
From: SAC Public Affairs
Sent: Tuesday, May 4, 2021 5:45 PM
Subject: President's Post - May 2021



Welcome to the New Interim President's Post Newsletter!

This publication was created to keep all faculty, staff and managers posted on current events taking place at Santa Ana College.

For more information or to contribute to this publication by submitting highlights of your SAC activities for consideration, please contact SAC Public Affairs at publicaffairs@sac.edu.



It's Graduation Time at Angel Stadium!

Santa Ana College (SAC) will host our 105th commencement ceremony in-person at Angel Stadium of Anaheim on Tuesday, June 1st, 2021 (event schedule below). The in-person celebration was inspired by the students' voice of SAC. After conducting extensive evaluations to receive feedback from 2020 and 2021 students and graduates, many students expressed their desire to hold an in-person graduation for the commencement ceremony.

"As a partner, we look forward to this unforgettable event that will be momentous and cherished as a special memory by each one of the deserving graduates," said Courtney Wallace, director of special events for the Angels Stadium of Anaheim. "Angels Stadium is proud to be the venue to host Santa Ana College's commencement this year in line with our continued commitment to working with our community."

All commencement speakers will provide LIVE speeches and announcements, and the commencement committee is working to provide LIVE stream options for all students and their families, faculty and staff to attend the commencement ceremony remotely as an alternative option.

It will be an event to look forward to and remember as we honor and recognize the 2020 and 2021 graduates who have worked hard to complete their degree accomplishments under extraordinary circumstances.

"I am delighted and thankful to see the results of my hard work and dedication celebrated at the upcoming graduation in Angel Stadium," said Sunali Gunawardana, Santa Ana College Student. "I am super excited and ready for all the new beginnings ahead of me after the graduation!"

Gunawardana is receiving her A.A. degree in Child Development with an emphasis in preschool. She plans to complete her bachelor's degree in Education to work as an early childhood educator.

Faculty and graduating students are highly encouraged to attend this wonderful celebration and we kindly request your flexibility to accommodate attendees. *Attendance is optional, but highly encouraged.*

Faculty Commencement Registration Sign-up: <https://permission.click/egZr7/us#/information>

Deadline to sign up is Monday, May 17th

Commencement Schedule

7:30 a.m. - Parking Lot Opens

8:10 a.m. - Graduate Procession Begins

9:00 a.m. - Program Starts

For more information about graduation, please visit the SAC commencement FAQ's website by [CLICKING HERE](#)



Giving Back During A Pandemic, SAC Alumni Fred Flores Finds Fulfillment in Unexpected Ways

As a SAC alum, Fred Flores is honored to come full circle with his alma mater and not only partner with the college to support the community through COVID-19 testing, but be in a position where he can make a meaningful contribution for students. His recent reconnection with his alma mater has led to him jumping in head-first with a \$20,000 donation to the Foundation's *Raising the Game* campaign.

Flores started his academic journey in the community college system, enrolling at Fullerton College and later attending SAC where he was able to transfer to UC Irvine. Flores later began working in Human Resources for the City of Orange, where his love for workforce development took full flight. After trying and failing to start his business three different times, Fred learned that if you fall down again and again, you have to get up each time in order to be successful. He opened North American Staffing Group, Inc. in 2000 and has never looked back.

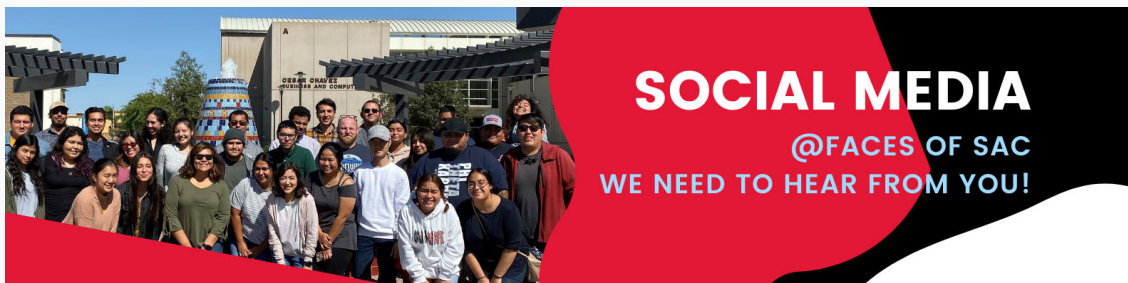
As his business ventures grew, Flores' love for helping people grew as well. He reconnected with SAC

in 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit and the demand to administer testing was in full swing. Fred and Medica Talent Group, Inc. worked with the college to provide COVID-19 testing for more than 36,000 community members. “There was a need to get more people tested for COVID-19, and SAC helped fill that need in the most accommodating way possible. I was also able to work directly with SAC Nursing students and see firsthand the talent and the need that these students have. The ability to partner with my alma mater meant so very much, and it only made sense to give back to a place that has given so much to so many people, including me,” says Flores.

