

Introduction to College of San Mateo

History of College of San Mateo

College of San Mateo (CSM) has served the diverse educational, economic, social, and cultural needs of its students and community for 85 years, making it the oldest of three colleges in the San Mateo County Community College District. In 1922, the college was established as San Mateo Junior College at the Baldwin campus in downtown San Mateo, where it started with just 35 students in several rooms of San Mateo High School. CSM moved in 1923 to a large house on the Kohl Estate in what is currently San Mateo's Central Park, and four years later, it moved back to the Baldwin campus. In 1939, a new campus was established at North Delaware Street and Peninsula Avenue, but because of World War II, development of the site was curtailed. When the war ended, with the steady expansion of enrollment caused by returning veterans joining high school graduates, the college leased the Merchant Marine Cadet School at Coyote Point in San Mateo and added those facilities to the classrooms at the Baldwin and Delaware campuses, conducting classes simultaneously at three separate locations.

From those beginnings in inauspicious, mostly temporary facilities throughout the city, the college has grown as the demand for quality education within the county grew. In 1957, after developing a 25-year master plan based on the recommendations of a citizens' advisory committee, the San Mateo County Community College District Board of Trustees submitted to voters a \$5.9 million dollar bond issue that was approved by a three-to-one margin. The bond issue victory cleared the way for the acquisition of the present College of San Mateo campus on a peninsula 20 miles south of San Francisco—a magnificent 153-acre hilltop site with a breathtaking, panoramic view of the San Francisco Bay Area. After 41 years of moving from one temporary facility to another, the college was finally unified on a single campus. Completed at a cost of almost \$19.5 million dollars, the current College Heights campus opened in 1963.

Since its opening, the college has evolved into a multicultural institution, one that continues a tradition of educational excellence by providing a broad range of quality and innovative programs to serve the academic and vocational needs of its approximately 11,000 culturally and linguistically diverse students. To accommodate them, CSM houses its academic and student services programs in 36 buildings. The college's main educational structures are built along a north-south axis provided by the central pedestrian mall, from the science building in the north to the physical education building in the south; a second mall, running east and west, connects the fine arts buildings with the library. In addition to three main lecture halls, the college has a newly-built, state-of-the-art Science Building and planetarium; a new building that houses the Moore Regional Public Safety Center; an engineering building; and two complexes: one that houses dental assisting, cosmetology, and nursing; and the other which houses electronics and aeronautics. A third complex houses Extended Opportunity Programs and Services (EOPS), the Multicultural Center, and the Horticulture and Floristry Department. Major renovations have modernized the football and track and field stadium, baseball field, tennis courts, and softball field. The student center and administration buildings are located near the entrance to the campus.

Since the last accreditation visit in spring 2001, San Mateo County voters expressed their support for the college by passing bond measures in fall 2001 and fall 2005, which have allowed significant facilities, technological, and infrastructure upgrades and renovations to meet the community's growing demand for quality education. Many components of the initial facilities master plan have been accomplished as a result of Measure C, a \$207 million bond issue passed in 2001.

Given the passage in 2005 of the district's general obligation bond, Measure A, in 2006 the Board of Trustees developed and approved an updated, comprehensive Facilities Master Plan to reflect extensive changes in educational and current campus needs and to inform decision making related to the next phase of planning and construction. This most recent bond funding will allow major renovation of current aging buildings and the construction of new campus facilities, including a student services center that will house administration, a cafeteria, and bookstore; a wellness/workforce/aquatics center, one that will include cosmetology, dental, nursing, a fitness/wellness center, Olympic size pool, and adaptive physical education pool; and a faculty center for faculty offices. With the passage of the two bond measures, the facilities master plan is well underway and will allow College of San Mateo to change dramatically in the next decade.

Located close to numerous other colleges and universities, College of San Mateo is part of a vibrant, colorful community, and its students reflect the diversity of the Bay Area. Many graduates from CSM transfer to the University of California, California State Universities, and other neighboring public and private colleges and universities. Because the needs of students who transfer are carefully provided for in curricula that offer a wealth of programs and services, College of San Mateo has a solid reputation among California's universities. CSM graduates and transfer students have consistently achieved a pattern of success at their subsequent institutions.

