



SSCCC Connect

February 2025

Santiago Canyon College

Important Dates

Executive Committee

March 3, 2025

Virtual

Advocacy Day

March 4, 2025

(Sacramento - Region II)

March in March

March 4, 2025

(Sacramento - Region II)

Board of Directors

March 7-8, 2025

*(College of Alamenda -
Region III)*

General Assembly

April 4-6, 2025

(Los Angeles Airport Westin)

Other region meetings and events are on our website calendar [here](#).

President's Update

Dear Student Senate Family,

As we continue through 2025, I am grateful for the hard work, dedication, and resilience of student leaders across our system. We have been hard at work fighting for students, ensuring that the student voice remains at the forefront of discussions that impact our education and future. From legislative advocacy to strengthening partnerships, this month has been filled with milestones worth celebrating.

This month, the SSSCC student delegation traveled to Washington, D.C., to meet with congressional representatives and U.S. Senators, ensuring that California's 2 million community college students have a seat at the table. We are grateful to our system partners, including the Board of Governors, Chancellor's Office, CCLC, ASCCC, FACCC, and others, for their unwavering support in amplifying the student's voice.

We extend our deepest gratitude to Santiago Canyon College for hosting our February Board of Directors meeting. Connecting with students from Santiago Canyon College, Santa Ana College, and Orange Coast College was a reminder of the power of student advocacy. We also appreciate everyone who participated in public comment and shared their concerns and ideas with the board; your voices drive the change we fight for.

SSCCC had the opportunity to engage at the CCLC Legislative Conference in Sacramento - connecting with student trustees and student leaders from across California. It was an honor to present on a panel alongside Director Reyes from Region V, highlighting the challenges and victories of community college students. These conversations reaffirm our commitment to strengthening student leadership and advocacy at all levels.

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Going to Washington?

Are you going to the [American Student Association for Community College's \(ASACC\) Conference](#) in Washington DC in March? If so, we encourage you to attend the SSSCC Conference Pre-session on March 14th at the same location as the ASACC at Washington Plaza Hotel.

This is an exclusive, no-cost training event for California Community Colleges in Washington, D.C. This conference will give your student leaders a decisive advantage at this year's ASACC Conference! During this pre-session students, we will

- provide hands-on training for effective congressional advocacy
- build confidence in representing student interests
- create valuable networking opportunities with other California student leaders
- give your students a head start on the ASACC Conference experience

Ready to join your colleagues? Simply complete this [survey link](#) to reserve your spot. You can also review the preliminary agenda at [this link](#) for the program details. Don't miss this chance to give your students an extra edge in their advocacy work!

Moreover, I had the privilege of meeting with the Education Writers Association to discuss the pressing issues facing community college students. Additionally, I have been invited to present at a national conference in St. Louis, Missouri, where I will advocate for why community colleges are essential to the future of higher education. I look forward to representing California's community college students nationally.

This month, we had the opportunity to visit Mt. San Antonio College and were welcomed with open arms by Director VIII Tlatoāni Alvarado and the Associated Students team. Thank you for hosting us. It was incredible to hear from students and learn more about the work being done on your campus.

Additionally, I had the chance to attend the UC Student Association Board of Directors meeting. Building stronger partnerships with UC and CSU institutions is a top priority for SSSCC. I am excited to continue conversations on how our three public higher education systems can work together to better serve students across California.

On behalf of SSSCC, I extend our deepest gratitude to Stephanie Goldman, Associate Director, for her invaluable contributions over the past four years. Stephanie has been a pillar of support for the Student Senate. While we are sad to see her go, we are thrilled to see her step into a new role as Executive Director at the Faculty Association for California Community Colleges (FACCC). Stephanie, you will be missed, but we are so proud of you!

As we move forward, I am excited to engage with the Chancellor's Office statewide Consultation Council and attend the FACCC Advocacy and Policy Conference. These opportunities are critical for ensuring that students continue shaping policies and decisions that impact our education.

To every student leader, advocate, and changemaker, thank you for your dedication to your campuses and communities. Your hard work fuels the movement for a better, more equitable future for all California community college students.

Together, we are shaping a brighter tomorrow!

Ivan Hernandez
President
president@ssccc.org

General Assembly

The General Assembly is less than five weeks away. Are you registered? If not, don't miss out on the lower rate. After March 9th, the rate will go up. You don't want to miss out on the opportunity to engage with fellow students, speak out about concerns, add your voice to advocacy, and have fun.

Below are some activities we have planned:

- Elections

We will hold elections for the Executive Officers and Regional Representatives. The positions open are:

- Executive Officers: President, Vice President, Vice President of Regional Affairs, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Vice President of Finance, and Vice President of Communications
 - The last day to submit your Intent to Seek Office for an Executive position was February 24th, but you can run from the floor on Friday, April 4th.
 - You can check out who is currently running for the Executive Position via [this link](#) once posted on March 17th.
- Regional Officers: Regional Affairs Directors, Vice Chair, Vice President of Legislative Affairs, Treasurer, Communications Officer
 - The last day to submit your candidate statement and verification is Mar 10, 2025

If you're not interested in running for a position, we highly encourage you to apply to sit on the Elections Committee. Check out the committee charge at [this link](#) and apply at [this link](#).

RESOLUTION NOW AVAILABLE!

The Spring 2025 Resolutions will be available by Friday, February 28th, on our website at [this link](#)! This year, we have more resolutions than ever in the history of the SSCCC – over 70. We highly encourage student body associations to review the resolutions with your colleagues so that your delegates are prepared to vote on April 5th and 6th during the General Assembly in Los Angeles. There's still an opportunity to amend the resolutions. Attend a Webinar on March 5th via this [Zoom link](#) and submit any amendments by March 7th.

