

ALLAN

January 2025
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HANCOCK

COLLEGE



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT

Dear Community,

Education has the power to transform lives and strengthen our community, and we are proud to share how Allan Hancock College is making this vision a reality. Through every story in this publication, you'll see how Allan Hancock College is creating pathways to opportunity, shaping futures, and changing the odds for students across the Central Coast.

At Hancock, we're deeply committed to expanding access to education and providing the support students need to succeed—because every educational journey matters. This commitment is brought to life through partnerships that allow us to serve our students and local businesses better than ever before. Over the past decade, these partnerships have opened doors, extended opportunities, and strengthened the workforce pipeline essential to our region.

By collaborating closely with local high schools, Hancock has created



programs that enable students to earn college credits and gain real-world skills, even before they graduate. At Santa Maria High School, our faculty work together with high school educators to provide hands-on training in fields like computer networking, culinary arts, and agriculture. With concurrent enrollment programs at Santa Ynez Valley Union High School, Hancock has helped maintain critical career education offerings, ensuring that students are workforce-ready from day one.

Our innovative partnership with Orcutt Academy takes this commitment even further, allowing students to graduate with both a high school diploma and an Associate of Arts degree. Similar programs are now being explored in Lompoc, Santa Maria, and Santa Ynez, extending the message to every student that their education matters.

When higher education institutions come together, we create even greater opportunities for students and the community. Through a collaboration with Santa Barbara City College, we've launched a local radiography degree pathway, ultimately giving students access to high-paying, in-demand healthcare careers that support our community's needs (page 9).

You'll also read about inspiring Hancock students who are proving the value of education every day—from our SkillsUSA competitors gaining national recognition for their technical skills (page 10) to dedicated alumni like David Hernandez, Ed.D., (page 4) who have become mentors. You'll meet

Ora Shrecengost (page 5), an inspiring example that it's never too late to pursue your educational goals, and Associate Professor Chellis Ying Hood (page 3) who brings global perspectives into the classroom. These individuals are proof that Hancock's faculty, staff, and programs are changing the odds for our students and community.

Hancock is here to ensure every student can pursue their goals. Together with our partners, we're making a difference in Northern Santa Barbara County and creating a lasting impact. We hope these stories inspire you and reinforce the belief that education has the power to transform lives.

With Bulldog pride,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin G. Walthers'.

Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Community News

January 2025

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Update on the AHC Bachelor's Degree



Allan Hancock College is poised to revolutionize education on the Central Coast with its first-ever baccalaureate degree: the Bachelor of Science in Applied Professional Studies.

This degree directly addresses regional workforce demands while providing local students with an affordable, accessible pathway to higher education. Having received provisional approval from the California Community Colleges system, Hancock is one step closer to making this vision a reality.*

Designed to meet the needs of both local students and employers, this degree will create a sustainable talent pipeline and help to elevate the local economy. For years, local leaders, educators, and residents have recognized the significant barriers to accessing bachelor's degrees in the region. Many students face geographic and financial constraints that prevent them from attending universities like Cal Poly or UCSB. This new degree offers a solution, making higher education

accessible without requiring students to leave the area or incur overwhelming debt.

The degree program has been carefully designed with input from local employers who have struggled to recruit and retain qualified candidates for white-collar positions such as office management, human resources, sales, and purchasing. The degree is aimed at equipping graduates with the skills needed to fill these critical roles, benefiting both students and employers in the region. By offering a practical, career-focused education, AHC's baccalaureate degree ensures that graduates will be able to enter the workforce with the knowledge and experience needed to contribute immediately to local organizations.

This degree program is not only a solution to workforce challenges but also a response to the educational inequities faced by many students in the region. Northern Santa Barbara County has a large population of first-generation, low-income students who are often excluded

from opportunities at larger, more distant universities. By providing an accessible pathway to a bachelor's degree, Hancock is ensuring that these students can access the same educational opportunities available to those in more metropolitan areas.

As AHC continues to move forward within the approval process, the community's vision of accessible, affordable higher education is closer than ever to becoming a reality. The support for the program has been overwhelming, and with the backing of local employers, educators, and residents, Allan Hancock College is well on its way to creating lasting change in the region's educational landscape.

For the most current information on Hancock's application to offer the Bachelor of Science in Applied Professional Studies, visit hancockcollege.edu/unitedcc



*Note: Information in this article is accurate as of the date of publication but may be subject to change.

Bringing Global Perspectives to the Classroom

Associate Professor Ying Hood's Inspiring Work in Ethnic Studies

With a background spanning writing, journalism, publishing, and screenwriting for Comedy Central, Associate Professor of English Chellis Ying Hood has carved a unique path to Allan Hancock College. Her journey is filled with cultural exploration, a love for literature, and a commitment to sharing insights with her students.

Recently back from a sabbatical, Ying Hood earned a certificate in ethnic studies from San Francisco State University while living for a year in Cuenca, Spain, with her family. This time abroad immersed them in the Spanish language and culture, creating a transformative experience.

Q: Tell us about your career path?

Chellis Ying Hood: My path was definitely nontraditional. I started as a writer, working in Chinese business, publishing, and even movie marketing, as well as journalism and scriptwriting, including for Comedy Central. Teaching didn't come until we moved to the Central Coast, though I have a graduate degree in writing from the University of San Francisco. It now feels like a natural way for me to serve my community.

Q: Your recent work at Hancock includes applying insights from your sabbatical to help develop the ethnic studies program at AHC. What first inspired you to pursue this path?

