

FEBRUARY 2026 EDITION  
**REGION V**



LETTERS  
NEWS

Federal Advocacy Academy.  
March 1st-4th  
Washington D.C.

March in March  
March 12th  
Sacramento

General Assembly.  
March 27th-29th  
San Francisco

## WELCOME BACK

### REGION V COLLEGES

1. Bakersfield College
2. Cerro Coso College
3. Clovis College
4. College of Sequoias
5. Fresno City College
6. Madera College
7. Merced College
8. Modesto College
9. Porterville College
10. Reedley College
11. West Hills College - Coalinga
12. West Hills College - Lemoore

**WHY BEING A PART OF  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT IS SO  
IMPORTANT AS SEEN BY OUR  
DELEGATES | PG. 3**

## CONTENTS

WELCOME

UPDATES  
FROM THE  
REGION V  
OFFICERS

DELEGATE  
SPOTLIGHT

MONTHLY  
ARTICLES

FEBRUARY  
ADVOCACY  
WORD SEARCH

STAY  
CONNECTED

FEB 2026  
REGION V



## The Student Senate For California Community Colleges

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

### UPDATES FROM THE REGION V OFFICERS

#### Regional Affairs Director: Garrett Wilkinson

In January, Region V focused on internal coordination and strengthening communication across the region. I held one-on-one meetings with our Legislative Affairs Director, Communications Officer, and Student Intern to ensure progress and provide guidance. We also successfully convened at the January Regional Executive Board meeting to finalize plans for our Delegate Assembly and Regional Summit.



Looking ahead for the rest of January and February, my goals include hosting a successful Regional Summit, increasing outreach and engagement with colleges across Region V by visiting the un-activated colleges in-person, and continuing regular check-ins with regional officers to maintain momentum and accountability.

#### Legislative Affairs Director: Omar Abohussein

In January, I continued advancing Region V's legislative engagement by attending SSCCC BOD training and meetings, Region V Executive Meetings, the Conference Committee Meeting, and CLCC Conference Planning Meetings. I maintained active communication with legislative offices, including a Zoom meeting with the Legislative Specialist from Assemblymember Dr. Joaquin Arambula's office and continued outreach to Assemblywoman Esmeralda Soria's district staff. I also remained engaged with advocacy efforts through MENA Caucus meetings and supported Region V delegates and officers through one-on-one Zoom meetings to review, refine, and prepare resolutions for sponsorship.



Looking ahead to February, my goals include strengthening relationships with Region V legislators and their staff, supporting resolution sponsorship and advocacy efforts, coordinating legislative updates for Region V delegates, and continuing caucus and committee participation. I also plan to assist with conference and advocacy preparation while ensuring Region V remains informed and engaged in statewide legislative priorities.



## The Student Senate For California Community Colleges

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

### UPDATES FROM THE REGION V OFFICERS

#### Vice Chair: Isaac Mendoza

As the Vice Chair, my ultimate goal is to work with the Regional Affairs Director (RAD) in all their responsibilities in a supporting role. In the last few months, I ensure that all our Regional documents are up to date and reflect the goals we set for our officers and our delegates in their DA's and internal committees. Furthermore, as the Vice Chair, I complete our monthly Accountability & Stipend Reports in order to reflect the actions of our delegates, ensuring they are compensated for their hard work. My goals for the next month are to prioritize delegate-officer communication and push for more involvement in our regional internal committees.



#### Communications Officer: Erin Griepsma

Hello Region V,

It is already February and we have some big things happening in the near future! Last month we held our monthly Executive Board, Delegate Assembly meeting, and the Regional Summit where we touched base with each Region V Officer and Delegates to start gearing up for the SSCCC 2026 Federal Advocacy Academy (see page 5 for more details) in Washington D.C. through good conversation and advocacy trainings. This is to help prepare those who intend to attend the Federal Advocacy Academy with national legislator and for those who are keep putting in the work locally.



