

# ALLAN HANCOCK

January 2022  
[www.hancockcollege.edu](http://www.hancockcollege.edu)

*College*



**Always  
Essential**

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Community,

Over the past year, I've witnessed countless acts of service, selflessness, and dedication at Allan Hancock College. The second pandemic year brought challenging days, weeks, and months to our faculty, staff, and students. And yet, the trying times proved a clear truth: Allan Hancock College is always essential.

In 2021, continuing a college career felt nearly impossible nationwide. Daily unknowns and anxieties, health scares, and financial insecurity - many Hancock students questioned if they could do it. But our Bulldogs exhibited an unbreakable spirit. The 100th graduating class juggled the demands of work, family, and their personal lives, all while learning new technologies to take remote classes. With the help of Hancock's dedicated faculty and staff, as well as a wide array of virtual support services and programs, nearly 1,500 students graduated.

Hancock faculty and staff, also dealing with the effects of the pandemic, rose to each and every challenge, always putting students first. "You got this AHC" became the resonating rally cry. Our instructors and counselors were just a phone call away; our ITS department provided free laptops, Wi-Fi, and hot-spots; and our Student Support Services volunteered week after week to provide students with food, financial aid, and childcare.

Serving Northern Santa Barbara County in its greatest time of need became a top priority. We hosted months of vaccination clinics and inoculated one third of our community and held Food Share Because We Care, a drive-through free food distribution service. Graduates from our nursing, paramedic, firefighting, and law enforcement programs immediately went to work in local hospitals and public safety agencies to protect you and your loved ones. And we launched Promise Plus to provide all full-time students with two years of fee-free education.

Hancock students are poised for greatness, and our employees affirm that we are ready to take on any challenge. With 100 years under our belt, Allan Hancock College is always essential.

I hope you enjoy reading about the college's triumphs within the pages of this edition of Community News.

With Bulldog pride,

Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.



## Community News

January 2022

### CONTENTS

A Message From the Superintendent/President .....	1
Feeding the Community .....	2
Hancock Stays Healthy .....	3 & 4
Always Essential .....	5 & 6
Student Excellence .....	7 & 8
Commencement .....	9-10
Alum Success .....	11
Transfer Stars .....	12
A Message From the Foundation .....	13 & 14
Centennial Celebration .....	15
Promise Program .....	16
College Accomplishments .....	17 & 18
Equity, Inclusion & Diversity .....	19
Athletics .....	20
Hancock in the News .....	21-22



# Feeding the Community

**Providing food to Northern Santa Barbara County is a fulfilling endeavor at Allan Hancock College.**

Since partnering with the Foodbank of Santa Barbara County in 2015, Allan Hancock College is on a mission to bring healthy, fresh food to those who need it most. Initially, the effort ran once per week for students, but when the pandemic hit in March of 2020, AHC became an emergency food distribution site. The initiative expanded to three days per week.

“We had no idea how long it would last. Initially we thought maybe a few weeks, and then weeks turned into months. We never imagined that 16 months later we’d still be doing this,” said Hancock Outreach Director Stephanie Robb, who oversees the Food Share Because We Care program.

To date, college staff and student volunteers have spent a combined total

of 25,230 hours feeding more than 122,400 households, equating to more than 535,300 individuals

“Our whole purpose as your community college is to serve and strengthen this community,” said Hancock Outreach Specialist Maggie Moreton.

**For more information about Food Share Because We Care, visit [hancockcollege.edu/foodshare](http://hancockcollege.edu/foodshare).**



# Hancock Stays Healthy

**Leading into the fall of 2021, student voices rang clear: return to in-person classes. To make it happen, Hancock jumped into action to ensure a safe and healthy return to campus for students, employees, and the community.**

Following guidance from federal, state, and county health officials, Hancock instituted a robust system of safety protocols and incentives to create safe on-campus spaces. In the fall of 2021, thousands of students returned to in-person classes with access to critical support to continue their educational journey.

“Hancock is committed to protecting the health and wellbeing of students, faculty, staff, administrators, and the community

we serve, as well as maintaining higher education access and attainment for our students,” said Hancock Superintendent/President Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D.

On Aug. 10, the Allan Hancock College Board of Trustees voted to approve a COVID-19 vaccination and testing requirement for students, faculty, and staff. The board action also affirmed the college’s current indoor mask mandate. Both the measures were key steps to ensuring a safe return in fall. With the

board’s direction, the college instituted on-campus health screenings, free COVID-19 testing at its Santa Maria campus and Lompoc Valley Center, and created a “Vax Check” online tool for students and staff to quickly and easily upload their proof of vaccination or test results.

As the college prepared students to meet the vaccination and testing requirements for fall, it also heavily encouraged them to get vaccinated. The college hosted



multiple pop-up vaccination clinics and distributed \$250 Visa gift cards to fully-vaccinated students as part of a robust vaccine incentive program. All told, the college distributed 6,860 gift cards to students in the fall of 2021.