CYH: I've always been passionate about cultural intersections, especially within the Asian American diaspora. When ethnic studies became a CSU

graduation requirement in 2020, I saw an opportunity to expand Hancock's curriculum. Currently, we offer classes like Chicano studies and African American history, but we're working to add more. I'm excited to teach courses that bring underrepresented voices to light.

Q: How do you see ethnic studies benefiting Hancock students in the long term?

CYH: Ethnic studies amplify voices and stories many students may not have encountered. Now, with California's graduation requirement, students engage with literature and history from diverse communities. This broadens their perspective, helping them understand both their own place in the world and their peers' experiences. I'm especially excited about an introduction to poetry activism class I'm developing—it will offer a powerful experience for students.

Q: How did living abroad in Spain change your perspective on ethnic studies?

CYH: Spain, particularly in the small town where we lived, has a more compartmentalized view of race and ethnicity. It made me appreciate the

more integrated yet complex race relations in the U.S. This experience deepened my understanding of how different countries handle diversity and highlighted the work still needed globally.

Q: What advice would you give to students or faculty who are interested in engaging with ethnic studies?

CYH: Be patient with yourself. Whether it's learning a new language or understanding new perspectives, ethnic studies require continuous effort. There's no secret other than putting in the time and being open to making mistakes. We all have something to learn, which makes education exciting.

From Student to Mentor

David Hernandez, Ed.D., Inspires the Next Generation at Hancock



Dr. David Hernandez's journey to his role as a career counselor at Allan Hancock College reflects his dedication to student success and his belief in the transformative power of education.

Growing up on the Central Coast, Dr. Hernandez's early life involved frequent moves and over a dozen schools, even a stint in Hawaii. When he returned to Santa Maria and enrolled at Hancock, he found his passion for learning. Balancing school with work at Home Depot and the responsibilities of fatherhood, Hernandez discovered the resilience needed to support both his education and family.

"There were a lot of moving pieces then," Dr. Hernandez recalls. "I had to get a real job. I was now a father with family depending on me, and it really allowed me to understand what goes on in a person's household."

After graduating from Hancock, Hernandez started as an eligibility worker for the Department of Social Services, helping families facing financial hardships. "Sometimes, just being there to listen makes

all the difference," he reflects. This role was a turning point, leading Hernandez to realize the importance of emotional support alongside practical guidance.

Driven to make an impact, Hernandez pursued a doctoral degree from Northcentral University, focusing his research on the counseling needs of Career Education (CE) students. Through his dissertation, he explored the financial, emotional, and practical challenges CE students face. "It's worth understanding their struggles," he explains, "from paying utilities to managing insecurities about finances."

Now, with more than 15 years as a counselor, Dr. Hernandez continues his personal approach. "I think of students almost like family members, like cousins or nieces and nephews," he says. "When you view them at that level, you want to help them just as you would a family member."

One story that stands out to him is of a student who turned his life around through the college's auto body and automotive programs. "As a single father, he was able to get off Section 8 housing. I remember him

saying, 'It felt so good to take my daughter back-to-school shopping with my own money,'" Hernandez shares with pride.

"I think this is the best job," Hernandez says. "Every day, you're helping someone, and knowing I was able to guide or encourage them when they needed it most, that's what's truly remarkable."

His advice for students who feel nervous or out of place? "Find a faculty member, club, peer, or staff member to connect with, because you belong here. Everyone here values community, and you are the community."



Never Too Late

Ora Shrecengost's Inspiring Journey as Hancock's Student Trustee

Ora Shrecengost's path to becoming Allan Hancock College's student trustee illustrates that it's never too late to pursue your dreams. Her journey from a small New Mexico town to a respected leadership role at Hancock serves as a powerful reminder that education is a lifelong endeavor.

Years after graduating high school, Shrecengost relocated to California and felt a strong pull toward Hancock. Unsure about affording college, she was inspired to take the leap after seeing a TV ad for the Human Services program.

At Hancock, Shrecengost immersed herself in campus life, volunteering for the Food Share Because We Care program. "Working with Food Share through Alpha Gamma Sigma connected me to my campus family. It was about building friendships and ensuring everyone was okay," she explains.

Encouraged by her peers, Shrecengost ran for student government, starting as director of student advocacy and advancing to student trustee. As a non-traditional student, she offers a unique perspective: "You're never too old to learn. Being older can help younger students mature and become the best versions of themselves." In her role as student trustee, she aims to inspire students of all ages and foster connections among them.

One of Shrecengost's main goals is to increase student involvement, particularly among those who may feel disconnected, as she once did. "I want to encourage more students to participate and create a welcoming environment for older, non-traditional students," she says, envisioning a space where younger and older students can support and learn from each other.

Drawing from her own experiences, Shrecengost offers advice to current and future students: "If you get stuck, revisit your notes and reflect on how you overcame past challenges. Use that strength to keep moving forward. There are many helpful resources available here."

