



# SSCCC Connect

## November



College of the Desert

### Important Dates

#### Executive Committee

December 6

10am - 11:30am

*Virtual*

#### Board of Directors

December 13 - 14

*Region II - Sacramento*

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



### President's Update

SSCCC Family,

November kept the Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) busy with meaningful events, impactful conversations, and tireless advocacy for the two million students we represent. I am excited to share some highlights and reassure you that we remain committed to protecting SSCCC's mission and core values: fostering an inclusive, equitable, and accessible educational environment for all.

This month, the SSCCC Board of Directors visited the College of the Desert and Mt. San Jacinto College in Region IX. We connected with student leaders and gained firsthand insights into the region's challenges and successes. Along with an SSCCC delegation, I also attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Annual National Conference in Aurora, Colorado. Engaging with peers nationwide and advocating for policies that uplift Hispanic and Latinx student populations inspired us deeply.

We hosted our 2nd Annual Advocacy Academy Conference in Sacramento, CA, which brought together over 400 students from across the state. This year's conference featured engaging speakers, motivating workshops, and a tremendous turnout of student leaders eager to create change. Your energy and passion drive our statewide efforts.

On the advocacy front, I am collaborating with our system partners in post-election discussions, strategizing on how to best support our most underserved students. These conversations are vital to our mission of building a diverse, equitable, inclusive, accessible, and anti-racist (DEIAA) environment for all community college students. SSCCC stands firm in its commitment to these values.

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That wraps up my monthly report, but it doesn't begin to capture the incredible work our student leadership and staff are doing. I want to give a huge shoutout to everyone for their hard work and dedication.

If you plan to run for office or have any questions, please contact me at [president@ssccc.org](mailto:president@ssccc.org). I can't wait to see all the wonderful things you'll accomplish this year!

In solidarity,

With gratitude,  
Ivan Hernandez, President

## College Visits

Each month, the SSSCC Board of Directors dedicates time to visiting colleges within one of our ten regions. This month, we were privilege of visiting Region IX where we connected with students at College of the Desert and Mt. San Jacinto. During the visit, we engaged in meaningful conversations with students about campus-specific issues and their broader concerns.

In addition to these discussions, we held our monthly training at College of the Desert. Topics included the 9+1 Student Rights, strategies for creating a welcoming environment in Student Body Associations, and ways to get involved in the SSSCC.

These visits and trainings are essential to strengthening our connection with students and empowering them to lead and advocate effectively. We look forward to continuing this work across all regions!

If you're interested in hosting an SSSCC Board of Directors meeting, please email us at [info@ssccc.org](mailto:info@ssccc.org). We hope to see you soon!

## Advocacy Academy Highlights

The 2024 Advocacy Academy was a resounding success! Now in its second year, the conference continues to expand, with this year's event welcoming over 400 students and advisors. It featured 20 workshops led by system partners and students, along with inspiring keynote speakers from the California Student Aid Commission, the Governor's Office, and the Assembly. Our participants had an incredible experience— check out the highlights below!





## Region Spotlight – Region X



**Regional Affairs Director**  
**Chris Chandler**



**Legislative Affairs Director**  
**Brandon Quandt**



**Vice Chair**  
**Rahime Demirci**



**Treasurer**  
**Sindhu Narasimha**



**Communications Officer**  
**Jasmin Irving**



**Student Intern**  
**Marleny Medina Serrano**

***Congratulations to Region X for achieving full verification!***

## General Assembly 2025 Planning is Under Way

The General Assembly is just five months away! As the planning for the General Assembly begins, it's time to start thinking about resolutions. Writing resolutions is a crucial way for students to directly influence the SSCCC's policies and priorities. Resolutions give students a platform to address issues that matter most to them, propose actionable solutions, and drive meaningful change within the organization, your college, and beyond. They ensure that the collective voice of students is heard and reflected in the decisions that shape our future.

Start writing your resolutions today and be mindful of the following timeline:

- October - November 2024 - General Announcement of Resolution Process
- February 14, 2025 - Original resolution submission due
- February 21, 2025 - First resolution package disseminated
- March 7, 2025 - Amendments to resolutions due
- March 14, 2025 - Amended resolution package disseminated



## Conference Highlights

A delegation from the SSCCC Board of Directors participated in several conferences, representing the SSCCC and all California community college students. The Board believes that directly involving students in these discussions transforms the conversation about student needs. When students share their experiences and challenges instead of others speaking for them, the solutions are more impactful and truly address their needs. Here's what some of the students who attended had to say:

### Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities

#### **Robert Alexander, Vice President of Regional Affairs**

In response to the question, *"Did you make any meaningful connections with other members or organizations that could enhance the SSCCC?"* VPRA Robert Alexander said he made,

*"Meaningful connections and networked with HUCA staff, other student leaders from around the country, employers, and government agencies. The networking and connections could lead to future collaborations that could benefit students within California and other states and at the federal level."*

#### **Joshua Simon, Vice President**

VP Simon shared that,

*"The event provided an excellent opportunity to establish valuable connections with fellow participants, including college representatives and advisors. These interactions are instrumental in fostering collaborative relationships and enhancing our collective efforts in higher education."*

These conferences allow student board members to connect and collaborate with organizations and individuals they might not otherwise meet. Attending these events is an excellent way to broaden our reach and make a more significant impact.



## Mental Health

As fellow students, the SSCCC Board of Directors understands that being in school can sometimes be challenging. Students are raising or supporting their families, working, attending classes, participating in extracurriculars, and doing everything else, so it's easy to feel overwhelmed.

That's why we want to take a moment to talk about something really important: mental health. It's normal to feel stressed, anxious, or down sometimes—especially during the holidays. But it's also important to know that you're not alone and that there are things you can do to feel better.

If you ever find yourself struggling, here are some things you can try:

1. **Talk About It:** Don't be afraid to reach out to a friend, family member, or even a teacher you trust. Sometimes, just talking about what's on your mind can help you feel better.
2. **Take Breaks:** Remember to give yourself permission to take breaks when needed. Whether going for a walk, listening to music, or taking a few deep breaths, find what helps you relax and recharge.
3. **Use Resources:** Your school has resources available to support your mental health, like counseling services or support groups. Don't hesitate to reach out if you need help.
4. **Practice Self-Care:** Take care of yourself by eating well, getting enough sleep, and staying active. Caring for your body can have a big impact on your mental health, too.
5. **Check-In with Friends:** Make sure to check in on your friends regularly. A simple text or chat can make a big difference and show them you care.
6. **Seek Help if Needed:** If you or someone you know is in crisis or needs immediate help, don't hesitate to contact a trusted adult or a helpline – 988.

Remember, it's okay not to be okay sometimes. We're all in this together, and together, we can support each other and create a community where everyone feels valued and supported. Call a friend if you need to talk about anything!

## Giving Thanks

This Thanksgiving, we want to take a moment to express our gratitude for you—our incredible California Community College students. Your hard work, resilience, and dedication inspire us every day. Whether pursuing your dreams, overcoming challenges, or making a difference in your communities, you embody the spirit of growth and opportunity.

Take time to rest, reflect, and enjoy this season with loved ones. Remember, the effort you're putting in now will pave the way for a brighter future. Thank you for being part of this amazing CCC community.

Wishing you a warm, joyful, and fulfilling Thanksgiving! 🦃🍂🌟

## Follow us!

Let's build collective power together!

