



SAN MATEO COLLEGES

of Silicon Valley

SPRING 2019 NEWS & UPDATES

IN THIS ISSUE:

Using TOEFL & IELTS for English Course Placement
Ranked Among Top 20 US Community Colleges by IIE
Accelerated College Entry for 17-Year Old International Students
Earn U.S. College Credits in Your Own Country
High School Camp Stopover in San Francisco on Us
Honors Transfer Program Success - From Skyline College to UC Berkeley
and much more!

Admissions and Scholarships Application Deadline: July 1, 2019



Jing Luan, Ph.D.
President

Dear Colleagues,

We are excited to share with you news and updates for Spring 2019. In this issue, we highlight our commitment to innovation and elite student services.

We pride ourselves in helping thousands of deserving students each year achieve their dreams and become leaders in their chosen fields. Through the San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley, the educational experiences of both international and US domestic students are enriched as students gain a higher level of cultural competency and are able to navigate an increasingly interconnected, interdependent global society and economy.

Thank you for your continued support of our three San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley. View all 14 issues of the Newsletters here:
smccd.edu/international/news.php.

Thanks for reading.

RANKED AMONG TOP 20 COMMUNITY COLLEGES IN THE NATION

In its 2018 listing, IIE (The Institute of International Education, the oldest and most respected organization devoted to international education) ranked the San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley as No. 17 based on the number of students and the popularity as a study destination.

IMPRESSIVE F-1 VISA APPROVAL RATES

The visa approval rates for countries with the largest number of students at our colleges are mostly 90-95%! They include Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Myanmar, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand. Other notables: India (79%), the Philippines (88%), Vietnam (70%), and Nepal (65%). Data based on student self-reporting since spring 2017.

TOEFL AND IELTS ARE REPLACING ENGLISH PLACEMENT TESTS

Starting with admitted students in Fall 2019, Skyline College is the first in our district to use TOEFL and IELTS scores to determine the appropriate English course placement and to register international students in classes prior to their first semester. Pre-registration allows students to get the best choice of courses and to have an easy transition to their new educational environment.

NEW TAG UNIVERSITY PARTNERS - 3 OUT OF 4 ARE OUTSIDE THE US!

For the first time, our new Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) university partners include universities from outside the U.S. All are part of our College University Partnership (CUP) program and are as follows:

- **Australian Catholic University** with campuses in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney
- **Northwest Missouri State University** in Maryville, Missouri
- **Rennes School of Business** in Rennes, France
- **Royal Roads University** in British Columbia, Canada

APRIL 9-11 SPRING INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRANSFER FAIRS

Our CUP partners, including those with a TAG, will have an opportunity to meet with SMCSV students at the international student transfer fairs, which will be held at each of our colleges. Students benefit by hearing directly from the admissions representatives about transfer admission requirements and transfer scholarships. Thirty-five universities will be attending.



Diane Arguijo,
Director of
International
Education

SILICON VALLEY INTENSIVE ENGLISH PROGRAM (SVIEP)

Silicon Valley Pathway Program (SVPP)

SVIEP – the in-house English language school of the San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley – is planning for a pathway program at Skyline College, which will provide intensive credit-bearing and intensive developmental ESL instruction to eligible international students. Successful completion of the Silicon Valley Pathway Program (SVPP) provides guaranteed admission for program graduates to Skyline College, Cañada College and College of San Mateo.



Jonathan Bissell,
Executive Director
of Community,
Continuing and
Corporate Education

17+ (Accelerated College Entry for Students Under 18)

Want to get a head start on your college education? SVIEP invites international high school students who are 17 years old to apply for intensive English, American history, and culture studies. Upon turning 18 years old and completing SVIEP, students will matriculate into academic programs at all three campuses of the San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley.

For more information on both initiatives, contact SVIEP at sviep@smccd.edu and +1 650-381-3514.