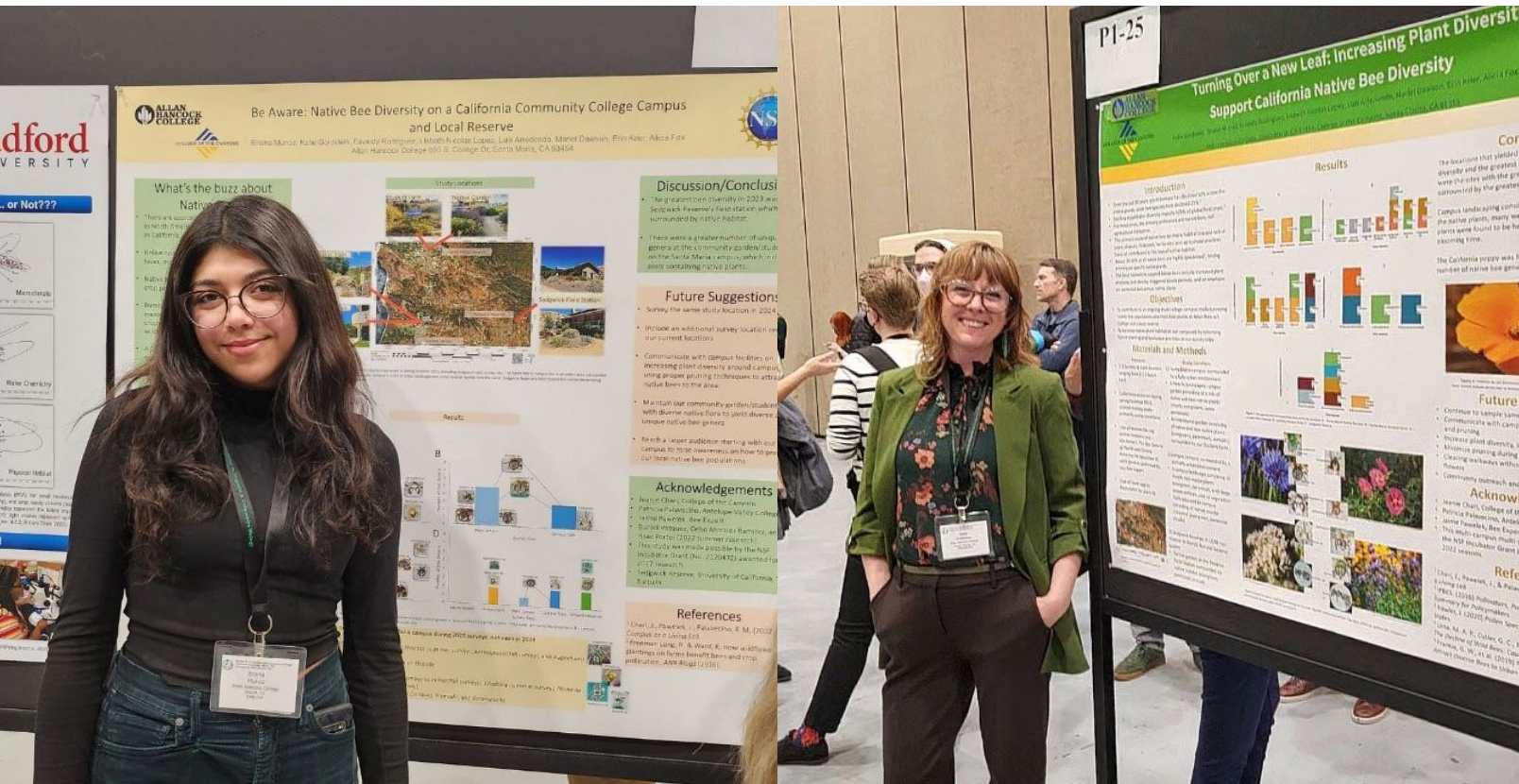
Her leadership style emphasizes kindness and community. "Little acts of kindness go a long way. Sometimes, all someone needs is acknowledgment and reassurance that they are valued." For Shrecengost, Hancock is more than just an institution; it's a place where students of all ages and backgrounds can find belonging and opportunities.

"Education knows no age," she emphasizes. "Whatever you learn, no one can take it from you."

Shrecengost's journey serves as a reminder that it's never too late to rewrite your story, chase your dreams, and make a difference.



Hancock Students Present Nationally on Bee Research



Two Allan Hancock College students, Brianna Munoz Gonzalez and Katherine Goldstein, recently took center stage at the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology (SICB) conference in Seattle, WA. Their research on native plants and bee populations attracted interest from scientists across the country.

Presenting at SICB, a leading biology organization, offered Gonzalez and Goldstein a valuable opportunity to share insights from a multi-college study, funded by the National Science Foundation. Their work examined the relationships between native bees and their host plants—a vital topic in today's ecological research.

"Being asked to present in front of other researchers was a

humbling and empowering experience," said Goldstein, a recipient of Hancock's \$10k Marian Scholarship. "Every single researcher we spoke to was interested in what we were doing, took us seriously, and saw the importance and value of our work."

For Gonzalez, networking with professionals at the conference opened doors and expanded her perspective.

"It was incredible to meet so many researchers from different fields and to hear their ideas," she said. "I came away with new perspectives, advice, and even inspiration for where I might take my own studies next."

This achievement reflects Hancock's commitment to STEM success. Through the college's MESA/STEM Academic Success Center on the Santa Maria campus,

students like Gonzalez and Goldstein can receive research support, scholarships, and career guidance. The center also offers a collaborative space for studying, tutoring, and networking with peers, helping students build confidence and prepare for future STEM careers.

For more about Allan Hancock College's MESA/STEM programs, visit hancockcollege.edu/mesa.





Empowering the Community

Gloria Soto's Journey from Hancock to Civic Leadership



Santa Maria City Councilmember Gloria Soto, an Allan Hancock College alumna, is living proof that education can open doors. From her time as a student to her role as a public servant, Soto has been driven by a commitment to her community and a belief in the transformative power of education.

Growing up in Santa Maria, Soto faced challenges that many Hancock students experience today. Yet, she credits Hancock as the driving force that helped her succeed. "Hancock supported me in achieving my educational goals as someone who was an English learner and faced economic disparities," she says. "The college was there every step of the

way, ensuring I had the support I needed to succeed."

Soto's journey at Hancock laid the foundation for her career in public service, where she is now a vocal advocate for education's role in empowering individuals and uplifting communities. "Hancock's mission of educating students is pivotal to our community because it helps bridge the gap between higher education and opportunities," she notes.