“People can get a little extra money to help their families,” said Hancock student Evan Beard. “And the vaccine will help keep us all safe in the long run.”

Hancock’s multipronged approach paid off. At press time, a total of 5,521 Hancock students taking in-person classes are

fully vaccinated, accounting for 78 percent of all onsite fall students.

“I just think it’s important that we protect one another,” said Hancock student Shirley Grace.

**To learn more about Hancock’s COVID-19 vaccination and testing protocols, and to find COVID-19 information and resources for students, visit [hancockcollege.edu/covid](https://hancockcollege.edu/covid).**



# Always Essential

**As the country navigates a path toward a post-COVID-19 world, Hancock is educating essential workers who aid the recovery by delivering goods, providing critical medical care, ensuring public safety, and more.**

Continuing to train the next generation of first responders remains a priority for programs at Hancock's Public Safety Training Complex. Since the pandemic began, the complex continues to turn out highly-trained graduates from its police, fire, corrections, and emergency medical services (EMS) academies. Over the summer of 2021, those programs graduated a total of 77 students, who are now putting their skills to use to make our communities safer.

"This is the core of what we do as a community college. We proudly train our public servants," said Hancock Superintendent/President Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D. "These are the people who you want to be there to help you on your very worst day."

**"Nursing is a work of heart. It's very rewarding to help other people. Especially those who are sick."**

Not to be outdone, Hancock's nursing program also remained dedicated to equipping its students and graduates with the necessary skills to serve on the front lines of keeping their communities safe and healthy. In 2021, the college's registered nursing (RN) and licensed vocational nursing (LVN) programs graduated more than 60 newly-minted

nurses, many of whom now work in area hospitals.

"Nursing is a work of heart," said LVN student Brendalyn

Consul. "It's very rewarding to help other people. Especially those who are sick."

Public safety isn't the only area where Hancock is training and graduating essential workers through its Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.

Through the fall of 2021, the college's CTE programs continued to educate students seeking careers in essential industries. That includes the college's agricultural science and culinary arts and management programs, which prepare students to work in the essential sectors of food production and service respectively. Students in Hancock's computer business and information systems (CBIS) program seek careers that create functional and reliable technology for businesses. Meanwhile, the college's machining and manufacturing program is training future workers skilled in fabricating a wide range of necessary equipment for industry and technology.

In addition to the college's CTE programs, AHC Community Education offers two free career development certification



programs. These prepare students to earn professional licenses in two essential sectors. The first, a commercial trucking program, allows students to take the written and driving tests needed to earn a California Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Learner's Permit. The second program teaches students how to open and run a licensed family childcare business, covering topics such as state

licensing procedures, safety protocols, marketing techniques, and more.

"These programs will prepare students by giving them the knowledge and skills to earn the requisite licenses, and find employment in today's job market," said Community Education Vocational Education Coordinator Joan Bergstrom Smith.

Hancock is proud of its students and graduates who provide essential services to their communities.

**To explore your career options and learn more about the college's programs, visit Hancock's Guided Pathways website at [hancockcollege.edu/pathways](http://hancockcollege.edu/pathways).**



# Rafael Valdovinos is Changing the Odds

In the spring of 2020, Rafael Valdovinos walked across the commencement stage and graduated from Hancock as a member of the college's centennial class.

The moment capped off a year of amazing achievements for Valdovinos, a Santa Maria resident, father, and first-generation college graduate. At the time he graduated, Valdovinos had a 3.9 GPA, was a member of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honors Society, received the AHC Foundation's prestigious Marian Hancock Scholarship, and was the first Hancock student ever selected as a national semi-finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship.

Valdovinos' path to success, however, was not without its challenges and obstacles. Previous attempts to attend college were sidelined by struggles with gang culture, addiction, and incarceration. But in 2017, inspired by his daughter, Valdovinos enrolled in Hancock and began his journey to academic success.

"Over the last decade, I have been restored through recovery, education, and relationships. I had to learn how to become an advocate for myself, and when I did,

Hancock was there to offer me the support I needed to succeed."

With the help of the college's Basic Needs Office, Men's Support Group, Beyond Incarceration Greater Education (B.I.G.E.) Club, and Beyond Barriers/Rising Scholars, Valdovinos became a full-time Hancock student. He graduated with an associate degree in psychology and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in social work, while concurrently finishing another associate degree in addiction studies and a certificate in co-occurring disorders. His involvement with the B.I.G.E. Club continues, and today he works as a peer mentor and tutor for the Beyond Barriers Re-entry Grant.

"My goal is to share my own experience to empower those impacted by systemic barriers, mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and incarceration," he said.

In addition to his significant achievements on campus, Valdovinos also dedicated time to serving his community, sharing his story with at-risk youth at the Los Prietos Boys Camp and with incarcerated individuals at the Federal Correctional Institution in Lompoc.