Many College of San Mateo students find employment in business and industry. The college has been a springboard to success for thousands of its students. Among its distinguished alumni are Super Bowl-winning coaches and broadcasters John Madden of the Oakland Raiders and Bill Walsh of the San Francisco Forty Niners; Bonnie Chastain, a broadcaster who was the first woman engineer in the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS); Claire Mack, a KCSM-TV personality for three decades, who later was elected to the San Mateo City Council and became San Mateo's first black mayor; entertainer Merv Griffin; Winthrop Griffith, former editor of *The Stanford Daily* and press secretary to Senator Hubert H. Humphrey; Gregory L. Vistica, a *Newsweek* correspondent twice nominated for the Pulitzer Prize; and Paul Scanlon, a writer who became senior editor for *Rolling Stone Magazine*.

Mission Statement

College of San Mateo, the first community college in San Mateo County, is an open-access, student-focused, teaching and learning institution that serves the diverse educational, economic, social and cultural needs of its students and the community. By offering comprehensive, quality programs and services and by measuring student learning, College of San Mateo educates students to participate successfully in a changing world.

Adopted by College Council, December 5, 2001

Revised by College Council, February 2, 2005

Vision Statement

It is our belief that we must continue to build on our strengths to provide an educational experience that, within College of San Mateo's mission, is appropriate to the needs of our students.

- College of San Mateo will prepare students to be informed, active, engaged citizens in a global society.
- College of San Mateo will continue its commitment to robust programs in transfer, occupational education, basic skills and lifelong learning.
- College of San Mateo will recruit, support and retain the best faculty, staff and administrators.
- College of San Mateo will strengthen partnerships with businesses and industry and other educational institutions.
- College of San Mateo will nurture a campus climate that is inviting and intellectually stimulating to all students and staff.
- College of San Mateo will endorse, support and actively pursue a policy of inclusiveness that recognizes, values and reflects the diversity of the community we serve, the professionals with whom we serve and the subject matter we impart.
- College of San Mateo will create a supportive learning environment that maximizes the synergy between instruction and student support services.
- College of San Mateo will demonstrate a conscious effort to support student in- and out-of-class learning, measure that learning, assess how well learning is occurring and make changes to improve student learning.
- College of San Mateo will support institutional needs identified through program review for updating facilities and equipment to enhance learning environments.
- College of San Mateo will promote institutional advancement as a means to increase visibility and funding for program support.
- College of San Mateo will promote institutional effectiveness based on research, planning, resource management and evaluation.

Adopted by College Council, February 20, 2002

Revised by College Council, April 7, 2004

Values Statement

College of San Mateo is a vital community resource. We have an individual and collective responsibility to manage this resource and to fulfill our mission and vision to the best of our ability. To that end,

- We believe in encouraging and motivating students to seek, identify and achieve individual educational goals by providing an intellectually challenging, student-focused environment.
- We believe in supporting open, dynamic and collaborative decision making processes with appropriate representation.
- We believe in fostering sensitivity to, respect for and appreciation of the individual differences among the College's diverse student, faculty and staff.
- We believe that the effectiveness of any College action should be assessed by comparing results against measurable goals and standards.
- We believe in supporting and promoting informed risk taking supported by institutional research and encouraging innovation and creativity in pursuit of College goals.

Adopted by College Council, April 17, 2002

Diversity Statement

College of San Mateo endorses, supports and actively pursues a policy of inclusiveness that recognizes, values and reflects the diversity of the community we serve, the professionals with whom we serve, and the subject matter we impart. To thrive as an academic institution, we believe we must foster a learning and working environment that encourages multiple perspectives and the free exchange of ideas in an unbiased and non-prejudicial way.

To that end, as we strive to attract students, develop curriculum, diversify staffing, and offer support services, we are consciously guided by our priority to achieve broad inclusiveness and afford equal opportunity to all, without regard to gender, color, race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, age, economic and educational background, sexual orientation, and physical, learning, and psychological differences. We constantly evaluate our progress, and we gratefully acknowledge and welcome the support of the community in our efforts to achieve our goals.

Adopted by College Council, March 6, 2002