Accomplishments - Fire scholarships

The recent fires in Southern California profoundly impacted many California community college students. In response to the widespread devastation, SSCCC established a Disaster Relief Scholarship to assist students directly affected by the fires. We received over 500 applications, and after a thorough review process, 25 students were selected to receive financial support. As of February 19, we have awarded 16 scholarships totaling \$12,300.

To qualify for the scholarship, students needed to meet the following criteria: enrollment in at least six units, submission of evidence showing direct impact (such as photos, receipts, or an evacuation notice), and for scholarships exceeding \$500, a completed W-9 form. Scholarship amounts ranged from \$250 to a maximum of \$1,000.

The Disaster Relief Committee carefully considered each application, considering the student's personal story and the extent of their loss, to determine the appropriate scholarship amount. So far, two rounds of distributions have been completed, and the committee will convene to select additional recipients.

Legislative Priorities

The SSCCC Board of Directors recently took action on its legislative priorities. Below is a list of the bills, the SSCCC will sponsor or co-sponsor.

- AB 409 (Arambula) will permanently codify our previous legislation, AB-1855 (Arambula), into law. This ensures students can participate in student government meetings remotely without being required to disclose their public addresses.
- SB 98 (Perez) mandates that schools and college campuses immediately notify students, parents, faculty, staff, and community members if immigration officers are present on the premises.
- SB 271 (Gómez Reyes) will help student parents access financial aid, childcare, and other essential resources. It expands the definition of childcare within basic needs services and ensures coordination with the Child Care Local Planning Council and local Resource and Referral agencies to assist student parents in securing subsidized care. The bill also requires basic needs centers, financial aid offices, and child development centers to inform student parents about all available campus resources.
- AB 335 (Gipson) would establish the Designation of California Black-Serving Institutions Grant Program as a competitive grant program to provide academic support to underserved Black and African American students and other underserved students. The bill would appropriate \$75,000,000 from the General Fund to the Designation of California Black-Serving Institutions Grant Program Fund to award grants to California State University campuses and community college districts that apply for grants.

For more information about the SSCCC Priorities, check out our website at [this link](#).

Statewide Student Leadership Opportunities

You've been an active leader on your campus and within your student body association, and now you're seeking new ways to expand your impact and share your passion. Consider stepping up to the state level! Two opportunities allow student leaders to serve at the highest level: the student positions on the [Board of Governors](#) and the [California Student Aid Commission](#). These boards advise the governor and legislature on key issues affecting students. Nominated by the SSCCC and appointed by the governor, each board includes a dedicated student position. We encourage you to explore their websites and, if you're interested, apply through these links: [Board of Governors Application](#) and [California Student Aid Commission Application](#).

Conference Report

The SSCCC Leadership actively participated in several conferences hosted by our constituents. One recent event was the Community College League of California Conference, held in Sacramento in January. Here are some key takeaways from our leaders:

Jerry Reyes - RAD Region V: My key takeaways were the need to stay informed on federal policies, support for undocumented students, and the value of connecting with peers to advocate for all students.

Annie Koruga - We need to continue to monitor and react to changes in the federal gov while California is generally working to protect students.

SSCCC Stands in Support of Undocumented Students and Mixed Status Families

The SSSCC recognizes the challenges faced by undocumented students due to recent executive actions and the difficulty of staying informed in these uncertain times. We are fully committed to providing consistent support by actively gathering crucial information and advocating for their rights and access to education.

The SSSCC stands in solidarity with undocumented students and mixed-status families in the California Community College system, who are disproportionately affected by federal policies. Many students face fear and anxiety about their safety, education, and future. Our unwavering commitment is to advocate for DACA recipients and immigrant students seeking a better future through education.

We will continue collaborating with the University of California (UC), California State University (CSU), and the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to ensure unified support for affected students. Additionally, we will work with legislators to pass policies that protect the educational opportunities of all students, regardless of immigration status.

Our commitment is outlined in [Chapter 4 - Anti-Racism: A Student Plan of Action for Undocumented Students](#), where we affirm that every student deserves the opportunity to succeed. Together, we will work for a more inclusive and equitable future for all.

Additional Resource:

Find Your Ally: This legal resource is available to all CSU and CC students, as well as staff, providing free legal support for immigration cases, free DACA renewals, and family-based petitions. It offers vital assistance while prioritizing student anonymity whenever possible. [Find Your Ally | Immigrant Legal Resource Center | ILRC](#)

Leadership in June

The SSSCC is proud to once again co-sponsor the Faculty/Student Leadership Institute in collaboration with the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges. This year's event will be held in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency San Francisco Airport from Thursday, June 12 through Friday, June 13. New students and faculty leaders will join forces to master the essential skills needed to lead their respective senates. We highly encourage student leaders' participation.

We understand that student leadership is the cornerstone of the student body association's success. Even the most accomplished leaders benefit from the right strategies and tools for effective collaboration. A robust partnership isn't just important—it's the key to more thoughtful decision-making and enduring impact. Watch for more information soon.

Financial Aid Priority Deadline Extended!

Great news! The state priority deadline for financial aid in California has been extended to April 2, 2025. Due to delays in the application opening, the California Student Aid Commission (CSAC) has approved an extension to ensure all students have the opportunity to apply.

If you haven't submitted your financial aid application for the 2025-26 academic year, now is the time! Don't miss out on the financial support available to you.

Apply today at csac.ca.gov/apply.

Follow us!

Let's build collective power together!