One of Soto's core memories of Hancock is the guidance from her counselor, Yvonne Teniente-Cuello, whose support helped her transfer to a four-year

university and complete her degree. "Thanks to her guidance, I was able to succeed despite the challenges I faced," she reflects.

Today, Soto continues to inspire others to pursue their education, highlighting Hancock as a valuable resource for Santa Maria's youth. "Young people should care about their education because it opens doors to opportunities they may not even know exist," Soto says.

As an alumna who has walked the path from Hancock to city leadership, Soto is proud of the college's impact. "Hancock graduates succeed in the workforce," she affirms. "I know because I'm one of them."





Launch Your Healthcare Career Locally with Hancock's Pre-Radiography Program

Allan Hancock College is paving the way to healthcare careers with its new Pre-Radiography Certificate of Achievement program, developed in partnership with Santa Barbara City College (SBCC).

This unique pathway enables Hancock students to complete the certificate locally before advancing to SBCC's Associate of Science Degree in Radiography.

The best part? All coursework, from the foundational certificate to degree requirements, can be completed right here in Northern Santa Barbara County.

For those drawn to understanding the human body and helping healthcare providers diagnose medical conditions, radiology offers an exciting and stable career path. Hancock's Pre-Radiography Certificate prepares students for a variety of roles, including radiologic technologists and MRI specialists, in settings like hospitals, clinics, and imaging centers.

This program supports Hancock's mission to provide relevant, local training and address the growing need for skilled workers in the U.S. healthcare sector.

"Healthcare careers are in demand like never before, and radiography offers a rewarding and stable career path," said Hancock Academic Affairs Dean Tom Lamica. "This partnership with SBCC ensures that our students are prepared for meaningful careers with high growth potential in the healthcare field."

The program's core curriculum includes courses in anatomy, physiology, and medical terminology, essential foundations for radiographic diagnostic work. Graduates from Hancock will benefit from priority placement when completing their clinical practicum at health facilities in Northern Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties, further supporting a local, hands-on learning experience.

With middle-skill jobs representing the largest portion of the U.S. labor market, career education programs like Hancock's Pre-Radiography Certificate are integral to meeting the high demand for healthcare professionals. For those ready to enter a vital and ever-growing field, Hancock offers an excellent foundation and a clear path to a rewarding future.

To learn more about the Pre-Radiography Certificate of Achievement program, visit hancockcollege.edu/pathways/health-sciences/pre-radiography.php



Winning Skills, Bright Futures

The SkillsUSA Advantage



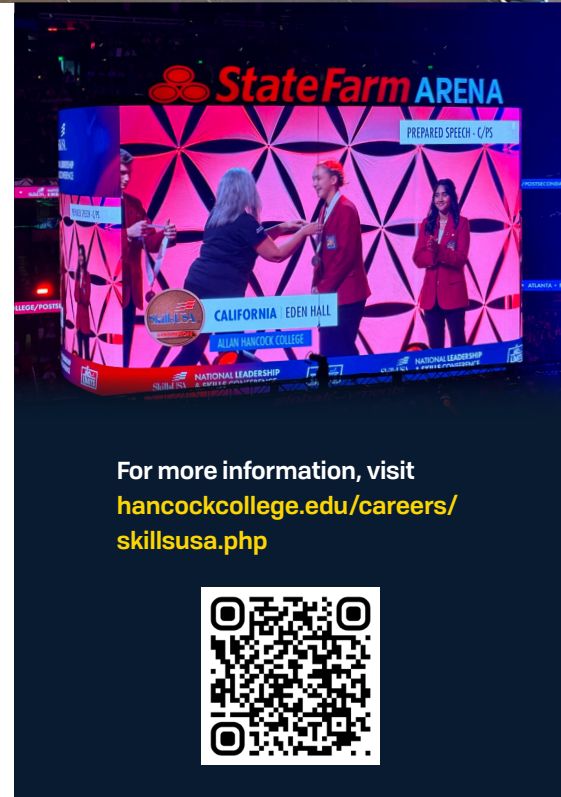
SkillsUSA is a transformative program that equips Career Technical Education (CTE) students with real-world skills, career confidence, and connections to industry professionals. At Allan Hancock College, SkillsUSA advisors play a key role in helping students develop technical, personal, and workplace skills.

With support from local chapter advisors, students participate in competitions that simulate real-life tasks and scenarios, providing valuable networking opportunities and opening doors to internships and jobs. As advisor Jenny Schroeder explains, “Our local chapter advisors work with students on teaching and building skills to prepare them for competitions and careers.” Competitions are based on essential industry skills, preparing students for actual workplace demands.

Last year, 28 out of 33 Hancock students earned medals at the statewide competition — a testament to their hard work and dedication. Schroeder emphasized, “The students are 100 percent responsible for their success as a result of their passion and hard work.”

For students like Jovany Cardenas, SkillsUSA has been a pivotal experience. “It led me to become more social and confident with my skills,” Jovany says, encouraging others to “do it and test yourself so you can further improve and showcase your skills.”

SkillsUSA provides students with invaluable experience and a pathway to becoming career-ready professionals ready to enter the workforce.



For more information, visit hancockcollege.edu/careers/skillsusa.php



Igniting Opportunity

The Hancock Women's Fire Camp Inspires Future Female Firefighters



In a bold effort to inspire the next generation of female firefighters, the inaugural Women's Fire Camp brought aspiring young women together for a hands-on, empowering experience at Allan Hancock College's Public Safety Training Complex in Lompoc. Held in August, the camp offered immersive training and mentorship in an industry where women remain vastly underrepresented.