Updates

GLOBAL BECA INTERNATIONAL STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

In Spring 2019, 17 deserving students from 9 different countries received SMCSV's merit-based scholarships. With an award rate of over 60%, scholarship recipients often end up transferring to top universities. Apply now at <https://www.smccd.edu/international/scholarships.php>.

HOMESTAY REFERRAL PROGRAM

Over the last three years, our homestay team has successfully placed 355 international students with welcoming host families. The program has now grown to include around 400 host families, all of whom speak English and live within 60 minutes (by bus) from the SMCSV's three campuses. Depending on the housing option, homestays provide meals, a furnished private or shared room, and internet. To get more information on the Homestay Referral Program and other housing options in the Silicon Valley area, visit www.smccd.edu/international/housing or directly contact the Housing Coordinator, Julnar Msalam, at housingcoordinator@smccd.edu.



Julnar Msalam,
Housing
Program Services
Coordinator



"We are hosting Kyaw Htun from Myanmar. He is a very polite and respectful student and we are enjoying getting to know him and learning about Myanmar from him." – Beth Harrison, pictured with her family.



SAN FRANCISCO STOPOVER FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS!

Administrators and counselors, your high school students are welcome to join the SMCSV's exciting San Francisco/Silicon Valley Stopover! During your stay, you will be able to tour our three campuses and top universities like UC Berkeley, Stanford, and San Jose State University. You will also get a chance to check out famous high tech companies in the neighborhood- Facebook, Google, Twitter, YouTube, and Apple, to name a few. Lodging, meals, and local transportation will be provided for your visit. To qualify, you must give us three (3) weeks notice and have at least eight (8) high school students in your group. This opportunity is ideal for high school camps with San Francisco International Airport as their first or last stop. For details, please contact Cindy Nguyen at nguyencindy@smccd.edu.



Cindy Nguyen,
International
Program
Specialist



TAKE A VIRTUAL TOUR

Visit this website: smccd.edu/international/tours.php



Vimeo (for China): <https://vimeo.com/182585859>

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/kPSPDybuqcl>



THE SKYLINE COLLEGE HONORS TRANSFER PROGRAM

Kalie (Jiahui) Tang came to Skyline College during Fall 2014 with a goal of transferring to UC Berkeley. Two years later, her dream came true, when she transferred to UC Berkeley with a 4.0 GPA. In her testimonial, she mentioned that the Learning Center at Skyline College was particularly helpful to understand the course materials. She was also an active member of the Honors Transfer Program, which offered honors credit to facilitate transfer to four-year institutions.

After Kalie graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in statistics, she was offered a position as an analyst at MGM Resort International. Kalie is appreciative of the support she received at Skyline College. Students like Kalie is the reason why San Mateo Colleges of Silicon Valley have a 52% transfer admission rate to UC Berkeley.



DELEGATION TO NINGBO, CHINA

In March, we took a delegation, including officials from UC Berkeley, Stanford University and several California State Universities, to the Ningbo Seminar in China. This momentous occasion was made possible after Study California signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Zhejiang Association of Applied Undergraduate Colleges, a provincial higher education association in China. The MOU is an offshoot from the one signed by Jing Luan, then Chairman of Study California, with China's Ministry of Education in 2016 to connect Study California Member Schools with Chinese Universities in their region for partnerships, i.e. education and research exchange and collaboration. This year's theme was digital talent development and learning.

DISTANCE EDUCATION INITIATIVES – OUR CLASSES COME TO YOU

Your wishes are granted! SMCSV's next venture is to develop partnerships with educational institutions outside the United States to implement the 1 + 1 + 2 university pathway. Students will take the first year of courses online in their home country and then transfer to our colleges the second year to complete the requirements for university transfer. They will have exclusive access to over 100 guaranteed transfer university partners to complete the last two years of this pathway. Students participating in this program will not need to be concerned about F-1 visas and housing expenses while taking SMCSV classes in their home country.

MEET KEY COLLEGE ADMINISTRATORS

KATHY KOHUT

Manager
International Student Program
(Cañada College)

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CHRIS WOO

Interim Manager
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