

## SBCC Welcomes Christina Llerena as New Director of EOPS

In March, SBCC welcomed Christina Llerena as the new EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs Director. Llerena was attracted to SBCC's student-centered practices and mission and she is proud to be part of such a passion-driven and high functioning team. She is excited for the future of EOPS and pleased to announce that for the first time in years the program will be accepting summer applications and offering childcare and book grant support. "This is a really big deal that we are able to do this," Llerena said, adding that it will give students a "huge head start."

According to Llerena, while EOPS is already the "grandfather or grandmother of all equity programs," she sees an important opportunity to reinvent the program post-pandemic, particularly when it comes to leveraging many of the lessons learned over the past year. Llerena hopes to integrate some of the virtual flexibility and online programming to best reach students moving forward.

Llerena and her family are in the process of selling their home and relocating to Santa Barbara from the Bay Area. Her husband Javier, daughters Isabel (13), Lucia (10), and Maggie, their nearly one-year-old "pandemic puppy" are all looking forward to the move. Llerena loves the beach and water and has been a lifelong swimmer. Though she considers herself a "beginner," Llerena has run two marathons and multiple half marathons. She also has a sweet tooth and loves to bake, which, she jokes, "balances out the running."



**Christina Llerena with Maggie, the beloved wire-haired dachshund puppy her family got last summer. "She's been my pandemic companion," Llerena said.**

When asked about her most treasured possession, Llerena described the cross necklace she wears all the time. Her husband gave it to her and it represents their faith and their relationship. The two have facilitated numerous marriage preparation retreats together and for their 14th anniversary, they co-authored a book titled *Boundless Love: Healing Your Marriage Before It Begins*.

Llerena is a fan of journalism and nonfiction and her favorite writers include Malcom Gladwell, Michelle Alexander, and anything in *The New Yorker*. One book that has had a significant impact on Llerena is Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. Llerena has used portions of the book in classes she has taught and describes it as a must-read for understanding the prison industrial complex and systems of institutionalized racism and white supremacy in the United States.



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Growing up in the small Detroit-area suburb of Birmingham, Michigan, Llerena witnessed racial segregation that framed much of her early understanding around inequity and injustice and led to her involvement in social justice issues through her church and community groups.

When asked if she could change one thing about herself, Llerena said that she is “innately stubborn” and “aspires to be more flexible.” She admits to getting fixated on wanting to get things done and if she feels passionate about something she can be extremely stubborn. “I’m generally a happy person unless I’m hungry or tired,” she laughs. Welcome to SBCC, Christina Llerena!



### The WELL Presents at Annual Statewide Conference

Laura Fariss, Director of Student Health Services and The WELL's Student Program Advisor, Becky Bean had the honor of presenting virtually at the annual Health Services Association California Community Colleges (HSACCC) Conference on *The WELL: Redefining California Community College Wellness & Pioneering a Holistic Student Wellness Center*. The WELL is excited to look to the future and see how it can share its digital health and wellness model and resources with other interested California Community Colleges.

### Transfer Center to Change Name to the University Transfer Center

In the coming weeks, SBCC's Transfer Center will be changing its name to the University Transfer Center. At times, the current Transfer Center name has created confusion, as many students have mistaken it with a campus service that assists those interested in transferring to SBCC. The adoption of the “University Transfer Center” name will assist students, parents, university representatives, and the campus community to more immediately identify the University Transfer Center as a resource that provides information and assistance to students considering or preparing for transfer to a baccalaureate-granting institution.

The name will help convey that the University Transfer Center is a place where students can explore their transfer options, learn about the process of transferring to a four-college or university, and complete the transfer admissions application process. In making this change, SBCC will follow in a similar tradition as several other California Community Colleges such as Alan Hancock, Santa Ana, and Ventura Colleges, that have similarly adopted the University Transfer Center name. Please support and help celebrate this exciting transition by sharing the name change with your students and the larger campus community.

