



SAN MATEO COLLEGES

of Silicon Valley

SPRING 2021 NEWS & UPDATES

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SUMMER 2021 APPLICATION IS NOW OPEN FOR GOL

Dear Colleagues,



Jing Luan, Ph.D.
Provost

We are excited to share with you news and updates for Spring 2021. In this issue, we provide critical and timely updates on international education at your beloved colleges. We are providing summer admissions for our award winning program of Global Online Learning (GOL). This is the 1st time in our college history for summer to be open to new international students. Another first, we are providing Early Admissions for Fall 2021 so students can act now to benefit from the services reserved for the early birds. We continue providing our Global Beca International Student scholarships and we recently added an online service called UniBuddy for students and parents to chat with our ambassadors in their native languages. Since we have a large number of Myanmar students, we have an update on how we support them. This newsletter will impress you with our innovation and student-first services and results. Enjoy!

Summer 2021 Admissions Open for GOL!

For the first time ever, we are opening up our Summer semester for applications. We are welcoming all GOL students to get started in their studies during the summer. Apply now at www.smccd.edu/international.

Myanmar

Our colleges have a large number of students from Myanmar, reaching 150 at one point. Recent events in Myanmar have impacted our students, both the ones back home in Myanmar and those who have remained in the U.S. Our faculty, staff and administration quickly acted to support these students in their studies to make sure that they have the least distraction and worries. We are providing scholarships to the students and have added counseling hours, made accommodations in their access to course materials, and provided mental health assistance. We have sent communications to over 100 schools, counselors, agents, and the US Embassy in Yangon to share our concern and inform them of our commitment and efforts to ease the difficulties faced by these students. We held forums for students to share their lives here and home. Special times were allocated during faculty meetings to discuss how best to assure the students' academic success. Throughout this evolving and trying time, we wanted to emphasize our student-focused philosophy: your child is our student and we leave no one behind.



Zin Zin Ye Myint



Than Htike Soe



Thet Su Htet



Min Thurein
Naung



Min Thwin Khant



Nyein Nyien Su



Lwin Paing Oo



Htet Htet Win
Pyone Ei

UniBuddy

We are excited to announce the implementation of the UniBuddy platform on all of our websites! This platform will allow students to chat and get their questions answered by our ambassadors and staff. Students can match with an ambassador who speaks the same language and has the same background, interests and hobbies as they do! By chatting with an ambassador, students can learn about the real-life experiences of students on our campuses. They can also choose to directly chat with staff members if they prefer.

The screenshot shows the UniBuddy interface. At the top, it says "Students" and "Powered by UNIBUDDY". There are three dropdown menus: "Area Of Study", "Countries", and "Campus". Below are two student profiles. The first profile is for Ahmed, a student from Cairo, Egypt, studying Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM). The second profile is for Taynara, a student from Goiânia, State of Goiás, Brazil, studying Business. Both profiles have a "Chat with" button.

Early Admissions for Fall 2021

Students who apply by May 1 will have access to the following benefits:

- Early consideration for Global Beca Scholarships
- Ability to register for classes early
- Introduction to staff and student ambassadors through virtual events months before the online orientation

Early applications submitted with all of the supporting documents will be processed within 2-4 days. **Application fee is waived through 2021.**

Online SVIEP

Silicon Valley Intensive English Program (SVIEP) has been offering Online SVIEP intensive English language training since last March. Online SVIEP enables students to participate in live, instructor-led online classes taught by master's level teachers from the comfort and safety of their home. Through Online SVIEP we continue to prepare students for college or career development through accelerated learning in small classes with personalized attention.

SVIEP & GOL Cohort Learning

SVIEP supports Global Online Learning (GOL) through a GOL Cohort Learning Program. GOL Cohort enables overseas high school students the opportunity to start learning with SMCSV at any level of English Proficiency. Students can begin with GOL Cohort if they have met our English proficiency requirement: SVIEP Test 85, TOEFL 56, IELTS 5.5, or Duolingo 85. Students not yet at the required level of proficiency can begin with our SVIEP Cohort Learning Program to ensure their future college study success and obtain the required English proficiency. Currently, SVIEP offers a customized Cohort Learning program to Taipei Municipal Heping High School, as well as a few schools in Mainland China and Indonesia. SVIEP will be forming SVIEP Cohort Learning Programs with other partners in the near future.

For more information about SVIEP, please check our website or send your inquiry to Yuri Goda at goday@smccd.edu or Ya-Chi Su at suy@smccd.edu.



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Yuri Goda
Program Manager
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CSM Hosted District's First TEDx Conference

San Mateo County Community College District hosted a TEDx Conference for the first time ever on November 13, 2020. Students from College of San Mateo, Cañada College, and Skyline College were empowered to share their ideas on “Living in Uncertainty,” the theme of the conference. TEDxCollegeofSanMateo was successfully organized by both CSM Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) and CSM Honors Program Program, with PTK students Manraj Gill and Mark Wong taking the lead. They came up with the initiative since the pandemic made it impossible to host in-person events but they still wanted to “collaborate and work on something meaningful.” Many students participated and the event was a huge success.

Student Highlights

My name is Jade Shonette and I'm an international student from The Bahamas. I'm in my final year at Cañada College studying Mathematics and Political Science. I am the Student Trustee for the San Mateo County Community College District representing over 20,000 students in the District and Chair of the District Student Council. As Student Trustee, I've led discussions regarding race, equity, and inclusion among our student leaders. These conversations challenged us to be more culturally sensitive and aware as we uphold our commitment to represent all students equally. As a student and leader, I have a longstanding commitment to service and civic engagement. My goal is to transfer to a 4-year university next Fall to pursue a B.A in Government/Politics with a joint concentration in Mathematics/Finance.



First International Student to Virtually Intern Abroad



Skyline College is proud to share that Habiba Sultana is the first international student accepted to a global virtual internship program. She is a Pakistani student with a major in Business Management, which is why she will be interning as an events team leader with

AGE UK from February to May 2021. Thanks to the Study Abroad office at Skyline College, Habiba was able to receive this opportunity through their Global Virtual Internship Program. Besides the UK, students could also collaborate with other professionals from Costa Rica and Italy to gain professional skills, improve their resume, and build their professional network. You can learn more about the Virtual Internship Program at smccd.edu/studyabroad.