I want to also give a shoutout to the fact that Region V officially held its first ever Communications Committee Meeting; these will be held the first Friday of every month at 5pm, check up on the [calendar](#) every month to get access! I want to emphasize that we want to always make sure that we are highlighting your campus, especially if you are hosting events that partner with the values of SSCCC and Advocacy; please email me at [comsregionv@ssccc.org](mailto:comsregionv@ssccc.org), if you want to feature that event in the upcoming newsletter(s). Don't forget, follow us on Instagram: [@ssccc\\_regionv](#) and [@ssccc\\_official](#) .



## The Student Senate For California Community Colleges

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

### UPDATES FROM THE REGION V OFFICERS

#### Treasurer: Theresa Steele

During our January Delegate Assembly, it was voted that the remaining budget for Region V be focused on sponsoring Officers, Delegates and Students to be able to attend the 2026 Federal Advocacy Academy in Washington D.C. It was with this vote that conversation sparked that we hold a fundraiser to be able to support through sponsorships, more students, to be able to attend any SSCCC major function events without the need to fall back on a lottery system to determine who can or cannot attend such opportunities that can really make the difference in progress for the California community college students at the legislative level. Please be on the lookout for upcoming details about those fundraisers. If you know anyone who would like to be donor, please have them email me at [treasurerregionv@ssccc.org](mailto:treasurerregionv@ssccc.org).



#### Student Intern: Dejalia White

There are a lot of awesome projects that I have been working behind the scenes and until I have ironed out all the details, I am going to have to leave you chomping at the bit for the details. Stay tuned for the updates in the next newsletters.



# DELEGATE SPOTLIGHT



**Sarahi Sanchez Soto**

Hello my name is Sarahi Sanchez Soto!

I attend Reedley College and I'm triple majoring in:

- 1.) Computer Science
- 2.) Political Science
- 3.) Information Systems

I believe that participating in student government is so important because you're given a platform to offer your unique perspective for the benefit of your fellow students.

As a student leader, you are part of the discussions that continue to fight for an accessible and equitable education system for every single community college student in California. We have an obligation to make life better for each other.

Hello, my name is Lisa Brown. I attend Bakersfield College and am majoring in Biology.

Being part of student government is important because it creates opportunity for students to have a voice with meaningful impact in the decisions that shape their education and campus experience. It provides a structured way to optimize our 9+1 rights and advocates for the interests of California Community College students, making sure, their needs and perspectives are represented at every level of discussion.

Student government plays a crucial role in empowering others. Teaching students how to use their voice, understand their rights, and engage in advocacy that strengthens student representation across campus helps build a more informed and active student body. When students learn how to participate effectively, we create advocacy that strengthens the impact students can make, both individually and collectively.

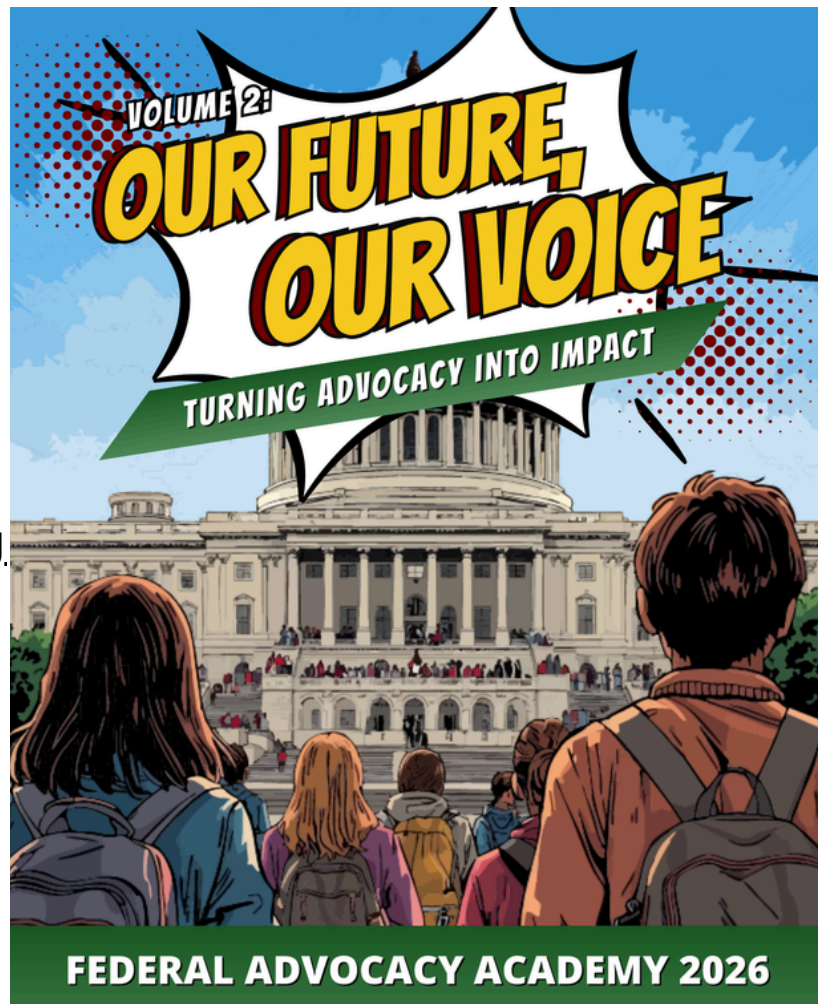
At the core of this work is the simple truth: Every Voice Matters.