"My involvement has taught me that leadership consists of being a support to empower people to achieve their potential," said Valdovinos. "Leadership

is about empathy and empowerment. Foundational principles of which are positive regard, vulnerability, communication, and compassion."

As he looks forward to a future of continued service and achievement, Valdovinos

is quick to thank those who helped him change his odds.

"I humbly credit my success to my advocates, family, and friends."

**"I had to learn how to become an advocate for myself, and when I did, Hancock was there to offer me the support I needed to succeed."**



# SkillsUSA Students Bring Home the Gold



## Allan Hancock College's SkillsUSA program not only prepares students for future careers, but produces national champions as well.

Hancock's SkillsUSA students shined during a national competition in the summer of 2021, with two students winning first place national championship awards.

Of the 20 Hancock students who competed in the 57th Annual National SkillsUSA Competition, nine earned gold, silver, or bronze medals across three separate competition categories while going up against more than 3,700 other students.

"We are so incredibly proud of our champions and all our SkillsUSA students who worked hard and competed at the

national level," said Hancock SkillsUSA Advisor Adelina Pozos. "They were great representatives of the college and the SkillsUSA program."

**"We just felt so proud of not only ourselves, but also proud of our advisors for helping us get to the national level."**

This year, Hancock students Francisco Avila Estevez and Keila Lopez Villa took home the title of national SkillsUSA champions for their first-place win in the public service category. The team's competition entry showcased their work within the college's Emergency Food Share Program, which provided free bagged food to 450,000 community members in Santa Maria and Lompoc during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I exploded with applause when our team received the gold medal at the national competition. It was an amazing moment, and one I will not be forgetting any time soon," said Avila Estevez. "Overall, we just felt so proud of not only ourselves, but also proud of our advisors for helping us get to the national level. They did a marvelous job helping us reach our goals this year."

In addition to Avila Estevez and Lopez Villa's first-place win, Hancock students Anthony Morin, David Gonzalez Bautista, Edgar Ramirez, and Lynette Espinoza took home a silver medal in the entrepreneurship category. Students Evelyn Garcia Paz, Kevin Conde Leon, and Mari Lopez took home bronze medals in the crime scene investigation category. Hancock students Lisette Guzman, Ana Rosas Pacheco, Shanterria Allen, Cristiana Flores, and Jennifer Oseguera all placed within the top 10 in their respective competition categories, which included criminal justice administration, job skills demonstration, extemporaneous speaking, welding, and automotive refinishing.

SkillsUSA is a national organization created to teach students the technical skills required for employment in career technical educational fields, as well as the soft skills required in any modern workplace. The organization is a partnership of students, teachers, and industry representatives that work together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

Visit [skillsusa.org](https://skillsusa.org) for more information.





# The Centennial Class of 2021

**Allan Hancock College celebrated the achievements of its 100th graduating class with a special drive-through commencement ceremony at the college's Santa Maria campus.**

More than 500 students from Hancock's centennial class participated in the safe and socially distanced livestreamed ceremony and were able to drive onto campus and walk across a stage to receive their diploma.

The ceremony marked 100 years of changing the odds for students and the community.

"As we look past the end of the pandemic, we see hope on the horizon. We have

the opportunity to better define who we want to be as community members," said Hancock Superintendent/President Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D., who addressed the graduates. "As the graduating class of 2021, I implore you to use the skills you've learned at Allan Hancock College to be a force for change, honesty, and integrity. Be someone who values others and who uses their education to promote the greater good."



## 100th Graduating Class



**1,498**

Graduates



**2,742**

Degrees



**850**

Certificates



**1,000+**

Cars



**500+**

Participants





## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

# Aaron Cribbs

**It's not always easy turning your passion into a career. But with a little help from Hancock, that's exactly what Central Coast graphic designer and artist Aaron Cribbs did.**

For Cribbs, who owns and runs AC Vintage Designs in Orcutt, his interest in art and design started long before he enrolled in Hancock. He began doodling on a chalkboard on the kitchen wall in his childhood home, and as his interest grew, he began taking graphic design classes in high school.

"I fell in love with drawing, and was drawing all the time," said Cribbs. "I got really interested in lettering, and I liked old, vintage-style designs."

After graduating from Ernest Righetti High School, Cribbs enrolled in Hancock's graphic design program. He credits his instructors for not only helping him develop his talent but showing him how

to turn artistic skills into a career.

"My teachers were incredibly supportive. They really encouraged me to become a better artist and designer. I would not be where I am now without Hancock."

Cribbs graduated from Hancock in 2006 and began a successful career in graphic design. In 2012, he realized his dream of opening his own graphic design and sign shop, AC Vintage. The shop is one of the only in the area that still creates hand-painted signs, which adorn businesses across the Central Coast.

