



July 2022



President's Update

Hello fellow student leaders and community,

As we begin the 2022 - 2023 year, I am immensely proud to serve as your President! Two weeks ago, the SSCCC's new board began our term with much excitement as we learned about our responsibilities, took action on important business items, and got to connect with each other as we began to build our team. We also heard from the Chancellor's Office staff about issues and important work of the system, which the SSCCC will participate in during the term.

In July, the SSCCC also partnered with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges in their Faculty Leadership and their Curriculum Institutes. The relationship between students and faculty is important to the governance of California community colleges. We are privileged to be able to share our voice to inform faculty of student needs particularly in governance and curriculum.

As a continuing leader of the SSCCC, last month we were also able to celebrate our outgoing leaders for a successful year of many accomplishments both professionally and personally. Each year the SSCCC continues to build the organization to be strong and more effective as a voice for students. I know I speak for our current board, we look forward to another successful year representing you and your issues.

Finally, the SSCCC plans to take our Board training to a local campus each month. On August 12th, the Board Training will be at LA Southwest in Los Angeles. We invite students in the Los Angeles area to join us. We hope to visit your college soon!

Please read more in this Newsletter about some of the activities we have already begun. Enjoy!

In solidarity,

Clemaus Tervalon
President

Save the Date: Professional Development and Leadership Event



The SSCCC will be holding its 3rd annual Professional Development and Leadership Event September 30-October 1, 2022, at [The Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel](#), both in-person and online. The theme for our event this year is *"Tomorrow's Leaders Begin Today: Be the first, be courageous, be a leader"* and will host expert keynote speakers, informative and motivational workshops, and opportunities for students to network with other students from all across California. Registration and room reservation details are already available on our website at [ssccc.org](#). Make your room reservations soon -- the room block sells out fast!

Cal Grant Reform

On June 30th, an agreement on the budget between the legislature and the Governor's Office led to a great step forward in making higher education more affordable, including for thousands of California community college students!

As per this agreement, the [Cal Grant Equity Framework](#) will be implemented by 2024, depending on a determination made by the state government by May 2024 about whether enough state revenues are available to fully fund the reforms made.

Just what kind of reforms to Cal Grant does the Cal Grant Equity Framework and the approved 2022 - 23 State Budget include for California college students? Here's a list:

- Aligns Cal Grant eligibility with federal student financial aid eligibility;
- Simplifies the categories of Cal Grant into Cal Grant 2, for two-year institutions, and Cal Grant 4, for four-year institutions;
- Eliminates barriers to eligibility like time out of high school or GPA requirements for Cal Grant 2;
- Addresses student basic needs by expanding access to financial awards for foster youth and student parents for non-tuition expenses;
- Empowers more than 44,000 new student parents with additional grants such as the Students With Dependent Children Grant;
- Works with other forms of financial aid such as the Middle Class Scholarship and institutional aid to provide multilayered financial aid;
- Expands the eligible student pool for CalFresh benefits,
- Overall drives a 60% increase in students eligible for CalGrant, including approximately 109,000 California community college students.

While the Cal Grant Equity Framework agreement signed on June 30th is awaiting an implementation decision by May 2024, [AB 1746](#), which includes many of the aforementioned provisions, had its scheduled hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee canceled as of July 13, 2022, presumably because of the close similarities between the two.

In the meantime, the SSCCC wants to thank our system partners, equity partners, and the [Fix Financial Aid Coalition](#), for our joint efforts to see the Cal Grant Equity Framework given the support it needed to succeed! The fight for affordable higher education for Californians statewide is not over, but this is another big step forward in that goal!

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Zachariah Wooden at VPLA@ssccc.org, and if you're interested in a detailed legislative and budget update, please sign up for our [mailing list](#) and keep an eye out for a future email and our upcoming Legislative Update Newsletter!

Releasing our Branding Toolkit

As the SSCCC has grown and matured since March of 1988, we have found it vital to rebrand ourselves. We are excited to announce that the SSCCC's official branding will be released by the fall. This ongoing project has been brewing for the past two years and many staff, presidents, and vice presidents of communications have been involved with the guidance of Executive Director Dr. Adams. Students may already recognize these colors because we have included them in many of our social media posts including our Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter. View our branding at [this link](#).

Voter Registration and Education

As part of the largest higher education institution, one of our responsibilities is to encourage students to exercise their civic duty by registering and educating them. Here are two opportunities for you to get involved.

Ballot Bowl

Each year, the Secretary of State's office conducts a friendly competition between California higher education institutions to see who can get the most students registered to vote. This competition, called the Ballot Bowl, has not had a California Community College (CCC) win, even with more students than UC and CSU. This year, the SSCCC is aiding colleges with resources to ensure CCCs win! SSCCC will be hosting webinars, disseminating toolkits, and updating colleges with information to help register students to vote. Sign up to receive information [at this link](#) or register students to vote [at this link](#).

AB 963-Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act

[AB 963 \(2019\)](#) is a law that requires all CCC's to hire or appoint a Civic and Voter Empowerment Coordinator. This person will work with students to ensure that campuses are hosting voter education and registration events. The intent is to register more students to vote but also educate them to ensure they are comfortable with the voting process and they can make informed decisions. The SSCCC has hosted events to inform campuses of the aspects of the bill. You can find a recording of this training at [this link](#). We also send out resources. If you're interested in receiving such resources, please sign up using [this link](#). If you have questions or wish to receive training, please reach out to our Community Organizer Stephen Kodur at skodur@ssccc.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Executive Committee and Board Meetings

Generally, the SSCCC Board of Directors meets on the second Friday and Saturday. There are a few exceptions. The SSCCC Executive Committee meets on the Friday prior to the SSCCC Board of Directors. The Board of Directors is transitioning to a hybrid format with both in-person and online.

- Executive Committee Meeting - August 5, 2022 (Online)
- Board of Directors Meeting - August 12 - 13, 2022 (LA Southwest & Embassy Suites South, El Segundo)
- Executive Committee Meeting - September 2, 2022 (Online)
- Board of Directors Meeting - September 9 - 10, 2022 (TBD)
- Executive Committee Meeting - October 7, 2022 (Online)
- Board of Directors Meeting - October 14 - 15, 2022 (TBD)
- Executive Committee Meeting - November 4, 2022 (Online)
- Board of Directors Meeting - November 11 - 12, 2022 (TBD)
- Executive Committee - December 2, 2022 (Online)
- Board of Directors Meeting - December 9 - 10, 2022 (TBD)

Events

- Spring 2023 General Assembly, March 30 - April 2, 2023, Long Beach Westin

Region and Caucus Meetings

Check out all the SSCCC events including Regional Meetings, caucuses, and webinars on the [SSCCC Calendar](#).

Check out the calendar on the SSCCC website (link above) for the agendas and call information at least 72-hours prior to the meeting.

Connect with us!



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