### Sara Hartley to Serve as Co-Chair of Academic Counseling

As of July 1, 2021 Sara Hartley will serve as Co-Chair of Academic Counseling alongside Lydia Aguirre-Fuentes.



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## How to Help First-Time College & First-Time Transfer Students Make Academic Counseling Appointments

In the Academic Counseling Center, New Student Class Planning sessions and Transfer Student Appointments are in full swing! Over the past few weeks ACC has started to get many inquiries from new students and has set up two different paths to help serve these important, large populations of students while continuing to serve current students during this busy season. Use the information below when directing New and New Transfer students to Counseling services:

All **First-Time College Students** (have never attended college before aside from dual enrollment during high school) get academic counseling help through one of our required [New Student Class Planning Sessions](#). Here is the language ACC uses to explain this to students:

*If you are attending SBCC as a First-Time College Student (meaning you've never attended college aside from Dual Enrollment during high school), you'll need to register for a New Student Class Planning webinar by following the steps outlined [here](#). Class Planning involves a brief presentation in a group setting with other first-time students, followed by an individual meeting with a counselor. Together, you and the counselor will make a plan for your first semester that meets your educational goals at SBCC.*

**First-Time Transfer Students** (matriculating this fall) do NOT participate in Class Planning, but instead have the option to set up a [Transfer Student Appointment](#). Here is the language ACC uses to explain this to students:

*If you're attending SBCC as a Transfer Student (meaning you've taken courses at another College or University after graduating high school), you can submit our Transfer Student Appointment Form to request an optional one-on-one appointment with a counselor. The form is available on our website [here](#). Once you have submitted the form, we will contact you to schedule an appointment.*

## SBCC Launches Student Resource Finder

SBCC has a new online tool to help connect students to campus supports and resources. [The Student Resource Finder](#) allows students and others to select search filters and categories in order to browse and find resources by need.

## ASG Applications Due April 17

Associated Student Government applications are available through April 17th and can be submitted until 12:00 p.m. that day. The application link can be found at [ASG 2021-2022 Election Application](#). For questions, contact Amy Collins, ASG Advisor. She can be reached at [collinsa@sbcc.edu](mailto:collinsa@sbcc.edu). Voting will start on Monday, April 19th and end on Friday, April 23rd at 4:00 p.m. Students can check their Pipeline email for information on how to vote.



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## Pass/No Pass Grade Option Deadline Extended to April 23

The Chancellor's Office has allowed SBCC to extend the deadline for students to request a Pass/No Pass grading option for Spring 2021 courses to April 23, 2021. This option would change their current grading option of A-F to the option of earning a Pass or No Pass for the course.

A Pass/No Pass grading option earned in Spring 2021 will not affect their progress/academic probation or dismissal status. An email was sent to all students informing them of this deadline extension as well as highly encouraging them to check with an academic counselor about the appropriateness of taking a course Pass/No Pass and the implications it may have for transfer admission into another college or university.

Pass/No Pass Form submission process: Students may download and complete a pdf form and email to their academic counselor or course instructor. Simply go to [www.sbcc.edu/forms](http://www.sbcc.edu/forms), select Admissions & Records and scroll down to the "Petition for Pass / No Pass" form. Email the completed form to your counselor or course instructor and they will then route the request to Admissions. More information can be found on the COVID-19 Academic Record Options web page: [www.sbcc.edu/admissions/covid19options.php](http://www.sbcc.edu/admissions/covid19options.php)

## Fall 2020 Special Grade Change Consideration

In addition to the extension of the Spring 2021 deadline, all students that received a letter grade in Fall 2020 will be permitted to make a one-time request to change their grade mode from letter grade to a pass / no pass grade. To do so, the student must make this request with the course instructor that issued the grade. Instructors can email [arfacultysupport@sbcc.edu](mailto:arfacultysupport@sbcc.edu) and provide their course information along with the student's name, K#, current grade and the new grade. Admissions will then make the adjustment to the student's record. The deadline for a student to request this one-time change is April 23, 2021.

