



Annual Report

2022 - 2023

Prepared By:

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INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present our 2022 - 2023 annual report, a comprehensive overview of the accomplishments and milestones achieved by our organization over the past year. This report serves as a testament to the dedication, passion, and hard work of our students, volunteers, and supporters who have propelled us forward and enabled us to create a lasting impact on our campus community.

The SSCCC is dedicated to fostering an inclusive and vibrant environment for students to thrive, learn, and engage. Our mission “to enrich the collegiate experience for all California community college students by pursuing policies that will improve student access and success while engaging and empowering local student leaders, as well as honoring equity and diversity” served as a guiding principle for our actions and initiatives, shaping the landscape of our organization.

Within these pages, you will find a brief account of our achievements, ranging from successful events and programs to advocacy and community outreach efforts. We strived to create opportunities that enhance personal and professional growth, promote diversity and inclusion, and empower students to make a positive difference.

As you explore this report, we invite you to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and resilience demonstrated by our students and volunteers. Their unwavering commitment is the driving force behind our success and has solidified our organization's position as a pillar of support within the student community.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our students, advisors, sponsors, and partners for their invaluable contributions and support. Our accomplishments would not have been possible without their collaborative spirit and generosity.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the future prospects of the SSCCC. As we build upon the foundations laid during this year, we remain committed to our mission and strive to exceed expectations, embracing new challenges and growth.

We hope this annual report underscores the incredible achievements of our student-led organization and inspires all who read it. Together, we can continue to create a vibrant and impactful student community, one that fosters growth, empowers individuals, and leaves a lasting legacy.

Thank you for joining us on this journey of excellence and impact.

Clemaus Tervalon, President
Dr. Julie Adams, Executive Director

The mission of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) is to enrich the collegiate experience for all California community college students by pursuing policies that will improve student access and success while engaging and empowering local student leaders, as well as honoring equity and diversity.

MISSION

VISION

The guiding vision of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges is to communicate a unified student perspective to relevant constituent groups and elected officials in all matters directly affecting all California community college students.

Educational Equity: The SSCCC will pursue its mission by ensuring stances and support for programs and legislation that removes barriers and ensures access and success for underserved and marginalized communities.

VALUES

Transparency: The SSCCC will pursue its mission guided by the deployment of information in a clear concise manner through the responsible, transparent, and prudent management of human and financial resources entrusted to us by CCC students through the Student Representation Fee (SRF).

Connection and Genuine Representation: The SSCCC will pursue its mission guided by selflessly serving our constituents within the CCC system by building intentional relationships in local, state, and federal advocacy efforts while working with our system partners to enhance engagement.

Professional Development: The SSCCC will pursue its mission guided by not only prioritizing leadership development but extracurricular educational opportunities and experiences for stakeholders that increase the prosperity of not only the CCC system but California and ultimately the world.

Organizational Ethics: The SSCCC will pursue its mission guided by the long-term sustainability of our organization based on our integrity and accountability to each other and to all of the California community college students.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

We are proud to announce that we achieved several significant diversity, equity, and inclusion milestones this year, including successfully organizing our second annual disabilities awareness webinar, which aligns with a corresponding resolution.

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting anti-racism, we focused on addressing the needs and concerns of Native American Students in Chapter 3 of our Student Plan of Action. Although we faced challenges in identifying Native students to actively participate in the development of this chapter, we remain dedicated to recruiting and engaging them moving forward.

Additionally, we began our work on Chapter 4, aiming to tackle the unique challenges faced by Undocumented Students. In recognition of the importance of the DACA ruling in the Fall of 2022, we took proactive measures by establishing a Federal Advocacy Task Force to effectively address related issues at the federal level.

Throughout the year, we collaborated with various stakeholder groups to finalize a comprehensive student grievance policy, along with its accompanying principles. These important documents will be shared with local student body associations (SBAs), empowering them to implement fair and effective grievance procedures.

During the California Community College Chancellor's Office Equal Employment Opportunity Roadshow, we delivered remarks on the essential principles of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Accessibility, and Anti-Racism. This platform served as an opportunity to showcase our unwavering commitment to promoting these values and fostering an inclusive environment within the community.



PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS

Our commitment to collaboration and building strong relationships with key representative groups remained steadfast throughout the year. We actively engaged with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, recognizing the importance of student voices in faculty discussions and presentations on critical topics such as advocacy, curriculum, participatory governance, diversity, equity, inclusion, and student success. While we may not always align perfectly on every issue, we hold a deep respect for faculty members, valuing their perspectives and cherishing our partnership.

Our relationship with the Chancellor's Office continues to be extensive and impactful. We worked together on legislative advocacy, policy development, and participation in webinars focusing on important subjects like Undocumented Students' Voices, Disabilities Awareness, and Mental Health. The Chancellor's Office is a crucial partner of the SSSCC and we greatly appreciate their ongoing support.

Although we faced challenges in finding students willing to participate in statewide participatory governance groups, we have continued our efforts to appoint student representatives. We acknowledge the need to address the issue of limited student involvement in campus activities, so we have devised plans to actively support local campuses in recruiting students for governance involvement at both local and statewide levels.

Moving forward, we remain committed to nurturing these partnerships and expanding our joint efforts with system partners. We recognize the importance of fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose among all stakeholders within our higher education community. Through continued engagement, open dialogue, and a mutual commitment to student success, we aspire to make greater strides in advancing our collective goals.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP AND TRAINING

During the 2022-2023 term, the SSCCC focused on serving as a valuable resource for student body associations. Following the challenges posed by the pandemic, many student leaders and advisors in student services experienced significant turnover. Consequently, there emerged a need to address training gaps in crucial areas such as the Brown Act, participatory governance, students' 9+1 rights, conflict management, and other essential topics. Recognizing this need, the SSCCC aimed to fill these voids by providing comprehensive training and support to ensure the success and effectiveness of student leaders and their advisors.

SSCCC SBA TRAININGS

The SSCCC, in collaboration with staff and student leaders, successfully conducted more than 20 training sessions for student body associations, benefiting over 300 students. These trainings enhanced their leadership skills, empowering and equipping them for their roles within their respective associations. Additionally, the SSCCC provided valuable assistance and support in organizing and facilitating retreats for new and returning leaders of student body associations. In some cases, the SSCCC took full responsibility for conducting these retreats, relieving SBAs of the burden and allowing them to allocate their resources toward other events and initiatives. This collaborative approach ensured that SBAs could maximize their resources while receiving comprehensive and impactful training to excel in their leadership roles.

STUDENT TRUSTEE RETREAT

Empowering student trustees is a top priority for the Student Senate. We firmly believe that districts should actively involve students in board-level decision-making processes by giving them a seat at the table. To ensure their effectiveness in these crucial roles, our focus during the second annual Student Trustee Retreat centered on training these student trustees in key areas.

This included teaching the student trustees effective communication with board members, providing insights into governance best practices, educating them on their rights as students (the 9+1 rights), and equipping them for successful participation and contribution within the board. By prioritizing their development and providing necessary tools and knowledge, we aim to empower student trustees and amplify their voices in shaping their respective districts' policies and initiatives.

SSCCC PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The SSCCC successfully hosted its third annual Professional Development conference, attracting an impressive attendance of over 120 participants. The event featured a diverse range of workshops and panels led by system partners, staff members, and student leaders, facilitating engaging discussions on important higher education issues, student leadership skills, college governance, and other pertinent topics. Attendees had valuable networking opportunities and left the conference feeling enlightened and inspired to embark on their leadership journeys. Looking ahead, the SSCCC set its sights on prioritizing advocacy in the upcoming term, with plans to organize its first-ever fall Advocacy Academy conference. This initiative aims to further empower students and equip them with the necessary skills and knowledge to advocate effectively for their interests and bring about positive change in the community.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The SSCCC hosted its 27th Annual General Assembly from March 31 to April 2, 2023, in Long Beach, CA. This year's event embraced a hybrid format, engaging over 600 students and advisors in person. With more than 30 in-person workshops and an additional 40 participants joining online for the general sessions, the General Assembly proved to be a dynamic and inclusive gathering.