In 2020, Cribbs was asked to use the skills he learned at Hancock to design and paint a special ceramic sculpture to celebrate the college's 100th anniversary. For his contribution to the Centennial Vessel project, Cribbs researched the college's history, choosing images that he hand-painted onto the large ceramic vessel, which now sits on display outside the Ann Foxworthy Gallery at Hancock's Santa Maria campus.

"It was really an honor to work on that project. I was excited to be able to give back to the college, and I'm very proud that it's now on display for people to enjoy."

Cribbs is one of thousands of Hancock graduates who found their calling at AHC.

**To learn more about the college's programs and explore your path to success, visit Hancock's Guided Pathways website at [hancockcollege.edu/pathways](https://hancockcollege.edu/pathways).**



# Start Here, Transfer Anywhere!

**In May, the college’s University Transfer Center honored its 2021 transferring graduates with a drive-through celebration ceremony. Decorated cars, honking horns, and cheers from passenger seats made for a festive celebration.**

Hancock transfers an estimated 300-500 students to universities each year, with many choosing to continue their education at public and private four-colleges both in and out-of-state. This year, the college once again maintained

the highest acceptance rate to Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, with 62 percent of Hancock applicants gaining acceptance to the university.

In addition to celebrating its transfer graduates, the college also hosted

a similar drive-through celebration for more than 100 graduates from Hancock’s EOPS/CARE/NextUp & CalWORKs, College Achievement Now (CAN)-TRIO, Puente, and Men’s Support Group programs. The programs provide important support and services for various student groups, including first-generation college students, students in foster care, single-parent students, and others.

# Hancock Foundation Supports Students

Hancock Promise Endowment  
**\$5,530,360**



## Local Community Commits \$850,000 to Hancock Promise in 2021

Despite the social and economic turbulence of 2021, Northern Santa Barbara County was generous in its support of Promise students at Allan Hancock College.

In 2021, more than 350 total individuals, businesses, and community groups contributed more than \$850,000 to

the Hancock Promise campaign, which pushed the campaign total to more than \$5.5 million since 2018 toward a final goal of a permanent \$10 million fund.

Thanks in large part to Hancock's Centennial Celebration, the Foundation surpassed the halfway mark of the campaign, raising more than \$5.35 million toward the Promise fund. The celebration generated an unprecedented \$290,000 in sponsorships benefitting the Hancock Promise, including a surprise \$50,000 pledge from the Murphy Foundation.

During the Centennial Celebration on May 22, the Foundation also announced a \$350,000 commitment from the Centennial Circle—a group of more than 20 community members who made gifts of \$10,000 or more.

The Hancock Promise ensures that local young people can enter college the fall

following their high school graduation without the burden of tuition or fees during their first year. Donations to the Promise are an enduring investment in the community, providing critical financial assistance for students during their foundational first year while setting them up for success for further education or entering the workforce.

The Hancock Promise is already changing the odds in our community. Thanks to the Promise, more than 50 percent of all new high school graduates in Northern Santa Barbara County attend Hancock following graduation. Nearly half of these students are from financially disadvantaged families and first in their family to attend college.

### The Power of a Promise

Diego developed a passion for the Santa Barbara County wine region from his father—an immigrant and vineyard worker—who taught him how to grow wine grapes in the Santa Ynez Valley. The Hancock Promise opened doors to new opportunities and helped Diego begin his journey studying viticulture and enology.

“You are helping students like me reach their goals without having to worry about paying for college.”

— Diego Buenrostro

Santa Ynez High School  
Class of 2020



# PepsiCo Pours \$125,000 into Promise Fund



The Allan Hancock College Foundation received a generous \$125,000 commitment from PepsiCo, Inc. to support the Hancock Promise campaign. The gift is one of the top five largest commitments to the campaign.

“Community support of the Hancock Promise is as important as ever,” said Hancock Superintendent/President

Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D. “As things get back to normal, supporting our students through the Promise is an important tool we have to change the odds for our students and our community. So, I’m thankful for the partnership with Pepsi in this work.”

“Part of PepsiCo’s mission is to create meaningful opportunities to work, gain new skills, and build successful careers,” said PepsiCo Key Account Manager Sherry Luiz. “Supporting the Hancock Promise helps us do just that by investing in the next generation as they explore possible career paths and chase their dreams.

# Local Students Receive More Than \$550,000 in Scholarships

The Allan Hancock College Foundation set a record in 2021 for total scholarship dollars awarded to Hancock students—thanks to the generosity of individuals and businesses in the community.

In the fall of 2021, more than 350 students received more than \$561,000 in scholarship dollars from the Foundation—an increase of more than \$60,000 to 50 more students over last year’s totals.

“Year after year, our scholarship program provides critical support and affirmation for Hancock students as they continue their studies,” said Jon Hooten, executive director of the foundation. “Thank you to all our donors—longtime supporters and new donors alike—who invest in the potential

of these students and the future of our community.”