The partnership with SAC is one that Flores did not expect after all these years, but explained that the need to provide as many critical services and opportunities for students and the community during this pandemic was evident. As part of his passion to help others, Flores also helps support vaccination sites in Los Angeles and has created a strong workforce pipeline initiative that strengthen the alliances he is making with community colleges and educational institutions for students to gain employment in and after college during the pandemic.

“Having Fred Flores jump on board to not only partner with us to provide COVID-19 testing for the community, but also make a significant impact through a major gift to the SAC Foundation’s *Raising the Game* campaign, means a great deal to all of us. His donation will help our students reach their academic and career goals, and the college as a whole. Fred truly embodies what we hope for our students. He is a successful, driven businessman who continually strives to do more for others and is always seeking ways to give back,” said Dr. Marilyn Flores, Interim President at Santa Ana College.

As Flores reflects on his background and drive to help others, one thing always remains the same: his true passion to contribute to students’ success by sharing his story and providing meaningful mentorship. “If people are willing to listen, I’m willing to share,” Flores says. “I’m looking forward to strengthening my partnership with SAC and making it a tradition for years to come.”



You are the Face for SAC...Share who you are!

At SAC, we appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that you have provided our students, faculty and respective departments. We need to hear more about who you are as part of our new "Faces of SAC" social media campaign!

Please take some time to share with our SAC community why you care so much about our students. We would love to share it on social media!

Take some time to make a short video of 30 seconds or less to include the following:

- Your name
- Department
- What you do at SAC
- Why you care about students

Below, please find an example of how you can create your video to share on social media!

Submit your video to Kim_Young@sac.edu, with the subject line: Faces of SAC from (your department).



Example of how you can create your "Faces of SAC" video for a social media post

SOCIAL MEDIA CHALLENGE

CANVA TUTORIAL
FOR ALLING ALL
CREATORS!



Calling all Creators of SAC!

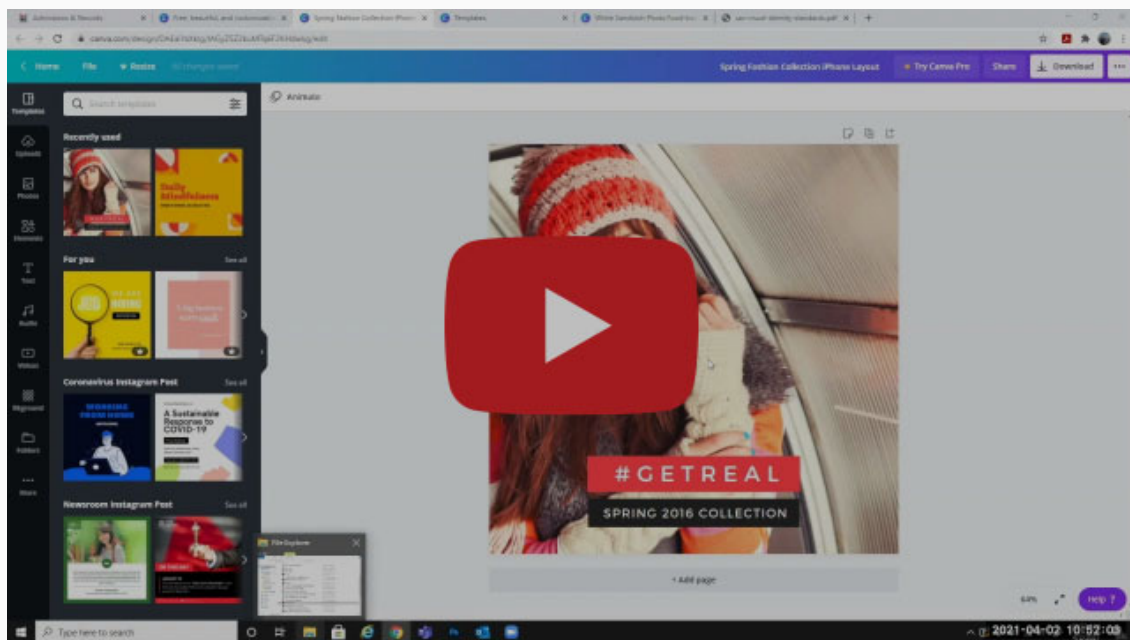
Interested in creating Facebook and Instagram banners for your department on social media? We would love to support you and help create more engaging posts for student, faculty and staff engagement!

