as a community college counselor at Bakersfield College, Oxnard College and Copper Mountain College. Jonathan taught over 30 Student Development courses at Bakersfield College and Oxnard College. His programs and areas of focus were student services, student success, student engagement and the student experience on campus. His areas of expertise include student success and matriculation, student engagement, guided pathways, the Umoja program, outreach, and all forms of Counseling Services. Much like many of our students, Jonathan pursued his education while working full time and balancing a busy home life. His journey, and his sincere appreciation for those who mentored and supported him along the way, has led him to commit his career to our students and community college.



Ramon Borunda, Director, EOPS/CARE/CalWORKS

Ramon Borunda is a South Central LA and Watts, California native who brings over twelve years of experience in student affairs/services at four-year institutions, and Non-Profit organizations. His experiences range from working as a Volunteer, Resident Director, Program Director, and mentor. He previously served as the Director of Housing and Residence Life at the University of Washington, Tacoma. Ramon also served students at the University of South Florida, University of Southern California, Chapman University, The Pennsylvania State University and California State University, Dominguez Hills. His most salient professional passions have come by way of working with students of color, and disproportionately impacted students. Beyond his campus based role, Ramon has served in a number of volunteer roles in his fraternity, Gamma Zeta Alpha Incorporated. He is a graduate of Cal State, Northridge with a Bachelor's in History and Cal State, Fullerton with a Master's in Higher Education. Personally, his passions are books, the Dodgers, donuts, tacos, Bad Bunny, and his two boys Elias and Kendrick, in that order.

Six Week Summer Bridge Program Gives Students a *Running Start!*

By Alisha Sanchez, Student Program Advisor for Running Start



Photos from Running Start Graduation Ceremony held at the Pedotti Courtyard on 7/27/23.

Running Start is a 6 week summer bridge program that is designed to give local high school seniors the opportunity to start their education at SBCC during the summer so that they can get a "running start" in college. Students get paid weekly to participate in the program as well as attend field trips every Friday. *Running Start* gives these students the chance to build their support system through EOPS and other departments on campus before the Fall Semester begins.

We currently have 33 students enrolled in the *Running Start* program. Before COVID the number was 60, but due to COVID restrictions for field trips we had to adjust the size of the Cohort.

Many, if not all of the *Running Start* students come from low income families, are underrepresented on campus, and are first generation college students. It is very important to expose these students to SBCC early on because many of them feel as if they do not belong in college or have a chance with higher education. So by joining the *Running Start* program, they get the chance to experience their first semester in college with a support system and guidance throughout the journey.

Here are a few quotes from current and past participants:

"Running Start was the best program because even though you had to do homework it helped you see what college is actually gonna look like but it also came with a fun surprise."

"It was an amazing program! I was very nervous to start college before Running Start but after the program I was ready to start this new chapter in my life. I met so many new and amazing people with this program. I know that I can always go talk to Alisha or the peer mentors if I need help with anything. The feeling of knowing you have people to go talk to is great! I learned a lot of new things and now have memories that I will keep forever!"

"I think the experience was very life changing, I do not know where I would be without it. The EOPS team is doing a good thing by hosting this."

"Before COVID the Running Start program was doing campus tours to Universities down South and up North! I would love to bring this back in the upcoming year to be able to have my students see University campuses and get excited about transferring one day!"

"I myself am a product of the Running Start Program. I was able to do the program when I graduated from Carpinteria High School in 2012. If it was not for this program I would have never attended college. I spent most of my High School years in continuation school and had no plans on furthering my education. It is because of EOPS and Running Start that I was able to see myself in college and achieve the goals I have. I am the first person in my family to get a BA degree and now I get the honor of coordinating the Running Start Program when 11 years ago I was just a student in the program looking for guidance and help. My story is proof that this program can change lives!"



Empowering the Academic Counseling Center through REIJ Training

By Rachel Sims, M.A. (Co-founder, Rooted in Love)

During the spring semester of 2023, more than 20 ACC members chose to take part in a semester-long professional development experience facilitated by [Rooted in Love](http://www.rootedinlove.education) (www.rootedinlove.education). This transformative training focused on race, equity, inclusion, and justice (REIJ). ACC members, both part-timers and full-timers, actively participated in workshops and powerful discussions aimed at fostering radical love and radical inclusivity.

Through six formal sessions, multiple surrounding meetings, and individual coaching opportunities, Dr. Jeremiah J Sims led engaging conversations and short lectures on topics such as white supremacy, culture, cis/hetero patriarchy, racialized capitalism, and anti-blackness. The goal was to equip ACC members with the necessary theoretical knowledge and vocabulary to engage in REIJ work effectively.

The training encouraged ACC members to reflect on what it means to be an antiracist counselor both in theory and practice. It also emphasized the identification, interrogation, and interruption of various "isms" that cause disparities within the SBCC community. The discussions during this training were candid and impactful, addressing issues that have long remained unaddressed. Rooted in Love provided a proportional

response matrix to facilitate open communication and active listening among ACC members, enabling a safe space for these challenging conversations. As one counselor put it, “[the training was] very useful in that I am more knowledgeable, sensitive, and am okay with “radical vulnerability” to discuss these topics with colleagues and students. I’m also more aware of the complexity of understanding these concepts and the challenges of implementing them in my daily life. However, I’m also more optimistic and confident that I can make progress in these areas in my own life and hopefully influence those around me to do the same.”

Participants were actively involved and demonstrated a high level of engagement, with some ACC members undertaking projects to understand and implement the IMPACT Equity Framework. Impact stands for Innovative, Measurable, Purposeful, Antiracist, Caring, and Transformative—an essential tool for educators and administrators to ensure justice in policies, practices, and pedagogy. Three teams used this framework to investigate core values and departmental culture, the current pass/not pass process (AP 4232) and the effects of counselor caseload on equity at SBCC. The resulting IMPACT presentations were incredibly insightful and provided recommendations in each area for moving SBCC towards a more equity-advancing culture.

The dedication shown by ACC members in their desire to become better educators and counselors and to create safe spaces for all students and colleagues is commendable. This collective work toward equity and justice has laid the foundation for ongoing growth and progress, and many displayed courage and vulnerability- characteristics necessary for transformation at SBCC, as a whole.

Our journey toward social justice and equity is ongoing and ever-evolving. ACC members recognize that they are on an equity journey, each at their own unique stage of development. With a renewed commitment to self-liberation and liberatory pedagogy, we are hopeful and excited about the future of ACC as a beloved community, fostering solidarity and recognizing the radical dignity of each member.

While the work is far from complete, all of the participants want to build on the momentum gained. We celebrate the progress made and the eagerness of ACC members to continue striving for a better, more inclusive educational environment.