Each year, the Foundation selects one outstanding individual to receive the prestigious Marian Hancock Scholarship, a \$10,000 award named in memory of Captain G. Allan Hancock’s wife. This year, the Scholarship Committee named Santa Maria resident Rafael Valdovinos as the 56th recipient of the Marian Hancock Scholarship.

Learn more about Valdovinos’ story on page 7.

**To make a contribution to the Hancock Promise, visit [AHCFoundation.org/give](https://AHCFoundation.org/give).**

## About the AHC Foundation

The Allan Hancock College Foundation operates for the advancement of education by raising funds and building community support to meet the needs of the college in the areas of scholarships, capital/infrastructure projects, and program support.

The Foundation is a resource for thousands of Allan Hancock College students since 1977, whether a student plans to transfer to a four-year university or college, is seeking training for the workforce, or is looking for personal enrichment.

Led by professional administrators and guided by a volunteer board of directors, the Foundation raises funds to change lives through education. Its efforts reach every aspect of the college’s mission, including support for student scholarships, programs, projects, and faculty and staff development. Each gift has moved the college forward.

## 2021-2022 FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- |                   |                          |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Susan Appel       | Robert Manning           |
| Jim Bray          | Sam Orozco               |
| Michael Carroll   | Glenn Owen               |
| Lee-Volker Cox    | Steve Popkin             |
| Maggi Daane       | Greg Pensa               |
| Judith Dale       | Cynthia Schur            |
| Nichole Dechaine  | Eric Smith               |
| J. Edwin Fields   | Kevin Walthers           |
| Erica Jane Flores | Marcela Viveros          |
| Judy Frost        |                          |
| Mike Gibson       | <b>DIRECTORS</b>         |
| George Grama      | <b>EMERITI</b>           |
| Tim Harrington    | Ron Thatcher             |
| Peggy Hesse       | Doris Lahr (in memoriam) |
| Jeffrey Hall      |                          |
| Debra Hood        |                          |
| Mario Juarez      |                          |
| Robert Klug       |                          |
| Larry Lahr        |                          |



# Cheers to 100 Years!

**In 2021, Allan Hancock College turned 100 years old. With modified events, the college celebrated its centennial.**

The celebrations kicked off with a livestreamed time capsule reveal. Buried 25 years ago, the capsule contained a trove of items connected to the college's history, including photos of the campus, printed brochures and other promotional materials for the college's clubs and programs, as well as memorabilia from the college's 75th anniversary.

Making an artistic mark on campus, a Centennial Vessel now sits on the Santa Maria campus in the Academic Resource

Center. Created by artist Scott Semple and painted by college alum and artist Aaron Cribbs, the large-scale ceramic vessel is painted with images that tell the story of our college and community.

The centennial year capped off with a livestreamed gala where the Allan Hancock College Foundation celebrated raising \$290,000 during the centennial year, pushing funding for the college's popular Hancock Promise program to more than \$5.4 million.

The college also celebrated the recognition of the Centennial Class of Distinguished Alumni, created a gallery of photos through the decades, and collected memories shared of Bulldog days gone by.

**Visit the Centennial website at [hancockcollege.edu/100](https://hancockcollege.edu/100) for a look back at Hancock's 100th celebration.**





# Expanding the Promise

**In 2018, the Hancock Promise began breaking down financial barriers to higher education for local students. In 2021, the college went even further.**

Our promise is unique – the college begins with Bulldog Bound, creating a college-going culture among fifth-through eighth-grade students and their families. The program introduces them to the college campus, programs, and services available.

Outreach continues to local high school students, and today more than 5,000 have come to the college as Promise students. Our Promise students receive a year of free tuition plus early class registration, personalized counseling, and more.

The pandemic dealt huge setbacks to many of our students – in fall 2021, the college began offering a path back to stability.

It's called the Hancock Promise Plus.

The Promise Plus provides financial access to higher education at Allan Hancock College for all students who complete the Promise Plus steps, regardless of residency. The purpose? To support our students and invest in our community. Allan Hancock College graduates, on average, earn an additional \$9,200 per year upon finishing their degrees. They are also more likely to engage in positive civic activity and less likely to need public assistance.

The community has shown tremendous support for the Promise and Promise Plus. In November 2021, the Allan Hancock College Foundation received a generous \$125,000 donation from PepsiCo, Inc., to support the Hancock Promise \$10M campaign. The funding brings the Promise fund to more than

\$5.5 million, more than halfway to the goal of being able to fund the program in perpetuity.



**For more information on the Promise Plus, visit [hancockcollege.edu/promiseplus](http://hancockcollege.edu/promiseplus)**

**For more information on the Hancock Promise, visit [hancockcollege.edu/promise](http://hancockcollege.edu/promise)**

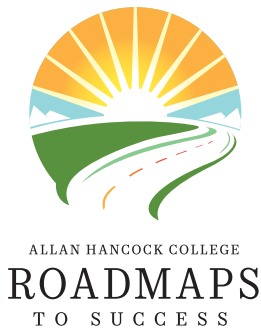
# College Accomplishments

Over the past year, college faculty, staff, administrators, and students pulled together to support student success, celebrate milestones, and foster connection. Here's a look back at some of Hancock's essential efforts.