Fire Technology Coordinator John Ceceña explained that a review of the fire technology program revealed a need for stronger outreach to female candidates, as only three of the 29 cadets in a recent class were women. "We hope the Women's Fire Camp will boost

confidence and open up opportunities for women that they may not have known were available," Ceceña said.

Participants rotated through six skill stations—ropes and knots, ladders, forcible entry, search and rescue, hose handling, and firefighter fitness—experiencing real-life scenarios to inspire their interest in firefighting. Local fire agencies hosted a job fair, connecting participants with career opportunities in public safety.

Fire Technology Program Technician J.C. Miller encouraged young women to consider careers in fire service, noting, "They will work with peers and veterans in the field who can offer life-

changing advice on how to succeed in an otherwise male-dominated industry."

The college plans to make the Women's Fire Camp an annual event, with the next camp slated for August 2025.

For more information on the Hancock Fire Technology program, visit hancockcollege.edu/pathways/public-services/firetech.php





Breaking Barriers

Hancock Extends Promise Program to Two Years



This year, Allan Hancock College is deepening its commitment to local students by expanding its Hancock Promise program, offering two full years of tuition-free education to recent high school graduates.

Launched in 2018, the Hancock Promise has already covered first-year tuition for thousands of local students. Now, through the expanded “HP2” initiative, students can complete two years at Hancock tuition-free starting in fall 2024.

“We’ve been proud to cover first-year tuition for our local students for five years,” said Hancock Superintendent/President Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D. “With the two-year Promise, we’re giving students even greater support as they pursue their degrees, helping them stay on track and graduate debt-free.”

The expanded program maintains the original qualifications: students must graduate from a high school within the district and enroll full-time at Hancock in the summer or fall after graduation.

“This program is about making sure every student in our community has access to college, regardless of their financial situation,” said Walthers. “It’s an investment not just in their futures, but in the future of the entire region.”

Backed by community donations that led to a \$10 million endowment, the Promise has served over 8,300 students since its launch.

For students like Samantha Martinez, a political science graduate who transferred to UCLA, the program has been life-changing. “The Hancock Promise allowed

me to focus on my education without worrying about debt,” said Martinez. “It gave me the freedom to enjoy my academic journey and succeed without financial stress. I’m truly grateful for that.”

In fall 2024, a total of 1,324 students benefited from the Hancock Promise, while another 258 were awarded a second year of free tuition.

To learn more about the Hancock Promise, visit hancockcollege.edu/promise/index.php



Music is in the air at Boyd Concert Hall



Less than a year after opening its doors, Hancock's Boyd Concert Hall has quickly established itself as a premier destination for music lovers in Northern Santa Barbara County.

Located within the college's expansive 88,000-square-foot Fine Arts Complex, Boyd Concert Hall serves as both a learning space for Hancock's talented music students and a venue for world-renowned musicians, thanks in part to a new collaboration with Festival Mozaic.

In July 2024, Boyd Concert Hall received a Steinway Model D concert piano—valued at \$175,000 and widely regarded as the instrument of choice for top pianists. This world-class addition, funded by the estate of the late Patricia "Patty" Boyd through the Allan Hancock College Foundation, enhances every performance at the

venue. "Thanks to funding left by Ms. Boyd, we are thrilled to bring this truly remarkable instrument to our campus, where it will be used by students and faculty for years to come," said Jon Hooten, Ph.D., executive director of college advancement and the AHC Foundation.

The Steinway made its debut during a special concert featuring cellist Alexander Hersh and pianist Susan Grace, performing pieces by Debussy, Webern, and others. Both artists were part of Festival Mozaic's "Midday Mini-Concert" series, which has brought world-class musicians like Grammy-nominated pianist Michael Novacek to the venue. Festival Mozaic Music Director Scott Yoo also held a free masterclass at Boyd Concert Hall in February 2024, coaching selected Allan Hancock College music students.

"Teaching masterclasses to young musicians is crucial. It's not just about skills but about instilling passion and a love for classical music," said Yoo. "Through live performance experiences, they gain essential stage presence that allows them to build confidence and grow in any career they may pursue."

In addition to these distinguished guest performances, Boyd Concert Hall hosts concerts and recitals by Hancock's jazz band, symphonic band, and choir. The venue has also become the new home for Dimensions in Dance, an annual showcase featuring students from the college's dance program.

To view upcoming performances at Boyd Concert Hall and purchase tickets, visit hancockcollege.edu/pathways/creative-arts/performances.php



Hancock Foundation Revamps President's Circle to Increase Impact

Last fall, the Allan Hancock College Foundation launched an expanded President's Circle Campaign to increase its support for students and college initiatives. For nearly 20 years, the President's Circle has connected community members and businesses, who donated \$1,000 annually to help students facing financial challenges, celebrate student achievements, and fund priorities identified by the college president.

Now, this impact-driven program has broadened, allowing donations of any amount from the community. "What used to be a club for a select few will now be an annual campaign that everyone can participate in at any level," said Jon Hooten, Ph.D., executive director of the foundation. With this new approach, the foundation aims to increase its capacity to support students and address vital needs across the college.

THE PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE CAMPAIGN

To make a gift to the President's Circle Campaign, please visit
AHCFoundation.org/give



Community Generosity Fuels Record Scholarship Awards at Hancock

Since 1977, the Allan Hancock College Foundation has awarded scholarships annually to students advancing at Hancock or transferring to universities. This year marked a record-breaking achievement, with the Foundation awarding \$582,000 in scholarships to 345 students—\$50,000 more than last year and the largest total in its history.