The General Assembly commenced on Friday, March 31, with the State of the Senate address, delivered by the six SSCCC Executive Officers. President Tervalon highlighted the organization's achievements, underscoring its strength and impact. Delegates participated in the nomination process for the 2023-24 Board Officer positions, while also celebrating three exceptional students who received the third annual student leadership award from the California Community College Board of Governors. Attendees also had the opportunity to enrich their knowledge and skills by attending nine engaging workshops that covered a diverse range of subjects.

The second day of the General Assembly built upon the success of the first day, beginning with a presentation of the SSCCC 2023 - 25 Strategic Plan.

This was followed by lively debates and voting on important resolutions. The day concluded with 21 workshops that provided valuable insights into various relevant topics, fostering meaningful discussions and knowledge sharing among attendees.

On the final day of the General Assembly, delegates exercised their voting rights to elect the 2023-24 Board Officers and actively participated in the resolution voting process, ensuring their voices were heard and contributing to the shaping of the organization's agenda. Eighty-four Delegates voted to pass 34 resolutions on a variety of resolutions, which can be found at [this link](#).

This year's General Assembly showcased the strength and dedication of the student community, fostering a collaborative environment for learning, networking, and collective decision-making. We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all participants, workshop presenters, and organizers for their valuable contributions to making this event a resounding success.



REGIONAL ACTIVATION AND LEADERSHIP

COVID significantly reduced participation both at the campus and statewide levels in recent years. However, we have continuously strived to surpass previous levels of engagement and involvement. This year, we celebrated a milestone as four regions achieved maximum participation with a delegate from each college. Statewide activation reached its peak, surpassing 80%, and culminated in an impressive number of delegates attending our General Assembly.

The SSCCC also extended support to campuses facing challenges with low participation. We assisted them by providing aid to their campus elections, developing informative flyers, promoting through social media channels, and leveraging our own platforms to spread the word.

To further enhance regional participation in the upcoming years, the SSCCC implemented new policies. First, we introduced the practice of conducting regional elections during the General Assembly, resulting in a record-breaking turnout. This election successfully filled all but one member of the SSCCC Board of Directors and nearly all regions now have regional officers, with only a couple of vacancies remaining. Secondly, our policies established a stipend for delegates in their first year, recognizing the value of their contributions and time.

REGIONAL AFFAIRS

Building on our commitment to student engagement, the SSCCC undertook campus visits in collaboration with staff and student leaders. These visits provided an opportunity for the student body to interact with their statewide representatives and engage in discussions on various topics of interest. Students raised important issues including challenges stemming from the post-Covid environment, the importance of promoting diversity and equity, and the lack of sufficient basic needs resources on their campuses. These conversations took place in equity centers, student population unions, and student centers, ensuring that even those students who may not have been familiar with the SSCCC had the chance to voice their concerns and present their perspectives. By actively seeking out these interactions, the SSCCC aimed to truly understand and address the needs and priorities of the student community at large.

TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

This year, the SSCCC created a set of policies and processes to promote accountability and maximize the potential of SSCCC leadership. Recent developments in SSCCC regions include the implementation of an evaluation tool, focusing on communication, outreach, training, visibility, and attendance. Each region will receive recommendations on activities and tasks to enhance productivity and strengthen connections with their respective campuses.

LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

SSCCC 2022-2023 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The SSCCC developed its 2022 - 23 legislative priorities based on resolutions passed at the 2022 General Assembly and in response to the constantly evolving community college climate. These priorities further student empowerment, uphold the commitment to Cal Grant reform, and protect investments in basic needs.

SPONSORED AND CO-SPONSORED BILLS

The SSCCC's sponsored bills were developed with student empowerment in mind. These bills include:

- AB 1275 (Arambula) exempts student-run organizations from certain aspects of the Brown Act to ensure greater and more diverse student participation.
- AB 1541 (M. Fong) gives each student member of the governing board of a community college district an advisory vote.
- AB 1543 (M. Fong) requires colleges to split up the Student Representation Fee to allow students a means to refuse to pay either portion of the fee.