The Associated Student Body Government returned to meeting in person and providing events open to the entire campus community.

The college's student clubs now provide an active student environment by having more than 30 clubs active on campus.



Whether students are interested in earning an associate degree, transferring to a four-year university, or training for a career – the college's new Guided Pathways website provides an opportunity to explore areas of interest.

Available 24/7 from anywhere in the U.S., TimelyCare now offers free virtual medical and mental health services to students through the college Health Center.



In fall 2020, the college expanded its auto-awarding of degrees and certificates. The goal is to automatically award all students with degrees and certificates they qualify for, as opposed to students going through the process to apply to graduate.

PCPA returned to live theater and welcomed back patrons with shows like *Together: A Musical Journey*, *Lady Day at Emerson's Bar and Grill*, and *The Secret Garden*.



The new MESA/STEM Academic Success Center opened its doors to support students studying in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.



Bulldog Bound provided opportunities to area elementary school students in socially distanced ways, including the filming of eight workshops that were distributed virtually.

The Information Technology Services department partnered with library staff to provide students with hundreds of Chromebooks.



The Public Affairs and Communications department and the Hancock Foundation led the charge on the college's centennial celebration planning. That included creating a comprehensive calendar of events, developing logos and branding, and outreach and in-reach communications.



The Career Readiness Academy saw 102 students participate in four cohorts – a 75 percent increase from 2019-20.

All Hancock students are now eligible to ride the SMAT bus for free through the new Bulldog Go! program.



Men's and women's sports returned to the playing fields as Bulldog athletic programs adjusted to new COVID-19 safety procedures.

The college outreach team participated in more than 150 community outreach events, ranging from Downtown Fridays in Santa Maria to career fairs around the district.



A total of 201 students graduated from the Public Safety Training Complex programs of fire technology, emergency medical services, and law enforcement.



Developed to promote student use of campus and community resources, the new Basic Needs Initiative also supports student persistence and graduation rates.



The in-person Launch to College event returned in spring 2021, with nearly 200 Hancock Promise students in attendance. A virtual event was also held.

## DID YOU KNOW?



For each dollar of public money invested in AHC, **the community sees a return of \$1.30, a 3.3 percent annual rate of return.**



An independent economic impact study revealed that **Hancock graduates realize a \$9,200 bump in earnings and an overall 19 percent rate of return for their education.** With graduating classes exceeding 1,000 students over the last five years, that is an additional \$9.2 million added to the local economy each year — a cumulative impact of more than \$50 million in wages.



The price-to-earnings premium developed by non-partisan think-tank Third Way calculated that a **Hancock graduate will recover their educational investment in only 15 months.**



# Celebrating Diversity

**The richly diverse students and staff make Hancock what it is today. In 2021, the college expanded efforts to foster an environment of equity and inclusion as students returned for in-person fall classes.**

In June, the college celebrated a historic milestone, observing Juneteenth as an official, federally recognized holiday. Juneteenth is a celebration recognizing the day in 1865 (two years after the Emancipation Proclamation) when enslaved persons in Texas were alerted to their status as free men.

The college began offering a new course on LGBT studies in the fall of 2021. The class, "LGBT 101" is an introductory, university-transferable course that examines a wide range of issues related to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. Hancock also currently offers an Associate in Arts for Transfer Degree in LGBTQ studies. Students can learn more by visiting the college LGBTQ resources page at [hancockcollege.edu/lgbtq](http://hancockcollege.edu/lgbtq).

Hancock's Black Student Union, created by students in 2020 in response to the death of George Floyd, continued to meet through the summer and fall of 2021. The BSU continues to meet weekly and is open to all students.

With a return to in-person classes, the college also returned to celebrating its diverse campus community with in-person and virtual events. In October, the college's EOPS program hosted a Beyond Expectations and Stereotypes lecture series, inviting students to listen to speakers from underrepresented communities and diverse backgrounds who work in the legal field, including Hancock graduate Judge Von Nguyn Deorian. Later that same month, Hancock's Associated Student Body Government hosted an

in-person celebration for Hispanic Heritage Month featuring food, mariachi music, and a keynote speech by Alma Hernandez, district representative for Santa Barbara County Third District Supervisor Joan Hartmann. The college also hosted virtual events and workshops in recognition of National Disability Employment Awareness Month, National Undocumented Student Week, and National First-Generation College Student Month.

As the college looks forward to spring, the employees, faculty, staff, and administrators on Hancock's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force continue their important work of reviewing the college's policies and programs and making recommendations to strengthen the educational opportunity of all students.