More information can be found on the COVID-19 Academic Record Options web page: [www.sbcc.edu/admissions/covid19options.php](http://www.sbcc.edu/admissions/covid19options.php)

## Outstanding Student of the Year Award Selection Underway

The Office of Student Life's Outstanding Student Awards honor students who have excelled scholastically or who have provided exceptional service to the college. Selectors are asked to submit a written statement describing why they chose a particular student to receive the award. The student also provides a few words of acknowledgement or reflection on their journey at Santa Barbara City College or a note of gratitude to those who have helped them in their endeavors. All of the information will be accessible on the Office of Student Life website on or after April 30th: <https://www.sbcc.edu/studentlife/>



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Virtual Commencement to be held at  
5:00 p.m. on Friday May 7

All information regarding this year's  
commencement can be found here:

[www.sbcc.edu/studentlife/commencement.php](http://www.sbcc.edu/studentlife/commencement.php)



### SBCC to Host Signing Day Event for New Promise Students

The Enrollment Services Department and the SBCC Foundation/Promise Program will be hosting a Signing Day event on West Campus on Saturday, May 22. This event is modeled after Michelle Obama's "Better Make Room" campaign. It will be a safe drive-through experience celebrating our new to college local high school students/Promise eligible students. It will be held at the West Campus parking lots between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Participants will drive through a predetermined route and all health and safety precautions will be taken. Any questions about the event can be emailed to Liz Stein: [eastein@sbcc.edu](mailto:eastein@sbcc.edu).



### Kudos to Jana Garnett, Director of DSPS

I would like to give kudos and gratitude to Jana Garnett, Director of DSPS! It has been an honor collaborating with her and DSPS over the past three years to offer The Movies For Mental Health Workshop to SBCC students, faculty, and staff. Jana has the gift of inspiring and empowering students and those she works with and she has a heart of gold, generous spirit, and is an uplifting leader at SBCC!

~Becky Bean

### Kudos to the International Student Support Program

Due to COVID the enrollment numbers of wonderful International students have dropped immensely. However, the ISSP department is assisting their small group of students and reaching out to the counseling department so their students do not fall through the cracks. Not only are the advisors of ISSP reaching out but also the director of the program Carola Smith has been very helpful during this time.

~Rosy Vidal-Ayres





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### Kudos to Dr. Anita Cruse and Dean Carola Smith for their leadership over Work Experience

Dr. Cruse has done an amazing job over the last year and a half leading the Work Experience team of instructors. She has helped restructure the way Work Experience sections are taught online while supporting the instructors and students enrolled in Work Experience classes. Dr. Cruse regularly brings the General Work Experience instructors and the Occupational Work Experience instructors together remotely to continue to improve the experience for students and employers.

We are grateful for the leadership of Dean Carola Smith and Dr. Anita Cruse. Work Experience classes are geared to support all students who are working or interning for businesses while attending SBCC. Students can earn 1, 2, or 3 units of credit while working each semester. For more information, see the website link:

[www.sbcc.edu/workexperience/](http://www.sbcc.edu/workexperience/)

~Holly Eubank

### Kudos to the SBCC IT Support Team

The IT Support Team has been extraordinarily helpful with any and all questions the staff has, and they are especially proficient in all matters relating to Zoom. If they don't know the answer right away (a very rare occurrence), they get back very quickly with a solution. Everyone working remotely would be lost without the SBCC IT Support Team. All of them are invaluable employees and very much appreciated!

