

Spring Kick-Off

Miramar College held its Spring 2021 Kick-Off event on Jan. 27. The three-hour event, attended by 162 at its apex, explored participatory governance at the college as an element of equity. CIA leads Julie Bruno and Helen Benjamin started the program looking at the state's perspective on participatory governance and its 32-year history. Those in attendance spent nearly an hour learning about the Miramar revision story with perspectives from President Lundburg, Dr. Laura Murphy, Sean Young and Julie and Helen. Break out groups were formed to develop a vision statement for participatory governance. After the conclusion of these breakout sessions, attendees gathered to discuss the vision statements formed. Via an online poll, attendees chose two statements from among the more than a dozen choices. Both statements went up for what was to be a final vote, however they tied. It was decided that the entire college would have a chance to choose the winner, not just those who attended the event. To read the two statements and to cast your vote click [here](#).

To watch a recording of the entire Spring Kick-Off event, click on the [link provided](#).



Leadership Changes

As we begin a new year and face the same challenges we endured for much of 2020, here are changes to the Miramar College leadership team for the start 2021:

Ben Gamboa-Acting Vice President of Instruction/ Associate Dean, Strong Workforce Programs



After nearly 3 years serving Miramar College as Associate Dean, Strong Workforce Programs and acting Vice President of Instruction, Ben Gamboa has accepted a similar position at MiraCosta College. Gamboa's last day at Miramar College was January 22, 2021. While managing

Strong Workforce Programs, Gamboa oversaw the growth of Miramar College to the fourth highest performing community college in California for Strong Workforce outcomes such as awards, employment, and wages. As acting Vice President, Gamboa led the instructional division through the ongoing pandemic and a revived institutional focus on equity. "I will miss the feeling of family at Miramar," said Gamboa. "And I would encourage faculty, classified professionals, and managers to persist on the path toward greater equity for our students and the communities Miramar serves." A good-bye send off was held via Zoom on Jan. 20.

Update on Vice President of Instruction Hiring

With Gamboa's departure and the active search for a permanent VPI in progress, President Lundburg will be naming a temporary leader for the instructional division within the next few weeks until a permanent replacement can start after spring.



Jonathan (Jon) Kropp-Acting Associate Dean, Strong Workforce Programs

Currently serving as Regional Director for Advanced Transportation and Logistics hosted at Miramar College in the School of Business, Technical Careers & Workforce Initiatives, Jon Kropp has been named acting Associate Dean, Strong Workforce Programs replacing Ben Gamboa who departs for MiraCosta College. Kropp has been Regional Director (previously Deputy Sector Navigator) since 2017 where he has managed two statewide California Energy Commission grants for over \$4 million dollars to advance alternative fuel vehicle programs. Prior to his role as a Regional Director at Miramar College, Kropp spent 7 years at Grossmont-Cuyamaca Community College District as a grant director/writer overseeing projects related to sustainability, where he was able to bring in over \$7 million in funding for the region to advance its sustainability workforce. Kropp currently sits on the board for the Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium (SCR TTC). He also served on the California Community College's Association for Occupation Education (CCCAOE) for 6 years as both a Regional Vice President and Treasurer on the executive board. Additionally, Kropp served on the Economic Development Program Advisory Committee (EDPAC) for the state Chancellor's office. Kropp holds a bachelors of Business Administration from Gonzaga University and masters of science in leadership & project management from Northeastern University.

Gail Warner-Dean of Public Safety



Gail Warner left her position as Dean of Public Safety after serving in the position for one and a half years. Warner has accepted a similar position at Imperial Valley College in El Centro. Her final day at Miramar College was Dec. 31, 2020. Until a permanent replacement can be found, Dean of Mathematics, Biological, Exercise & Physical Sciences Dr. Linda Woods will also reprise the role as acting Dean of Public Safety.

Miramar College Signs Agreement with Cal-Fire

The Fire/EMT program at San Diego Miramar College has entered into a new 4-year agreement with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL Fire)



to provide instruction, training, facilities, equipment and other services for students to the extent of prescribed curriculum in pre-employment, employment and general studies in CAL Fire. The agreement runs Jan. 1, 2021 through Dec. 31, 2024.

The agreement was approved by the San Diego Community College Board of Directors at its Dec. 17, 2020 meeting.

10News Story

President Lundburg and Miramar College student McKenzie Peay spoke to 10News on Jan. 7 regarding community college enrollment and the resources available to students for the upcoming Spring 2021 semester. Click [here](#) to view the story.



Miramar College Ranks in Top 100 for ROI

Stacker compiled a list of the community colleges with the best return on investment using data from a 2019 study from Georgetown University. During the 2019 Georgetown study, Miramar College ranked 72nd. Stacker leverages thousands of unique data sets and a team of expert researchers, connecting quantitative analysis with objective editorial insights and putting information into context in an easy to navigate format.

Click [here](#) to where the Stacker story has us ranked for 2020.

Gary Smith Published

Associate Professor of Chemistry Gary Smith was recently published in *Acta Crystallographica Section E: Crystallographic Communications* which is the IUCr's open-access structural communications journal. Smith had 4 co-authors who were undergraduate students from his lab at PLNU, 2 co-authors



were crystallographers/faculty at the time from UCSD. For this project, Gary was able to take students to UCSD to learn about crystallography.

View Gary's article [here](#).

QUICK HITS

Romero Appears on KOGO Radio

Political Science Professor Angelo Romero appeared on KOGO radio on January 21 to discuss Joe Biden's first few days in office. Romero was featured on the morning show. The interview is posted on the college's [Facebook page](#) and Twitter feed if you'd like to hear it.

Dr. Carmen Jay Featured in Medium.com



Dr. Carmen Jay was featured in an article about community college communications published by Medium.com. The article was written by Miramar College alum Thaimae Le. You may recall that Le was a Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship winner while at

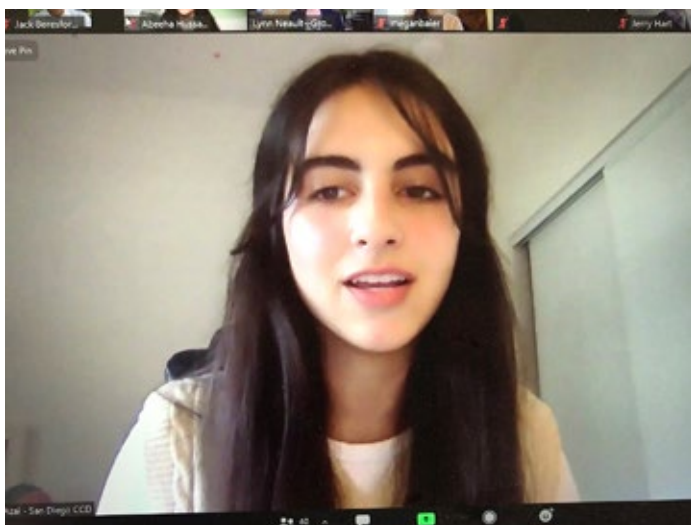
Miramar College. She went on to earn her undergraduate degree from Arizona State. She is now pursuing a masters degree at Northern Arizona University. Read the article [here](#).

Honors Student Published

Honors student Nick Ashworth, who last attended the college in 2019, was published in a peer-reviewed teaching and learning anthropology journal! Below are his published thoughts if students and professors both agree on the attributes that make up a good community college professor? His [piece appeared in scholarship.org](#). Nick now attends UC Irvine.

Legislative Day

ASG President Sanam Azai spoke with California State Senator Toni Atkins staff during the 2021 CC League Annual



Legislative Conference on Jan. 26. Azai told Atkins staff, "Attending community college is the best decision I could have made."

Laptop Check-in/out Event

The Miramar College library resource staff held a drive-through laptop and textbook check-in/out event on Jan. 27. One hundred and six students signed up to receive a laptop loaner for the spring 2021 semester. Another 77 students signed up to borrow textbooks. A second laptop and textbook check-in/out event will be held on Feb. 2.



EVENTS

Want to know what's going on?

Check "all" or search by category in the Master Calendar: Athletics, Civic Center Activities (campus rentals), Community Events, Hourglass Complex, Internal College Activities, Student Activities, Student Services at www.sdmiramar.edu/calendar.

Stay informed...

Committee agendas, minutes and reports can be found at www.sdmiramar.edu/campus/governance. College Executive Committee (CEC) meetings are open to all interested parties.

Spring Semester 2021 Begins

February 1

Welcome Days

February 2-4 & February 9-11 • via Zoom

Laptop Check-in/Out

Feb. 2 • Parking Garage nearest campus police station

- 10am-1pm

Add/Drop/Refund Deadline (16-week primary session)

Feb. 12