**Lisa Brown**

# SSCCC 2026 Federal Advocacy Academy

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) will host the 2026 Federal Advocacy Academy in Washington, D.C., March 1–4, 2026, during a congressional session. This student-led program prepares student leaders for national advocacy through workshops on storytelling, financial aid, immigration, and legislative processes; panels with congressional staff, reporters, and higher-education advocates; keynotes and roundtables with Members of Congress; congressional visits; and networking events. Registration and hotel booking are now open. Reduced fees are supported by Student Representation Fee (SRF) funds. Attendance grants SSCCC permission for photo/video use.



## Valentine's Day Advocacy Word Search

Love in Action | Advocacy | Community

N	Y	L	Y	M	T	D	C	K	Y	W	X	L	A
D	B	O	K	F	O	M	P	P	E	O	A	S	S
Q	Y	V	U	W	G	A	Y	T	S	D	D	C	O
M	E	E	H	C	S	T	S	Z	V	T	V	O	L
Z	G	P	A	S	V	E	W	O	O	E	V	M	I
D	Z	R	I	H	R	I	C	E	K	Q	C	P	D
K	E	O	V	V	W	A	I	M	Q	U	Q	A	A
L	N	V	I	R	C	P	B	A	N	T	Q	S	R
T	E	C	L	Y	J	U	S	T	I	C	E	S	I
T	E	S	S	P	I	H	S	Y	L	L	A	I	T
D	L	C	C	N	C	Y	T	I	U	Q	E	O	Y
J	B	X	Z	W	N	A	R	A	B	A	M	N	Y
Y	T	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	S	Y	Y	P	Z
J	A	C	T	I	V	I	S	M	Z	G	W	N	O

Find These Words:

**ADVOCACY**

**ALLYSHIP**

**SOLIDARITY**

**PASSION**

**LOVE**

**COMMUNITY**

**SERVICE**

**ACTIVISM**

**JUSTICE**

**COMPASION**

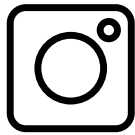
**EQUITY**

**CARE**

## STAY IN THE LOOP



*@SSCCC\_REGIONV*



*@SSCCC\_OFFICIAL*

## CONTACT US

***ERIN GRIEPSMA***  
*COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER*  
*COMSREGIONV@SSCCC.ORG*

***GARRETT WILKINSON***  
*REGIONAL AFFAIRS DIRECTOR*  
*RADREGIONV@SSCCC.ORG*

## OPPORTUNITIES

**Federal Advocacy Academy 2026**  
**March 1-4, 2026**  
[Click Here to Register](#)

**General Assembly 2026**  
**March 27-29, 2025**  
[Click Here to Register](#)

**WANT TO BE A FEATURED STUDENT? EMAIL US!**