"The generosity of our community accounts for most of the growth in the program," said AHC Foundation Advancement Officer Natalie Rucobo, who oversees the scholarship program. Each year, a committee of 14 faculty, staff,

and foundation board members selects recipients from hundreds of applications.

The foundation's top honor, the \$10,000 Marian Hancock Scholarship, was awarded to Calista Freeland, the 60th recipient of this prestigious scholarship. A Hancock graduate with an associate degree in English, Freeland is now studying at California State University, Long Beach, with hopes of becoming an English teacher. "I want to create a positive, encouraging environment for young people that so many students do not have at home," she said.



Starting a Scholarship is Easy

Want to start your own scholarship? For as little as \$500 per year (that's \$42 per month), you can support a deserving student continuing their studies at Hancock or transferring to another institution. Scholarships can be created in memory of a loved one, to support a particular field of study, or to support students in particular situations (such

as those who are first in their families to attend college, who are single parents, or who have overcome unique challenges).

Scholarships can also be endowed with a minimum contribution of \$10,000. The foundation draws no more than five percent each year from the corpus to support students.

THE 2024 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

For more information, contact the foundation at 805-925-2004 or email AHCFoundation@hancockcollege.edu.

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

Community Donors Empower Students at Allan Hancock College

Avila Beach resident Elle Lois Madson and San Luis Obispo's Jayma Newland share a dedication to Allan Hancock College and a vision for a future where education remains accessible and transformative. Both have chosen to support the college through their estate plans, creating a legacy that will extend educational opportunities to future students.

For Madson, a lifelong educator who taught everything from kindergarten through adult education, giving back to community colleges

feels personal.

Her journey began at Long Beach City College, where scholarships and financial

support from donors helped shape

her future. "Those who funded the scholarships I benefited from changed my life," she said. "Community college was one of the best educations I had. It offers a great equity of education and dedicated teachers who want to give back to students."



Having been involved with the Allan Hancock College Foundation for years, Madson saw firsthand the impact of the foundation's work. She has committed to donating the proceeds from her home sale to the Hancock Promise, which supports local students with two years of tuition-free education. "I loved my students, so this is my way to give back some of the joy I had," she shared. "It made a lot of sense to me, and it will go to help Hancock's students."

Newland, a Hancock alumna and former counselor, also found that her time at Hancock set her on a successful path. Her professors and the support she received at Hancock inspired her educational journey, and she wants future students to have the same opportunity. "When I think about the college, I think about the amazing professors I had—nothing equaled the kind of support I got here," she said. "Education is a way to help everyone succeed." Newland's estate gift will benefit the Hancock Promise and reflects her belief in the importance of education for all students.



As a proponent of charitable estate planning, Newland encourages others to consider the impact they can have on future generations. "Don't wait to decide where you want your estate to go. Put it in writing," she advised.

"Including Hancock felt like the right decision. It was going to do exactly what I wanted—to help contribute to the greater good."

Both Madson and Newland see their planned gifts as a means to keep Hancock's doors open for students who rely on the opportunities that community colleges provide. "Community colleges change lives forever," Madson remarked. Newland echoed this sentiment, saying, "It's a fantastic place that offers students a great opportunity."

The impact of their contributions will live on through the Foundation's endowment, ensuring that their generosity supports students in perpetuity. Through their gifts, Madson and Newland are preserving a legacy of opportunity and the promise of a brighter future for generations of students.

CONSIDER A LEGACY GIFT:

Do you have assets in your estate such as real estate, stock, IRAs, or insurance policies that could benefit students some day?

Contact the AHC Foundation at 805-925-2004 to discuss your options.



New Facilities at Hancock Open



New Pride Center



During fall 2024, Allan Hancock College celebrated the grand opening of two vital spaces designed to support student wellness and inclusivity for years to come.

In early October, the college opened its Pride Center, a 500-square-foot safe space for LGBTQ students and allies, located within the Mechanics Bank Student Center at the Santa Maria campus. The Pride Center offers students

a welcoming environment where they can connect, access mental health resources, participate in workshops, and receive basic needs support.

"We have definitely come a long way, and this Pride Center will support our community in the distance forward we still have yet to go," said retired Hancock faculty member Roger DeLaurier, a founding member of the college's first

LGBTQ Club. "I hope no queer student will ever again feel invisible or unsafe on campus. Here, they will feel the welcome and support that this Center represents."

In November, the college also celebrated the opening of its new 4,246-square-foot Student Health Center. This facility houses the college's Student Health Services in a warm, non-judgmental environment to support students'

Doors to Wellness and Inclusivity



New Student Health Center



physical and mental well-being, enabling them to focus on academic success. Hancock Student Health Services offers nursing care, minor injury treatment, reproductive health, and referrals to specialized providers. For mental health needs, students have access to up to 10 free counseling sessions per semester, addressing issues like crisis intervention, stress management, and substance

use. Additional wellness services include weekly acupuncture, massage therapy, and resources for guided meditation, as well as online wellness tools.

"Hancock Student Health Services is proud to have this new facility to provide quality, compassionate, and non-judgmental care and support to students," said Hancock Student Health Services Coordinator Alex de Jounge.

Alongside health services, the Student Health Center also houses a Basic Needs Food Pantry supported by Hancock's Basic Needs program, offering crucial resources to help students thrive both inside and outside the classroom.

To learn more about Hancock's Student Health Services, visit hancockcollege.edu/studenthealth/index.php



2023-24

Bulldog Athletics: A Year in Review



Dear Bulldog Nation,

Each year, it's an honor to share the incredible accomplishments of Allan Hancock College's Athletic department with our community. Reflecting on the 2023-24 season, I'm proud of our athletes' remarkable achievements and resilience as they navigated challenges behind the scenes.