**To learn more about diversity, equity, and inclusion at Hancock, visit [hancockcollege.edu/hr/diversity](http://hancockcollege.edu/hr/diversity).**

# Caring for Bulldog Athletes



While many community college athletic programs did not resume activities in spring 2021, our AHC student-athletes were able to return to competition in a safe environment thanks to the work of our sports medicine team. Prior to returning, our crew formed a COVID-19 response task force, which established protocols outlining a safe return-to-play plan. This included monitoring the status of COVID test results for all athletes, contact tracing, monitoring athlete quarantine/isolation status after exposure, and preparing and conducting educational presentations on COVID-19 vaccination information.

The time and energy our sports medicine team puts into ensuring our student athletes remain healthy, safe, and able to compete is astonishing. Munoz, George, and Sharp continue to meet ever-changing challenges head-on with integrity, consistency, and poise.

I hope you enjoy attending Bulldog athletic competitions and when you do, give a little extra cheer for our sports medicine team.

Take care and GO BULLDOGS!

Sincerely,

*Kim Ensing*

**Kim Ensing**

Director of Athletics

## Dear Bulldogs,



We all like to boast about our teams when they rack up marks in the win column, and we instinctively start planning for a new

season when the wins are hard to come by. We often look at the headlines, watch for the results, and don't think twice about everything that happens behind the scenes in order to put student-athletes in uniform and on the field of play. When you look at the behind-the-scenes roles, without a doubt, the unsung heroes of our department are the members of our sports medicine staff. Our small but mighty team of three - Cheo Munoz, Kayla George, and recent AHC-Cal State Fullerton graduate, Amara Sharp -

oversee the health and welfare of more than 250 student-athletes each year. They evaluate and treat injuries, administer first aid, and provide preventive and rehabilitative treatment for acute and chronic medical conditions daily. Their excellent judgement and response to injury has kept our students from suffering catastrophic and career-ending injuries. While most four-year universities have a dedicated athletic trainer for each sport, our three sports medicine professionals take care of each and every Bulldog athlete. Additionally, Munoz, George, and Sharp serve as faculty who supervise, educate, and train students enrolled in the sports medicine degree program.

Imagine balancing all of this on a daily basis...and then COVID-19 hits.

For more information on Athletics, visit [athletics.hancockcollege.edu](https://athletics.hancockcollege.edu)



Santa Maria Chamber Recognition

# Hancock in the News

**ASPEN PRIZE**  
FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EXCELLENCE  
aspen institute

---

**TOP 150**  
2011/2014/2016/2017  
**2023**

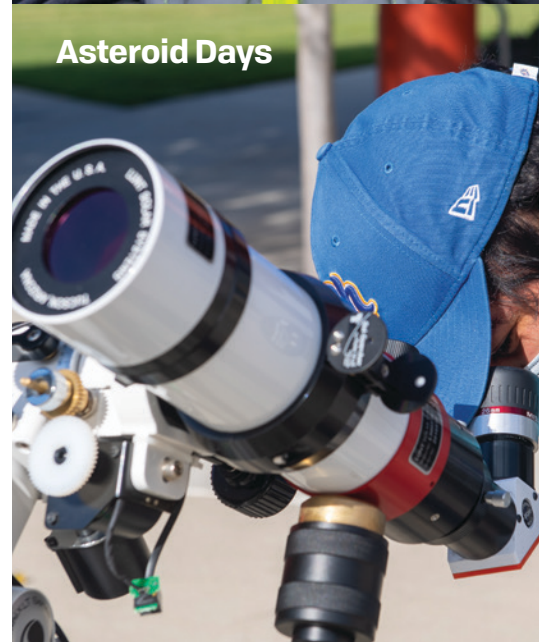
## Top 150 College in Nation

For the fifth time, Allan Hancock College is named one of the nation's top 150 community colleges and is eligible to compete for the 2023 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million in prize funds. The Aspen Prize is the nation's signature recognition of

high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. Institutions are recognized for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high levels of access and success for minority and low-income students.

## Auto Award Program Recognized

Hancock is one of only 30 colleges nationwide nominated for the prestigious 2022 Bellwether Award! The nomination recognizes the college's new implementation of auto-awarding students with degrees and certificates. The Bellwether Awards are widely regarded as one of the nation's most competitive and prestigious recognitions for community colleges.



Asteroid Days



## Fine Arts Complex

The college's new Fine Arts Complex is set to open in fall 2022. The new 88,000 gross square-foot, two-story building that includes visual arts, multimedia and applied design, photography, film and video, dance, music, and a recital hall. The project consolidates all of the fine arts and performing arts and is funded by Bond Measure I and private donations.

## Santa Maria Valley Chamber Recognition

Allan Hancock College was recognized by the Santa Maria Valley Chamber as the 2021 Non-Profit of the Year at their Annual Awards Gala for its work supporting the community during the pandemic as a vaccination center and emergency food distribution site.

## NASA Comes to Hancock

In November 2021, the college held Asteroid Days: a series of events leading up to the launch of DART, a planetary defense-driven test for preventing global asteroid impact. Representatives from NASA visited the college and held expos, workshops, and lectures.