In collaboration with system and advocacy partners, the SSCCC is co-sponsoring the following five bills:

- AB 789 (Berman) requires colleges to comply with various requirements regarding "satisfactory academic progress" standards used to determine if a student qualifies for a Cal Grant and to develop and implement policies defining "satisfactory academic progress" in a manner that is consistent with the federal standards.
- AB 1542 (M. Fong) provides a Community Colleges Student Success Completion Grant program award to each student member of the California Community College (CCC) Board of Governors
- SB 467 (Portantino) prohibits a student from being denied admission to an apprenticeship or internship training program because the student uses an individual tax identification number (ITIN), rather than a social security number (SSN), for purposes of any background check required by the class or program.
- AB 1630 (Garcia) would have required a city, county, or city and county to classify student and faculty and staff housing as a permitted use on all real property within 1,000 feet of a university campus for zoning purposes. It is a two-year bill and will have to be acted upon in January 2024.
- AB 1749 (McCarty) expands the Student Transfer Achievement Reform (STAR) Act to require that a student who earns an associate degree for transfer (ADT) be deemed eligible for transfer into a University of California (UC) baccalaureate degree program.

WASHINGTON D.C VISITS AND ADVOCACY IN APRIL 2023

In February 2023, in conjunction with the Chancellor's Office, and again in March as part of the American Student Association of Community Colleges' conference, SSSCC leadership traveled to Washington DC to meet with members of Congress about critical issues impacting higher education. SSSCC leaders advocated for student SNAP eligibility, Federal Work Study program allocation, protections and a pathway to citizenship for undocumented students, and increasing the Pell Grant.

On April 12, 2023, students from across the state gathered on California's Capitol steps to hear speeches from SSSCC leaders, system partners, and legislators about the importance of community college student advocacy. Later that day, the group of nearly 100 students conducted 30 legislative visits to promote the SSSCC's budget and legislative priorities.



THE HIGHER EDUCATION COALITION CONVENING

After working with the Fix Financial Aid Coalition to secure implementation of the Cal Grant Equity Framework, the three public higher education student associations (SSCCC, CSSA, and UCSA) met in October 2022 to discuss key issues affecting students of all three systems. The three main subjects discussed were college affordability, transfer, and resource accessibility and equity. The event was funded by College Futures Foundation and facilitated with the help of The Education Trust-West, the Research and Planning Group, and The Institute for College Access & Success (TICAS).

Based on these workshops, the three policy efforts suggested were:

- Continued basic needs support in the form of mental health and food security resources
- Guaranteed housing for all undergraduate students
- Request for intersegmental collaboration on a budget ask for Disability Service Centers

The SSSCC Board of Directors voted to adopt the aforementioned three priorities as inter-system priorities, with additional consideration given to the other discussion topics mentioned in the final report [here](#).

STRATEGIC PLAN

The SSCCC experienced remarkable growth, stability, and success over the past few years; however, there are areas requiring deeper exploration, improvement, and expansion. Recognizing this inflection point, the SSCCC embarked on a strategic planning process facilitated by two consultants generously funded by the Leaders Trust Grant.

The strategic planning process consisted of four working sessions, which formed the foundation of the consultants' work in defining the SSCCC's intended organizational culture and strategic plan for 2023-2025. Each session built upon the previous one, focusing on fostering productive and respectful conversations, shaping the organizational culture, and creating a comprehensive strategic plan. Valuable lessons were learned throughout the process, leading to adjustments in the approach to ensure the project met the SSCCC's needs, adhered to the timeline, and delivered high-quality results.

At least 30 individuals participated in each working session, combining both in-person and online attendance. SSCCC Board Members and staff were present at every session, while a new group of local students would also join each monthly meeting. This diverse range of participants reflected the rich diversity found within the California community colleges, representing different ages, life experiences, economic backgrounds, races, ethnicities, first languages, academic focuses, sexual orientations, and more. As students, many participants had limited experience with strategic planning or establishing organizational culture.