~Becky Saffold



### Kudos to Webmaster & Shining Star Award Recipient Hong Lieu

Without SBCC Webmaster Hong Lieu, the Student Equity & Achievement website would not look nearly as nice as it does. Lieu is always willing and able to help, and although he says he's just doing his job, he is a master at what he does. Although Lieu could easily do any website task himself, he gives everyone he's helping the option of doing it themselves (with Lieu's easy-to-follow instructions), working on it together, or having Lieu do it by himself. Lieu is an expert at every project he is assigned, and he shows the utmost respect and kindness to everyone he works with.

At the March 18th CSEA meeting, Lieu was voted this year's recipient of the "Shining Star" award. He was humbled that people voted for him, and he had nothing but praise and admiration for the other nominees, Chelsea Lancaster and Barbara Smith. A virtual event recognizing the 2020 and 2021 Shining Star recipients will be held on May 19th from 6 - 8 p.m. ~Becky Saffold

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Kudos to ZhiNing Cui, Recipient of the Gertrude Calden Memorial Award

The SBCC Foundation, along with the Career Center, was happy to announce ZhiNing Cui as the recipient of the Gertrude Calden Memorial Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service.

Cui is an international student from China majoring in economics and mathematics with plans to transfer in the fall. Her volunteer service includes activities related to her campus involvement: ASG commissioner of international students affairs, SBCC Chinese Union community outreach, International Students Department buddy ambassador, and marketing member committee for the Ambassadors program.

Congratulations ZhiNing!

Kudos to Ezekiel Contreras Forrest, Recipient of the Board of Governors Student Leadership Award



Ezekiel Contreras Forrest has been awarded one of three Board of Governors Student Leadership Awards, initiated for the first time in 2021. The awards were presented by Chancellor Eloy Ortiz Oakley and two student members of the California Community College Board of Governors at the opening of the General Assembly for the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges on Friday March 26. The Board of Governors established the Student Leadership Award in 2020 to celebrate visionaries enrolled in the California Community Colleges who are demonstrating the highest level of commitment to student leadership and helping to realize the goals and objectives laid out in the CCC [Vision for Success](#).



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A former foster youth, Ezekiel has a 4.0 GPA (including 10 A+'s), has been on the President's Honor Roll every semester, is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and will be completing his final semester at SBCC with a triple major, graduating in May with plans to transfer to a four-year university in Fall 2021. During his time at SBCC, Ezekiel established the Filipino Cultural Club, worked as a student ambassador for international students, served as a peer mentor for Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS) and Guardian Scholars, and worked in Enrollment Services where he has helped other students navigate the enrollment and financial aid processes. Additionally, as a member of Associated Student Government, he worked with the vice president of the Board of Governors, the Chancellor's Office and college administration to find equitable solutions in distributing the Student Success Completion Grant. Ezekiel has also played a vital role in aiding Guided Pathways faculty and staff to update college policies and procedures related to the onboarding process of new students, with a focus on marginalized students.

According to EOPS Counselor Camila Acosta, "Everything that Ezekiel does at Santa Barbara City College serves the greater community because, as a California Community College student and leader, he is helping to develop and mold our future leaders. Ezekiel is an exemplary student and young man, and truly embodies the California Community College Chancellor's Vision for Success in action."

Congratulations Ezekiel!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Film Production Student  
Mirjam Maier is the "Reel" Deal



Twenty-four-year-old Mirjam Maier hails from Passau, a small, picturesque town in Germany known for its three rivers that join together into one. Growing up, Maier's family did a lot of traveling, which inspired her to do a study abroad year after graduating from high school. She attended a college in Seattle her first semester and then enrolled at SBCC in Spring 2016.

It wasn't long before Maier fell in love with Santa Barbara. She felt it was like her second home. But after a year of studying abroad, she thought she needed to go back to a more "conventional way of studying in Germany." She attended a university there for a while, but realized that was not what she really wanted. She took some time off and started traveling, sometimes by herself, and other times with friends. Maier began filming and editing travel





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videos and soon realized she had found her passion. She had always known she wanted to do something creative with her life, and instinctively took to editing right away. Of her new craft she said, “I think when you find something that you’re really good at, you kind of know how to do it. That’s how it was for me.”