## Marketing Department Awards

The college's Public Affairs and Communications department and Campus Graphics department took home seven awards from the statewide Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) for their work promoting the college, many having to do with the college's centennial celebration.



Marketing Department Awards

Allan Hancock College  
800 South College Drive  
Santa Maria, CA 93454-6399

Periodical

Residential Customer

Allan Hancock College (USPS #6445) (Vol. 10, Issue #7) is published seven times per year in January, April, May, June, July, November and December by Public Affairs & Publications, 800 South College Dr., Santa Maria CA 93454. Periodicals Postage Paid at Santa Maria, California. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to Public Affairs and Publications, 800 South College Dr., Santa Maria CA 93454.

## Register Now for Spring 2022 Classes

All students register online at [www.hancockcollege.edu](http://www.hancockcollege.edu) via myHancock. This system allows for 24/7 access.

## Registration Dates

**Open Registration:** Continues through January 23, 2022

**College Now! Registration:** Continues through January 23, 2022

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

Classes begin January 24, 2022

For a complete look at classes offered this spring, including course descriptions, prerequisites and other class details, go to [www.hancockcollege.edu](http://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/financial\\_aid](http://www.hancockcollege.edu/financial_aid) or call the Financial Aid office at 805-922-6966 ext. 3200

## Need Help with Registration?

For registration assistance, contact the Admissions & Records office at 805-922-6966 ext. 3248.

## Check out spring class offerings in...

Accounting (SM/O)  
Administration of Justice (SM/LVC/OnlineLIVE)  
Agribusiness (SM)  
American Sign Language (SM/LVC/OnlineLIVE)  
Anthropology (SM/O)  
Apprenticeship Training  
Architecture (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Art (SM/LVC/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Astronomy (SM/LVC)  
Athletic Training (SM)  
Auto Body Technology (SM)  
Automotive Technology (SM)  
Biology (SM/LVC/O)  
Business (SM/LVC/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Chemistry (SM/LVC/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Computer Business Information Systems (O/OnlineLIVE)  
Computer Business Office Technology (O)  
Computer Science (SM/O)  
Cooperative Work Experience  
Cosmetology/Manicuring (SM)  
Culinary Arts (SM/O)  
Dance (SM/O)  
Dental Assisting (SM)  
Drama (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Early Childhood Studies (SM/LVC/O)  
Economics (SM/O)  
Education (SM/O)  
Electronics (SM)  
Emergency Medical Services (SM/LVC/O)  
Engineering (SM)  
Engineering Technology (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
English (SM/LVC/O/OnlineLIVE)  
English as a Second Language (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Entrepreneurship (OnlineLIVE)  
Environmental Health & Safety (SM/LVC)  
Ethnic Studies (OnlineLIVE)  
Family and Consumer Science (SM/O)  
Fashion (SM)  
Film (SM/LVC/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Fire Technology (LVC/O)  
Food Science and Nutrition (SM/O)  
French (SM)  
Geography (SM/O)  
Geology (SM)  
Global Studies (O)  
Graphics (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Health Education (SM/LVC/O)  
History/Humanities (SM/LVC/O)  
Human Services (SM/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Interior Design & Merchandising (SM)  
Law Enforcement Training (LVC)  
Leadership (SM)  
Library (O)  
Machining & Manufacturing Technology (SM)  
Mathematics (SM/LVC/O)  
Medical Assisting (SM)  
Medical Billing (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Multimedia Arts & Communication (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Music (SM/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Nursing (SM/LVC)  
Paralegal (OnlineLIVE)  
Personal Development (SM/LVC/O)  
Philosophy (SM/O)  
Photography (SM)  
Physical Education (SM/LVC/O)  
Intercollegiate Athletics (SM)  
Physical Science (SM)  
Physics (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Political Science (SM/LVC/O)  
Psychology (SM/LVC/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Reading (SM)  
Real Estate (SM/OnlineLIVE)  
Recreation (SM)  
Science Technology Engineering Math (O)  
Sociology (SM/LVC/O)  
Spanish (SM/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Speech Communication (SM/LVC/O/OnlineLIVE)  
Theatre (SM)  
Veterinary Technology (SM)  
Welding Technology (SM)  
Wildland Fire Technology (O)  
SM = Santa Maria  
LVC = Lompoc Valley Center  
O = Online  
OnlineLIVE = Virtual via video conferencing (e.g. ZOOM)

**PROMISE**  
**PLUS!**

**Full-Time FREE at AHC**  
**YOU can qualify!**

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



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 employment and all access to institutional programs and activities. The District, and each individual who represents the District, shall provide access to its employment opportunities, services, classes, and programs without regard to national origin, religion, age, sex or gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, color, medical condition, genetic information, ancestry, sexual orientation, marital status, physical or mental disability, or military and veteran status of any person, or because he or she is 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.