Join our challenge!

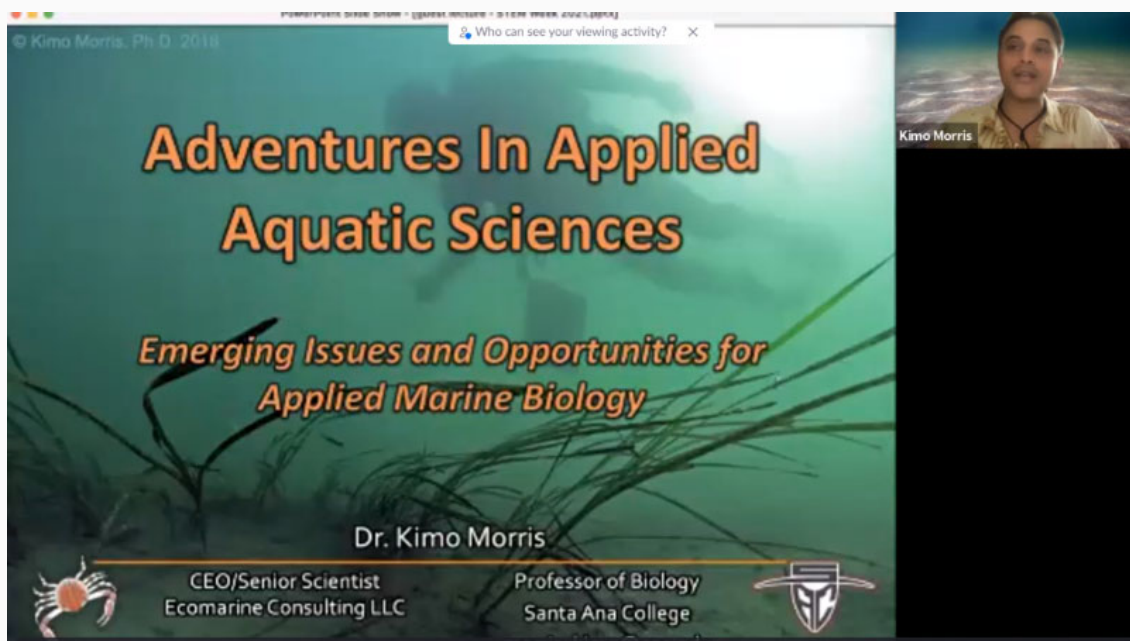
- Create 1-2 weekly social media posts for the month of May with Canva for the Marketing to promote on Facebook and Instagram.
- Departments can post to promote the following:
 - Student engagement information: events, fun resource videos, student success information, aspirations, encouragement, etc.
 - SAC program and activities promotions.
 - Department praise: team achievements and acknowledgements
 - Faces of SAC videos (name, department, what you do at SAC, and why you care about students)
 - Honoring Asian American Heritage Month
 - Social Media Holidays (hashtags and posts)

The department with the most posts per week for four weeks in a row and the most likes and shares overall, will receive **SAC swag and a \$25 Don Bookstore gift cards up to 3 people for winning department.**

Check out our tutorial on how to create your department social media banners below! Game on!



Learn how to create awesome social media banner posts for your department to submit to Marketing! Any questions, contact Young Kim at Kim_Young@sac.edu.



Building Steam in STEM

STEM Exploration Month offered current and prospective students an opportunity to learn more about STEM disciplines and the Computers, Math and Science Pathway at SAC.

Over the month of April, seventeen workshops were held with over 250 participants! Workshops were led by 12 SAC STEM Faculty from Math, Geology/Earth Science, Chemistry, Computer Science, Physics and Biology. Pictured above is Dr. Kimo Morris from Biology sharing about his area of expertise, Applied Aquatic Sciences.

Three workshops were led by SAC STEM Alumni who are pursuing graduate degrees in Engineering Geology, Chemical Engineering and Biology. Two of the three Alumni were involved with MESA while at SAC.

MESA (Math, Engineering and Science Achievement) and Bridge to Engineering offered workshops providing SAC programs an opportunity to recruit STEM students.