After traveling, Maier researched schools in Germany and abroad that taught film production and editing. She was still in contact with her Santa Barbara host mom, who suggested that Maier consider SBCC. Maier not only discovered that SBCC had a film production program, but that it had a great reputation. “So I decided to just take a risk and come back,” Maier said.

Maier discovered that being in a creative field such as film production is incredibly rewarding. “If you are with the right people, they are going to always support and uplift you,” she said. Coming from a more conventional environment in Germany, Maier hadn’t experienced this level of acceptance before.

Maier described one of her mottos as “saying ‘yes’ to any kind of opportunity that comes along.” She has often found that bigger and better opportunities tend to follow. Maier is a student worker for the International Office, where she runs their social media, creates Instagram posts, and produces videos. For the virtual Spring 2021 in-service, Maier assisted Curtis Bieber filming workers around campus.

In addition to Film Production and Film TV Electronic Media, Maier is also earning a Marketing degree at SBCC. Of marketing she says, “I think it’s a really good skill set, especially combined with film

because ultimately, you can make a really great film, but if you don’t market it, then no one’s going to see it.”

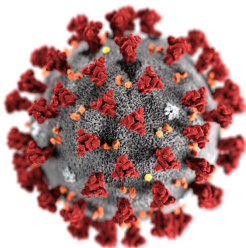
Like many other students, Maier has struggled through the pandemic. She had originally planned to graduate last Spring or Fall yet decided to stay at SBCC a little longer and then transfer to a university before starting her career. However she is trying to make the best of the situation.

Maier’s advice to those who are struggling is, “If you can’t do something that you want to do, maybe find something else that you *can* do.” For instance, Maier enjoys traveling, but has limited herself to day trips in isolation like short camping trips for the time being. Regarding school, she says it helps to create a schedule and plan “in class time,” the way it would normally be. That has helped her stay on track and manage her time. Maier also tries to get all of her work done so she can have the weekends off. Finally, though she feels isolated and misses seeing her loved ones in Germany, she realizes there are many people who have it far worse than her right now.

As far as future goals, Maier would like to experience working for a production company and ultimately she would like to work on more project-based films that address important social issues. She is always “looking at the message in the film,” and she would love to incorporate traveling into her career. “Editing,” she says, “is a great job for that. You need your laptop and you can do it anywhere.”



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## Student Services in the Time of COVID

### Career Center Collaborates on Back to Work Program

The Career Center has been collaborating with the School of Extended Learning and their Back to Work Program. Throughout the semester the Career Center has offered several days of career- and job-focused sessions for over 50 students seeking employment. These sessions allow for personalized career counseling as well. The Career Center has also been focusing on CTE classroom resume, interview and LinkedIn presentations for students about to enter the workforce.

### Career Center Empowers and Encourages Students through Virtual Appointments

The Career Center is pleased to announce that they have made it easier for students to make remote appointments with the Career Counseling staff. Appointments can be made easily through Starfish. Career Counselors are excited to meet remotely with students located all over the country and all over the world. Career Counselors continue to

assist students with researching majors and career options, strategize their job searches, create resumes and cover letters and learn how to network with professionals.

### Work Experience Instructors Help Students Navigate Challenging Times

While working remotely, Work Experience instructors have been meeting with students and employers via zoom and by phone. During COVID, student employees have had many challenges on the job and personally when family members get sick or when business shut down due to COVID restrictions. Work Experience instructors have been in regular communication with each student to support them as their worksite challenges arise. Students have commented that they feel very supported by their SBCC Work Experience instructors during the semester while facing many challenges at work. More than ever, students and their WE instructors have built relationships that will last beyond each semester. It's an honor to support our Work Experience students during such challenging times.