This past season marked the revival of our men's and women's cross country programs under the leadership of new Head Coach Steven Youngblood. The women's team made history, earning a sixth-place finish at the 3C2A State Championship — their first appearance at this level since 1992 — while Youngblood and Assistant Coach Kenna Wolter received Coach of the Year honors at the conference level.

The women's soccer team continued its impressive run, capturing its second Western State Conference title and first outright crown in program history. Sophomore midfielder Cynthia Ramirez was named WSC Offensive Player of the Year and earned a scholarship to CSU Bakersfield, joining the ranks of our Bulldog alumni competing at the NCAA Division I level.

Our football team, led by Coach Rick Aguilar, shared the National Northern League title for a second consecutive year while earning the coveted honor to host the postseason James H. Cobb Strawberry Bowl. Standout freshman Caden Harris was named Offensive Player of the Year. Several players earned Division I scholarships at the conclusion of the season, displaying a testament to the team's success and continued program development.

Coach Danah Smith, another first-year head coach, led the women's basketball team to a second-place league finish before advancing to the second round of the playoffs and closing the season with a 17-13 record. Men's basketball also made a strong playoff run after reaching the Regional Finals. That program saw five athletes move on to four-year institutions, including standout Noah Haaland who has joined the Gonzaga University roster.

The baseball team secured a playoff bid after a thrilling win over Moorpark College, advancing to the Southern California Regional Tournament for a second straight year. Nearly 15 players continued on to four-year institutions and will represent the Hancock alumni group at the NCAA and NAIA levels.



Women’s swimming reached new heights, finishing 12th out of 35 teams at the 3C2A State Championship, with Santa Maria’s own Noemi Bravo-Guzman earning a state title in the 200-YD backstroke — only the second state title on record for Hancock women’s swimming.

Additionally, student-athlete Johnathan Riley represented AHC at the 3C2A Men’s Golf State Championship, where he earned an eighth-place finish before advancing his career to the next level at Arizona Christian University. Women’s cross country star Itandehui Olea headlined the track program with a runner-up finish in the 10k at the state championship, achieving a program-best time of 36:37.95 and earning All-American status.

We’re immensely proud to see a growing number of student-athletes graduate and transfer to four-year institutions. Our athletes carry full class loads while working jobs to cover expenses, all without the benefit of athletic scholarships. Their dedication is a testament to their drive and the support they receive from faculty and staff.

These achievements are just the beginning of what our athletic teams accomplish each season. We invite you to follow along by attending a game, visiting our website at ahcbulldogs.com, or following us on social media (@ahcbulldogs) for all things Bulldogs throughout the year.

With Bulldog pride,

Kim Ensing
Athletic Director



Hancock is Happening!

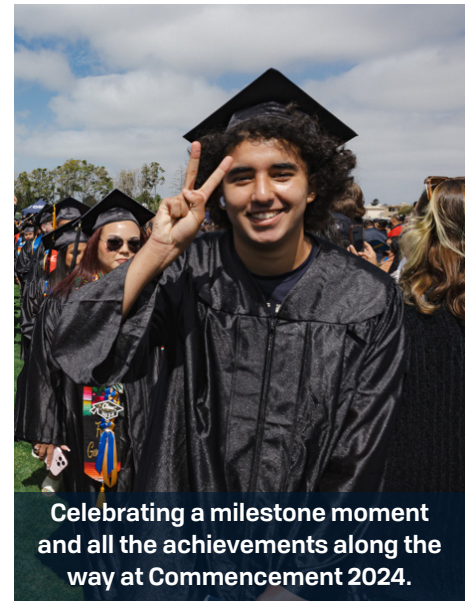
Allan Hancock College is a lively and vibrant institution. There's always something new for students to see or do!



Posing with purpose while exploring career paths and launching futures at Career Exploration Day.



Racing to the top for fun, laughter, and a shot at victory at one of Hancock's many club events.



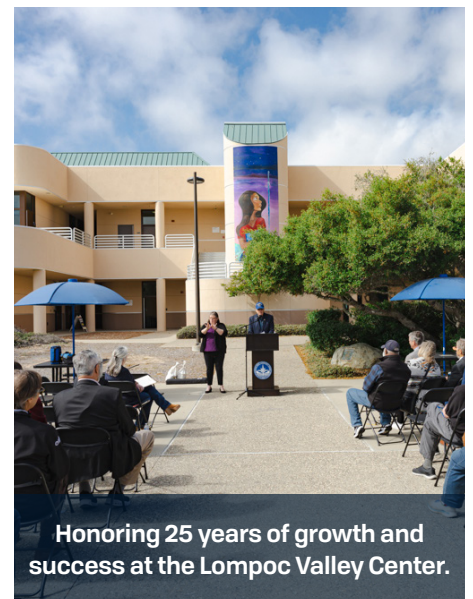
Celebrating a milestone moment and all the achievements along the way at Commencement 2024.



Dancing to victory! AHC's dance program wins in style.



Getting rodeo-ready and mastering the lasso at Hancock Hello!



Honoring 25 years of growth and success at the Lompoc Valley Center.