Over 150 of the participants completed a workshop evaluation form where participants could comment on their experience at the event as well as provide STEM CAP Success Team some insights into student interest in the STEM Pathway.

- 78.5% of participants agreed that the workshop attended increased their interest in STEM
- 69% of participants were interested in learning more about the STEM Pathway at SAC

Special thanks to the entire STEM Exploration Month Event planning team for all their hard work and dedication in making the event a success!



SAC Celebrates Top 30 Students & SAC Degree Earners

SAC Dual Enrollment began in the fall of 2015 with Santa Ana Unified School District (SAUSD). SAC began offering four SAC college courses and has now increased its course offerings to SAUSD and other unified school districts.

As the growth of this program continues, SAC in partnership with Century High School's Early College Program, celebrated the first 7 students who will earn their AA and/or Certificate of Completion.

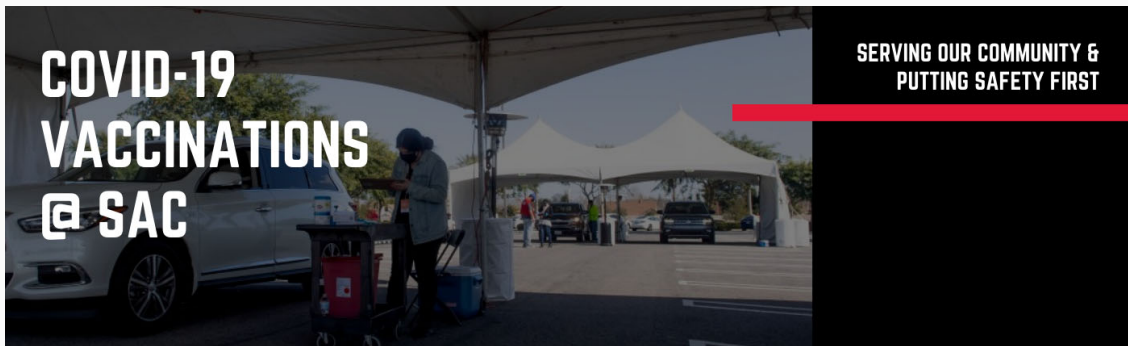
On April 23, 2021, students were celebrated by parents, staff, and counselors for their success. In addition to the seven degree and certificate earners, Century High School also recognized its top 30 students, and among these students more than 90% of them were also dually enrolled students at SAC.

In recognition of their efforts, SAC awarded these students with a celebratory basket, which consisted of SAC gear. "The Early College program with SAC helped me become organized with my schoolwork and manage my time more effectively," said Elena Lopez, Early College program student. "As a result, I will have my A.A. degree from SAC and will continue my studies at UCSD, where I will be majoring in Public Health."

Furthermore, SAUSD Principal Nata Shin stated, "Century High School is pleased to partner with SAC in preparing our students with rigorous coursework and a jump start with their college careers. These are the first of many young alumni and we have the honor and privilege of being able to serve our community."

"CHS and SAC's Early College is leveling the playing field for our students of color by closing the post secondary enrollment and college completion gap, " said Mireya Vasquez, EC counselor.

Congratulations to our Early College students of SAC!



COVID-19 Testing and Vaccinations

COVID-19 Testing

As the Nation continues to fight the pandemic, it's important for all of us to do our part in getting our communities back on track.

Doing our part means getting COVID-19 testing for the safety of our families, colleagues, friends and community. Here at Santa Ana College, we are committed to your safety. We provide FREE rapid COVID-19 testing for all students, faculty and staff.

Effective Monday, April 5th, COVID-19 testing is offered **Monday of each week from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the small gym (W-107)** throughout the spring semester or until further notice. Receive test results as fast as 15 minutes.

If you are experiencing any COVID-19 symptoms, you are encouraged to get tested for your safety and those around you.

Make an appointment today by visiting sac.edu/covidtesting.

COVID-19 Vaccinations

Santa Ana College is serving as a Vaccine Point of Dispensing (POD) site for Orange County handling vaccination appointments for qualified individuals who fall under the requirements.

There is a lot of inaccurate information in our communities about the vaccine, so we encourage you to visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website at [CDC.gov](https://www.cdc.gov) or visit ochealthinfo.com for more information.

ALL SANTA ANA COLLEGE EMPLOYEES: Click the link below to sign up for the COVID-19 Vaccine:
[Santa Ana College Employee COVID-19 Vaccine Sign-Up](#)

Also, vaccination appointments can be made by visiting othena.com and register today!

Wishing you and your families continuous health and wellness always.