In addition to the working sessions, the consultants conducted online focus groups with partners and past students. The insights gathered from these focus groups played a crucial role in shaping the overall design of the strategic plan. Furthermore, key informant interviews were conducted, engaging leaders from the CCC Chancellor's Office, Faculty Senate, Board of Governors, as well as representatives from higher education organizations that SSCCC recently collaborated with.

The final outcome, the SSCCC Strategic Plan for 2023-2025, reflects the diverse experiences and perspectives of SSCCC stakeholders, ensuring inclusivity for all who actively engaged in the process. We are immensely pleased with the resulting strategic plan and grateful for the opportunity to contribute to advancing the priorities of the nearly 2 million students across the 116 California Community Colleges.

OPERATIONS

The SSSCC made significant strides during the 2022 - 23 academic year in strengthening its connections with community college students, enhancing its organizational structure, and expanding its capacity to build a sustainable organization and extend its reach.

Our ground campaign to recruit more students for local and statewide involvement remained a priority after the challenges created by the pandemic. While the increase in student engagement has been modest, we are already laying the groundwork for more campus visits, improving communication strategies, hiring student ambassadors, and enhancing leadership development programs for the upcoming year. Our strategic plan aims for a 50% increase in student engagement within one to two years, fostering stronger connections with CCC students and amplifying their voices. These efforts form a solid foundation for the ongoing growth of our organization.

In the spirit of collaboration, we focused our staff efforts on partnering with advisors and organizations like the California Community College Student Affairs Association. These relationships play a crucial role in our student outreach and recruitment endeavors. By fostering connections with advisors, we are able to provide leadership training to student body associations across the state, empowering students to become effective advocates for their peers.

One notable example of our outreach efforts was seen during our spring General Assembly, which attracted over 600 students and advisors. We were delighted to witness 30 students running for five Executive Officer positions, alongside numerous students vying for regional officer positions. As we move forward, the SSSCC is proud to start the upcoming year with a full Board of Directors, a milestone achievement in recent history.

Continuously striving for improvement, we dedicated efforts to enhance our orientation and onboarding process. This year, we modified our policies to provide board members with two full months of training and onboarding, ensuring they are equipped to fulfill their responsibilities at the highest level. We anticipate that this change will foster greater stability within the board and, ultimately, the organization as a whole.

This progress demonstrates our unwavering dedication to serving California's community college students and advocating for their needs. With increased student engagement, strong partnerships, and a new strategic plan guiding our path, we are well-positioned to make a lasting impact in the years to come.

CONCLUSION

The SSCCC takes great pride in reflecting upon the accomplishments, growth, and impact of our organization over the past year. We continue to strive towards our mission of advocating for community college students, promoting inclusivity, and driving positive change within higher education.

Throughout the year, we forged meaningful partnerships, expanded our organizational structure, and implemented conversations to address the challenges faced by CCC students. From developing our strategic plan to advocating for student priorities, we worked tirelessly to build a sustainable organization that effectively represents and supports the student community.

Our efforts to enhance student engagement have been met with promising results, and we are committed to further expanding our reach and connection with California community college students in the coming year. By focusing on campus visits, communication strategies, and leadership development, we aim to increase student involvement by at least 50%, fostering a more vibrant and engaged student community.

The support we received from grant funding organizations, such as the College Futures Foundation and Leaders Trust, was instrumental in advancing our mission of college affordability and advocating for Cal Grant Reform and our strategic planning process. With their support, we are making significant strides toward creating a more accessible higher education system for all students.

We also prioritized transparency and accountability by providing accessible policies and procedures on our website. By making these resources readily available, we ensure that all stakeholders can easily navigate our governance processes and understand the work we do to benefit CCC students.

As we look to the future, we are filled with optimism and excitement. The achievements and progress outlined in this report serve as a testament to the dedication and collective efforts of our members, volunteers, staff, and partners. Together, we will continue to shape the future of community college education, advocate for student needs, and foster a supportive and inclusive environment.

We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of the SSCCC. Your commitment, passion, and collaboration have been invaluable in driving our mission forward. We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to the students who inspire us every day with their resilience, determination, and unwavering pursuit of education.

Thank you for joining us on this journey. Together, we will continue to make a difference and empower community college students to achieve their fullest potential.