
Foreword

Dear Students:

Welcome to Santa Barbara City College! We are so very pleased that you have chosen SBCC as your college of choice to pursue your higher educational journey. As the 2013–2015 co-winner of the prestigious Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, our standards of excellence and commitment to the success of our students are well established and recognized throughout the country. The 2015–2016 academic year will be a busy one and we want to share some highlights with you.

Ensuring Quality and Excellence: Accreditation Team Visit in the Fall

From September 28 to October 1, SBCC will receive a visit for our Reaffirmation of Accreditation, an extremely important status for higher education institutions. Accreditation confirms the college's ability to provide you with the highest standards of excellence in education and services as set forth by the U.S. Department of Education. The designation ensures that we do this in a fiscally responsible manner and that SBCC-awarded degrees and certificates are recognized by other colleges and universities and employers. Accreditation also allows qualified students to receive federal financial aid and makes SBCC eligible for other federal funding and grants. The visiting team that conducts the accreditation site visit will be made up of our colleagues from other institutions, so the process is truly one of peer review. SBCC's last full accreditation visit was in 2009, at which time the college received nine commendations.

From Temporary to Permanent: New West Campus Classroom/Office Building

The college's physical environment is critical to students' abilities to learn and to study. Construction will begin this fall on West Campus for a new Classroom/Office Building next to the Garvin Theatre. This new facility will house approximately 23 state-of-the-art classrooms and both indoor and outdoor areas for students to study and congregate. It is being built to LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design) standards, a green building certification program that recognizes best-in-class building strategies and practices, and will feature many design elements that take advantage of our outstanding natural setting. The new building, together with other facility improvements that have recently taken place, will allow the college to remove a total of 32 aging modular classroom structures. The current estimated completion date is January 2018.

Your Academic Dreams: Strengthening Student Support

Research has shown that six key factors positively impact your success as a student: feeling directed, focused, nurtured, engaged, connected and valued. In the past year with dedicated resources from the state, SBCC has done substantial work toward increasing our ability to offer more student support services to new-to-college and continuing students. These include expanded academic counseling services, more directed educational planning opportunities, enrollment workshops, on-line, in-person and local high school orientations, and English and math assessment exams. The restructured new-to-college orientation, Vaquero Welcome, and convocation are designed to help you feel connected to the college from the onset.

In particular, counselors play an integral role in your educational journey. They are here to assist you in making informed decisions about your academic, career or personal choices. The new student advising model of in-person and online academic, career and personal advising provides students with the flexibility to receive or access advising services at any time. This fall, SBCC will begin offering enhanced services through one-on-one meetings, same-day appointments, drop-in counseling, career and educational planning workshops, online advising, and such programs as askme@sbcc.edu (SBCC's e-mail Counseling URL).

In closing, SBCC recognizes the important role we all assume in helping students find their place at the college. We are confident that you will readily discover and be embraced by our distinction of excellence as you pursue your educational goals.

Warm regards,



Lori Gaskin, Ph.D.
President



Kimberly Monda, Ph.D.
Academic Senate President



Liz Auchincloss
Classified Consultation Group



Mark Broomfield
Advancing Leadership Committee