



# SSCCC ANNUAL REPORT 2020 - 21



PREPARED BY  
STEPHEN KODUR, PRESIDENT  
DR. JULIE ADAMS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## MISSION

The mission of the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) is to pursue policies that will improve student access, promote student success, engage and empower local student leaders, and enrich the collegiate experience for all California community college students.

# INTRODUCTION

The 2020 - 21 academic year started out fast and furious. As the SSCCC reflected on this past year, we found that we were **Responsive**, provided **Representation**, and created **Resources**.

**Responsive.** This year, the SSCCC was responsive to many of the pressures affecting the California community college system and students in general. We responded in a powerful way to the murder of George Floyd as seen in our [Anti-racism Student Plan of Action](#) and called for changes in our system; we joined the Secretary of State to file a declaration for preliminary injunction in the US Department of Homeland Security and US Immigration and Customs Enforcement to grant exemptions to our international students for the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) modifications in response to COVID-19; we filed an amicus curiae brief in support of undocumented students receiving necessary funding; we called for a change to the police curriculum taught on California community colleges on behalf of California community college students; and participated in responding to other system requests.

**Representation.** The SSCCC represented students in a variety of ways including before the Consultation Council, the Board of Governors, the California Student Aid Commission, and on the participatory governance committees. Students participated with our system partners on panels and workshops, on Chancellor's Office System Webinars, during legislative hearings, and in other venues.

**Resources.** The SSCCC developed a number of resources for student leaders including regional newsletters, webinars, and training materials. Most of these resources can be accessed via the [SSCCC YouTube Channel](#), which provides students with year-round training including how to prepare agendas, use parliamentary procedures and Brown Act, learn about 9+1 Student Role in Governance, and many more resources.

# DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Diversity, equity, and inclusion has been a focal point for the SSCCC. With the murder of George Floyd and the civil unrest happening across the United States and the world, the SSCCC heard from students about how they were struggling with the murder and all of the other racial injustices that black and brown people experienced. The SSCCC created a task force to plan a listening tour to hear from our students about their experiences and how the SSCCC can influence change. Out of two town hall meetings, the SSCCC developed the [Anti-Racism: A Student Plan of Action](#), which was subsequently adopted by the SSCCC Delegate Assembly in September 2020. The Action Plan would become the road map for how the SSCCC would engage with the Chancellor's Office Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Implementation Workgroup. The five areas noted in the plan are:

- Cultural Awareness and Respect
- Equity Training
- Curriculum Changes
- Peer Mentors and Alliances
- Classroom Experience

Using this action plan as a road map, the SSCCC Board of Directors subsequently developed additional materials including:

- [DEI Statement](#): The intent of the SSCCC statement on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion set the official position of the organization on our commitment to diversity and equity in fulfilling the system's educational mission and guides our advocacy and actions of the organization. The SSCCC recently revised the statement to include our proposed relationship with Native nations.
- [DEI Compact](#): The SSCCC developed a compact with our system partners - the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, the Faculty Association of the California Community College (FACCC), the Boards of the California Community College Trustees (CCCT), and the Chief Executive Officers of California Community Colleges (CEOCCC) - to collaborate on the SSCCC Anti-racism: A Student Plan of Action by creating a campus climate of cultural awareness and respect; providing equity training; ensuring that community college curriculum is culturally responsive and relevant; and improving communications and support for students who face racism and microaggressions. The Boards of all the organizations listed above signed onto the compact.

## SSCCC ANNUAL 2020 - 21 REPORT

- Black Lives Matter Resolution: The SSCCC Board of Directors adopted a resolution that committed to working with system partners and other organizations on dismantling systemic, institutional, and all other forms of racism by taking all additional, necessary steps to ensure inclusive and safe collegiate environments for Black students.

The SSCCC also worked with the Chancellor's Office to encourage the development of a legal opinion on whether or not students can serve on faculty hiring committees. The SSCCC was pleased to see that the legal opinion of the Chancellor's Office agreed that students can legally serve on hiring committees. The SSCCC was also heavily involved in the creation of guidelines regarding formal and informal practices for putting students on hiring committees, developed by partner associations in the Chancellor's Office Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion workgroup. Our next step will be to develop a guide for students who serve on these hiring committees.

The SSCCC held a number of town halls on Anti-Asian Hate, Deaf and Hard of Hearing students, Black and Brown Student Listening Tour; a professional development conference and General Assembly with a number of sessions related to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, which are archived on the SSCCC YouTube Channel; and individual presentations to our regions and local student body associations.