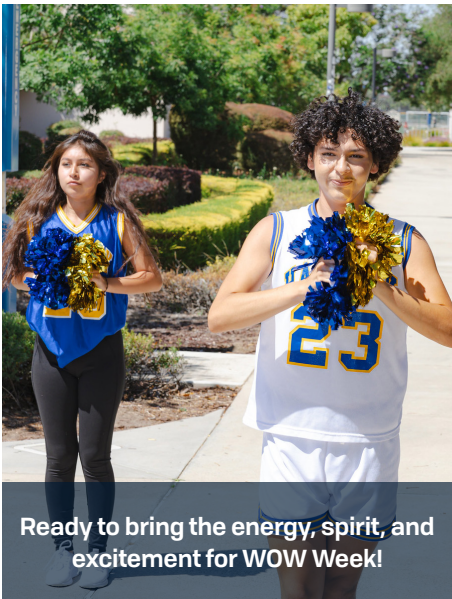
Celebrating joy, dedication, and well-earned achievements at the 2024 Noncredit Recognition Ceremony.



Future heroes take pride in their accomplishments at a CORE Custody Academy Graduation.



Smiling bright, celebrating hard work, and reaching new heights at the 2024 Transfer Stars celebration.



Ready to bring the energy, spirit, and excitement for WOW Week!



Discussing college degrees in an engaging conversation with author Karin Klein.



Sipping and savoring, celebrating the craft of winemaking at the Allan Hancock College Wine Festival.



Creating peace, sharing wisdom, and celebrating tradition at the Ann Foxworthy Gallery with Tibetan Buddhist Monks from the Ngari Institute.



Inspiring growth and celebrating resilience with comedian Ernie G during the Hispanic Heritage Celebration.



Taste of Home brought students together to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal on campus.

Allan Hancock College
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Santa Maria, CA 93454-6399

Periodical

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Residential Customer**

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Register now for spring 2025 classes

All students register online at www.hancockcollege.edu via myHancock. This system allows for 24/7 access.

Registration continues through January 20.

Registration with an add code begins the first scheduled day of each class.

Classes begin January 21.

For a complete look at classes offered this spring, including course descriptions, prerequisites and other class details, visit www.hancockcollege.edu and click *Search Classes* on the home page.

Fees

All California residents pay \$46 per credit, plus other minimal fees.

Financial aid is available. Visit www.hancockcollege.edu/finaid or call the Financial Aid office at 805-922-6966 ext. 3200.

Need help with registration?

Visit www.hancockcollege.edu/apply/register.php or call 805-922-6966 ext. 3248. Assistance is available by phone Monday-Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Check out spring class offerings in...

Accounting (SM/LVC/O)
Administration of Justice (SM/LVC/O)
Agriculture (SM)
American Sign Language (SM/LVC)
Anthropology (SM/O)
Apprenticeship Training
Architecture (SM/O)
Art (SM/LVC/O)
Astronomy (SM/LVC)
Athletic Training (SM)
Auto Body Technology (SM)
Automotive Technology (SM)
Biology (SM/LVC/O)
Business (SM/LVC/O)
Chemistry (SM/LVC/O)
Communications (SM/LVC/O)
Computer Business Information Systems (SM/LVC/O)
Computer Business Office Technology (O)
Computer Science (SM/O)
Cooperative Work Experience
Culinary Arts (SM/O)
Dance (SM/O)
Dental Assisting (SM)
Drama (SM/O)
Early Childhood Studies (SM/LVC/O)
Economics (SM/LVC/O)
Education (SM)
Electronics (SM)
Emergency Medical Services (SM/LVC/O)
EMS Paramedic (LVC)
Engineering (SM)
Engineering Technology (SM)
English (SM/LVC/O)
English Language Development (SM)
Entrepreneurship (O)
Environmental Technology (SM/LVC/O)
Ethnic Studies (SM/O)
Family and Consumer Science (SM/O)
Fashion (SM)
Film (SM/LVC/O)
Fire Technology (LVC/O)
Food Science and Nutrition (SM/O)
Geography (SM/O)
Geology (SM/O)
Global Studies (O)
Graphics (SM)
Health Education (SM/LVC/O)
History/Humanities (SM/LVC/O)
Human Services (SM/O)
Law Enforcement Training (LVC)
Leadership (SM)
LGBT Studies (SM)
Library Skills (O)
Machining & Manufacturing Technology (SM)
Mathematics (SM/LVC/O)
Medical Assisting (SM)
Multimedia Arts & Communication (SM)
Music (SM/LVC/O)
Nursing (SM/LVC)
Paralegal (SM/O)
Personal Development (SM/LVC/O)
Philosophy (SM/O)
Photography (SM/LVC/O)
Physical Education (SM/LVC/O)
Intercollegiate Athletics (SM)
Physical Science (SM)
Physics (SM/LVC)
Political Science (SM/LVC/O)
Psychology (SM/LVC/O)
Reading (SM)
Real Estate (O)
Recreation (SM)
Science Technology Engineering Math (O)
Sociology (SM/LVC/O)
Spanish (SM/O)
Theatre (SM)
Veterinary Technology (SM)
Viticulture & Enology (SM/SYV/O)
Welding Technology (SM)
Wildland Fire Technology (LVC/O)
SM = Santa Maria
LVC = Lompoc Valley Center
SY = Santa Ynez Valley Center
O = Online

Your Education Matters

REGISTER
NOW!



[HancockCollege.edu/spring](http:// HancockCollege.edu/spring)



Allan Hancock College fosters an educational culture that values equity and diversity and engages students in an inclusive learning environment. We offer pathways that encourage our student population to achieve personal, career, and academic goals through coursework leading to skills building, certificates, associate degrees, and transfer.

The Allan Hancock Joint Community College District ("District") is committed to equal opportunity in educational programs, employment and all access to institutional programs and activities. The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its services, classes, and programs without regard to national origin, immigration status, religion, age, gender identity, gender expression, race, ethnicity, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, or military and veteran status of any person, or because they are perceived to have one or more of the foregoing characteristics, or based on association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics.