



SSCCC Connect

May 2025

San Diego

Important Dates

2025 Faculty Leadership Institute

June 12 - 13, 2025
(San Francisco)

Executive Committee

June 13, 2025
(Virtual)

Board of Directors

June 20 - 22, 2025
(San Jose - Region IV)

Other region meetings and events are on our website calendar [here](#).

President's Update

Dear Student Senate Family,

As we end May, there's a quiet shift in the air, one that signals both an ending and a beginning. Across California, community college students are finishing finals, celebrating their college acceptances, and preparing for what comes next. Some will walk across the stage and into the next chapter of their lives. Others will take the summer to work, recharge, or spend time with loved ones. And many are stepping into new leadership roles, ready to carry forward the torch of student advocacy.

At SSSCC, our work doesn't pause with the end of the semester. In fact, it continues with the same purpose and dedication through June 30, as we lay the groundwork for a strong leadership transition starting in July. This month, we hosted our May Board of Directors Meeting in San Diego, alongside an Executive Committee Retreat that brought together both current and incoming Executive officers. The weekend was filled with laughter, planning, mentorship, and deep reflection on the legacy we are leaving behind and the possibilities that lie ahead.

As many of you finish your term strong, I would like to say - you've shown up. Whether by serving on your campus, within your region, or as part of this statewide organization, your impact is felt. From writing resolutions and advocating in Sacramento to organizing on your campus and showing up to national conferences, you have led with courage, heart, and conviction. Wherever your journey takes you, I hope you take the connections you made with you and always be reminded of the potential you have and bring to the table.

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Leadership in June

It's not too late to register for the joint Faculty and Student Leadership Institute held on June 12 - 13, 2025, in San Francisco at the Hyatt Regency. This an excellent opportunity for both students and advisors to learn the basics of governance and leadership. This free event offers advisors a valuable space to gain insights from their faculty colleagues while supporting students in developing their own leadership skills. In addition to the educational content, the Institute provides a unique opportunity for faculty and students to engage in meaningful dialogue, share experiences, and build connections across campuses. Through interactive sessions and collaborative learning, participants will leave better equipped to lead, advocate, and contribute to shared governance within their institutions.

RSVP TODAY!

Just this past month, multiple SSCCC leaders served as primary witnesses for bills during committee hearings:

- VPLA Koruga testified on Assembly Bill (AB) 537 (Ahrens).
- Incoming Legislative Affairs Director II Claire Densmore testified on AB 409 (Arambula).
- Regional Affairs Director V Jerry Reyes testified on Senate Bill (SB) 98 (Pérez).

This direct engagement with policymakers reflects our growing role in shaping the future of higher education in California. As always, we remain committed to ensuring our advocacy is rooted in real student needs and guided by student voice.

In addition, the SSCCC has been prepping to present at two national conferences in May, where we will uplift the voices of California community college students and share how they are shaping educational equity on a national scale. At the National Conference on Race & Ethnicity in Higher Education (NCORE) in New York, we will lead a session titled "Students as Changemakers: LGBTQ+, BIPOC, and Undocumented Advocacy in the Face of Injustice," showcasing how our students are challenging systemic inequities and driving real change. At the Education Writers Association (EWA) National Seminar in St. Louis, Missouri, we will engage directly with journalists to provide historical and political context about community colleges, while offering new narratives, story ideas, and student perspectives to inform and strengthen national reporting on higher education. Through these national platforms, we are reaffirming our commitment to advocacy, representation, and student-led transformation, not just in California but across the country.

Some of you are graduating. Some of you are transferring. And some of you are just beginning your journey at your college or within SSCCC. Wherever you are on your path, I hope you pause to feel proud. You've carried the weight of student voice with grace, and you've helped pave the way for those who will follow. I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the work you've done this year. Your efforts, your voice, and your leadership matter more than you may realize.

As we each begin to transition into new life chapters, I want to remind you that the work continues and so does the hope. Sometimes when life gets tough, it's only because it's preparing you for the incredible things ahead. So keep going. Keep showing up. And keep believing in your purpose and power.

I'll leave you with this reminder:

"Sometimes the dream isn't just yours - it belongs to those who see themselves in you."

Let's finish strong.

Cheers,

Ivan Hernandez

President, Student Senate for California Community Colleges
president@ssccc.org

Federal Advocacy

Have you seen our announcement? The SSCCC is going to Washington! We will hold our inaugural Federal Advocacy event on March 1 - March 4, 2026. This event will extend our work in California to the national level. Each day will be filled with advocacy workshops, leadership development, networking, and opportunities to engage with your legislators on Capitol Hill. Don't miss out on this opportunity!

- Registration: Early Registration - \$490 (Students) | \$515 (Advisors) includes 3-day included in registration
- Hotel: Washington Marriott Georgetown, 1221 22nd Street NW, Washington, DC, 20037-1203, (202) 872-1500
- Room Rate: \$259++ per night

Registration Opens in June!



EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The Student Senate for California Community Colleges (SSCCC) is pleased to announce the incoming Executive Officers for the 2025-26 term. During the General Assembly, student delegates from across the state voted to elect a slate of officers who will lead the organization in advancing student advocacy and representation across California's community colleges.

Please join us in welcoming the 2025-26 Executive Officers:

- **President:** Gerardo "Jerry" Reyes
- **Vice President:** Chris Chandler
- **Vice President of Regional Affairs:** Cody Jarvis
- **Vice President of Legislative Affairs:** Vacant
- **Vice President of Finance:** Federico Caion Demaestri
- **Vice President of Communications:** Brandon Maskey

While delegates voted for a full slate of officers during the General Assembly, two positions have changed due to various circumstances. The runner-up for President has assumed the role, and the Vice President of Legislative Affairs position will be temporarily filled by the Board of Directors until a special election can be held this fall.

Stay tuned for more information on the special election process in September!

Follow us!

Let's build collective power together!