The SSCCC is in the process of developing student and faculty/administrative guides to help students navigate their local student grievance process. During the SSCCC listening tour conducted to develop our Anti-Racism Plan of Action, students told us that they were not aware of where to go to complain or submit grievances when they experience issues of racism, microaggressions, or other racial injustices. The SSCCC assumed coordination of the student grievance process since students are at the center of the process.



# PARTNERSHIPS, COALITIONS, AND ADVISORY GROUPS

The SSSCC has continued to maintain its partnerships and increased our relationships with California Community College Student Affairs Association (CCCSAA) and student organizations - University of California Student Association and California State Student Association. This year, we entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Faculty Association of California Community College and began conversations with the Community College Association and other faculty union organizations to build a relationship. We also continue to maintain a strong connection to the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges and have participated in their conferences, committees, and presentations.

The SSSCC appointed students to more than 25 participatory governance committees and participated in several events of our system partners. These appointees were provided a training webinar and guide that assisted them in interacting with their committees, providing their perspectives as students, and best representing the SSSCC.

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP TRAININGS

### Professional Development Event

In fall, the SSSCC held a week-long professional development event for student leaders and advisors. More than 200 students and advisors registered for the event and participated in 15 workshops. The workshops featured our state partners including the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges, Faculty Association of California Community College, Community College League of California, Research and Planning Group, and the Institute for College Access & Success who presented on key topics such as Student 9 + 1 Rights, legislative advocacy, transfer, affordability and many more. All presentations were archived on the SSSCC YouTube Channel. Other presenters included a member of the legislature, Lorena Gonzales-Fletcher, and the Secretary of State Office who presented on getting out the vote.

The graphic features the text 'SSCCC' in large, bold, white letters, with 'GENERAL ASSEMBLY' in smaller, bold, white letters below it. The text is centered over a stylized tree with many branches and leaves. At the base of the tree is a circular seal for the Student Senate for California Community Colleges, which includes an illustration of a building and the text 'STUDENT SENATE FOR CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES'. The background of the top half of the page is a blurred image of people in a meeting with their hands raised.

# SSCCC

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### General Assembly 2021

For the second time in the history of the SSSCC, our annual general assembly was held completely online. However, unlike last year, the SSSCC combined both professional development and leadership training with the annual business meeting including voting on resolutions and electing the Board Officers. While the general assembly was completely online, 94 delegates and more than 400 students and faculty registered for the event. Similar to our professional development event in fall, our partners Academic Senate for California Community College, California Community College Student Affairs Association, Chancellor's Office, and others collaborated on more than 20 workshops on various topics including Diversity, Equity, and inclusion at the local level, how to access CalFresh, parliamentary procedures, mental health topics, institutional practices to increase undocumented student success, financial aid and much more. The presentations have also been archived on the [SSCCC YouTube Channel](#).

### Webinars

Along with the webinars held during the General Assembly and the Professional Development event, the SSSCC held a number of training webinars for student leaders and regional representatives. These webinars included training for regional officers and delegates, resolution writing, study, debate, running elections, legislative advocacy, and much more. These webinars have been valuable resources for our regions and student leaders in general.



## RESOLUTIONS

In Spring 2021, the delegates on the 116 California community colleges passed 23 resolutions directing the SSCCC to act and advocate on their behalf. These resolutions centered on a variety of concerns such as disabled student awareness; affordable low-income housing; student empowerment; menstrual sustainability, access, and equity; term limits for trustees; ethnic and gender studies; minimum qualifications for student body association advisors; open educational resources and book services; civic engagement; mental health; increasing nursing program resources and eliminating the lottery system; natural disaster relief; resources for impacted families of gun violence and police brutality; free community college; and online student equity. These resolutions will guide the work of the next year's Board of Directors and the SSCCC's legislative agenda.

## REGIONAL AFFAIRS

As the SSCCC continues to build the basic structure of the organization, we have seen an increase in the participation of college student body associations. This year the SSCCC has increased the college participation with 105 of the 116 colleges (91%) engaging in the SSCCC regions by identifying a delegate to participate in the 10 regions. We believe this increased engagement can be attributed to many factors including the active recruitment of college delegates, improvement to the delegate verification process, more regional training, and an improved regional election policy and process.

The organization also held its first-ever regional summit. All regional officers from the 10 regions participated in the summit, which included topics on developing agendas, chairing meetings, parliamentary procedure, Brown Act, and much more. The summit also served as an opportunity for all regional officers to discuss internal regional strategies with student leaders they do not often work with. Based on the feedback, the summit was effective with many asking that the summit be held twice a year.

The SSCCC also participated in the Secretary of State's Ballot Bowl with the regions leading a get out the vote campaign including hosting a webinar. Region leadership actively worked with delegates to register students to vote. During this get-out-the-vote campaign, over 82,000 students registered to vote from all four higher education systems with more than 55 community colleges participating. We believe that this was due to the active engagement of our regions in the process.



## LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS

The SSCCC began the year with the development of a set of priorities that would guide the legislative agenda for the organization. In developing these priorities, the Legislative Affairs Directors reviewed previous priorities, resolutions, and current events to inform their recommendation to the Board of Directors. The legislative priorities focused on the three main ideas 1) student empowerment; 2) basic needs; and 3) Cal Grant Reform.

As President Kodur often says “Nothing about us without us”. The SSCCC has used this statement as a guide in ensuring that students are at the table during policy discussions that affect students.

The Board also approved sponsoring the following legislative measures:

- AB 337 (Medina) Board of Governors Student Member Second Vote
- AB 775 (Berman) Basic Needs Center Coordinator
- AB 1111 (Berman) Common Course Numbering
- AB 1216 (Salas) Student Trustee Board Member
- AB 1290 (Lee) Student Aid Commission Student Members
- AB 1456 (Medina/McCarty) Cal Grant Reform

In sponsoring these bills, the SSCCC worked with legislators and staff to identify bill authors to carry the bills, develop the bill language, and advocate for the passage of the bill.

Student basic needs have been a priority of the SSCCC for several years. However, this year, the COVID-19 pandemic has heightened these needs to crisis-level proportions. In a survey conducted by the SSCCC in March, students reported that they lost their income, were unable to pay their mortgage, rent, utilities, and had to drop their courses due to financial reasons ([COVID-19 Survey](#)). The SSCCC worked very closely with John Burton Youth Advocates for Youth, Young Invincibles, and Assemblymember Berman’s Office to create legislation that would require a basic needs coordinator on each California community college campus. Currently, basic needs resources are housed throughout the campus with little or no coordination. A basic needs coordinator will centralize basic needs resources for students and streamline access to these services.



The SSCCC held its annual advocacy day, Advocacy in April, on April 14th. The theme of Advocacy in April was “From Isolation to Acceleration, Investing in Students to Create an Equitable Economic Recovery.” Presenters for this event included Lt. Governor Eleni Kounalakis, Chancellor Oakley, FACCC President Debbie Klein, CEOCCC Board President Dr. Pam Luster, Senior Policy Advisor for Higher Education Dr. Lande Ajose, Assemblymembers Jose Medina and Marc Berman, and Senator Laird. In the afternoon, the student advocates met with nearly 20 legislators or staff members to discuss legislative priorities of the SSCCC.

## FINANCES

The SSCCC continued its work to strengthen our financial policies and processes. We developed financial policies including travel, annual audit, budget development, as well as the student representation reporting and transparency policy.

In April, the SSCCC received its first payment from the colleges of their Student Representation Fee. This is the fee that each California community college student pays for representation by the SSCCC. Using this new funding source, the SSCCC Board of Directors approved a budget that invests in the regions, creates professional development and training for student leaders, hires four new staff positions, and provides scholarships and other resources for students. The Board of Directors is also working with the Chancellor’s Office to strengthen the process for collecting student representation fees, particularly the language regarding why the representation fee is important to student engagement and empowerment.

The SSCCC also created financial processes for all 10 regions. Since each of the 10 regions will be provided funds to conduct regional business, the SSCCC developed policies regarding the budget process, fiscal accounting, fundraising, and procedures for each region. The SSCCC believes investing in the regions is important to continued engagement with delegates and other students on community college campuses.

## OPERATIONS

This year, the SSCCC continued to strengthen its internal operations structure. The SSCCC updated and expanded the official website to include more information about the organization including its audit and IRS Form 990, board member biographies, minutes from all Board of Directors meetings, and other important information, as well as making it ADA compliant and accessible.

The SSCCC developed several operational policies including a hiring process, employee resource manual, budget and audit policy and procedures, and others needed to guide the organization and its staff. The Board of Directors approved the hiring of four staff members. In March, the SSCCC hired an Executive Assistant to the Executive Director. In July, three additional staff members including a public relations, legislative affairs, and community organizer will be hired.

The SSCCC was audited for the 2019 - 20 fiscal year and received no findings. Based on the audit, the SSCCC is in good financial standing.

## CONCLUSION

For the past two years, the SSCCC has strengthened its infrastructure, which has resulted in significant growth, outreach, and relationship building. Supported by a professional staff structure, the Board of Directors has been able to focus on the critical student needs and empower students to engage with the SSCCC in the legislative and governance arenas. With the addition of a new funding source from the Student Representation Fee, the Board of Directors is planning for additional growth in the upcoming fiscal year with a particular focus on grassroots advocacy and branding.