### Office of Student Life Offers Physical Student ID Cards

The Office of Student Life has been able to provide physical ID cards through an online format named Transact. Students can find information about how to receive the ID, in addition to any changes and updates by going to [www.sbccc.edu/student-services/campus\\_id.php](http://www.sbccc.edu/student-services/campus_id.php)



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### DSPS Hosts Virtual Bridges Event

Every spring semester, DSPS works closely with transition specialists from SBUSD to welcome and provide an informative presentation and tour of our campus to local high school students who receive special education support.

This usually occurs over two lively half-day sessions and includes visits with every department in our Student Services building. This year, on April 13, DSPS offered a live virtual presentation via Zoom, which was also recorded and will be made available to the schools.

As always, our wonderful Enrollment Services kicked off our 'tour,' followed by the DSPS presentation, an overview of the CTE Programs from Dean Price, some words from our own Valerie Eurman (Career Center), followed by Jeanette Chian of the School of Extended Learning. A Q&A session concluded the presentation.

DSPS thanks all those involved in taking on this virtual project, including each of the presenters and, of course, our IT department who offered training, support, and guidance throughout.

### Movies for Mental Health Virtual Workshop a Success

The WELL, in partnership with DSPS, offered Movies for Mental Health Virtual Workshop on 3/11/21 and had a fabulous turnout. The non-profit, Art with Impact (AWI) has offered this dynamic virtual workshop two times during the pandemic to SBCC students, faculty, and staff.

AWI uses the power of film to reduce stigma around mental health differences. Their work promotes mental wellness by creating spaces for people to learn and connect through art and media around mental health topics. The workshop consists of viewing and responding to several award winning short films around mental health topics, interactive dialogue, and a panel discussion focused on mental health support and resources.

The workshop organizers were honored to have Casey Ysaguirre - UMOJA Student Program Advisor, Natalie Holdren - Educational & Neurodiversity Consultant for UCSB & SBCC, Renato Marques - Student Health Services Personal Counselor & Transfer Academy Counselor, and Jeremy Steffen - SBCC Alumnus as panelists for this dynamic virtual workshop.

A student survey reported that 97% of students said that the workshop reduced stigma related to mental health. 100% of the students felt the event created awareness of mental health issues.

### Business Services Creates Return to Campus Website

Business Services has a website with lots of information for staff and faculty with respect to returning to campus. The website includes among other things, information about PPEs, hand sanitizing stations, and how and where to obtain cleaning supplies, face coverings, and gloves on campus.

<https://www.sbcc.edu/businessservices/returntocampus.php>



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## Student Services Reopening Town Hall Meeting



Dean Paloma Arnold held a virtual Town Hall meeting on Friday, April 9 to discuss how and when Student Services will reopen to provide in-person services. Staff and faculty were able to submit questions prior to the meeting via a Google form, and more were asked during the meeting.

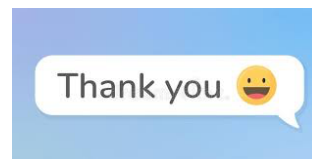
Dr. Pamela Ralston assisted in reading questions from the chat and provided additional information. Erik Fricke described plans to have a Security Officer stationed at the entrance to the building and another one who would roam throughout the building making sure that the number of people in the building did not exceed the 25% allowed capacity at red and orange tiers. The highly attended meeting (at one point there were 108 attendees) was extended another 15 minutes so additional questions could be answered.

Here is a [link to the presentation](#) Dean Arnold used for the meeting.

Here is a [link to the recording](#) of the virtual Town Hall meeting.



If you have anything you'd like to share in a future issue of *The Student Services Messenger*, please email it to [studentaffairsoffice@pipeline.sbcc.edu](mailto:studentaffairsoffice@pipeline.sbcc.edu) or [fill out our google survey](#) to report news from your department, give kudos to one of your colleagues, or nominate a student to be featured in a Student Spotlight.



### **Many, many thanks to all the individuals who contributed to this issue!**

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