

Updates and Announcements



Addressing Campus Climate Issues Through GUIDE

ODEI is once again offering a Summer Cohort!

A central goal of GUIDE is to raise staff and faculty awareness of the campus climate.

Numerous studies have concluded that how students experience their campus environment influences both learning and developmental outcomes, and that discriminatory environments have a negative effect on student learning. Students thrive in healthy environments, free of the negativity of discrimination, where inclusion and respect for diversity is the daily norm.

Creating a healthy campus climate is as important for faculty and staff as it is for students. Faculty and staff who consider their campus climate healthy and inclusive are more likely to feel personally and professionally supported. In addition, faculty and staff who have encountered prejudice directly attribute its negative effects to decreased health and well-being. Gaels Uniting for Inclusion and Diversity through Education (GUIDE) “represents our conviction that shared intention combined with collective action will guide our college on the journey toward a respectful, inclusive, and safe environment for all members of our campus community.” We are holding one cohort of GUIDE Tier I **this June. It will be held in-person 9am-10:30am Tuesday June 3rd, Wednesday June 4th and Thursday June 5th.** Faculty and staff will be notified of specific dates and a form for confirmation of attendance will be provided. I want to personally thank the amazing faculty and staff who are serving as facilitators this spring: **Rogelio López García (who also serves as a facilitator-mentor) and Terri Jett**

Real Talk

This section is for people to freely express their thoughts in a manner that encourages informal community conversations. Be ready when you receive an invite to engage in some "real talk!"

I am.

I am a Black woman who was born in Oakland, CA.

I am college educated. I am a first-generation student with three degrees. One of my degrees is from Laney College and the others are from private Christian colleges. Currently, I am completing my first year in the Master of Arts in Counseling with concentration in Marriage and Family Counseling/Professional Clinical Counseling.

I am a graduate assistant for the High Potential Program here on campus.

I am tired.

I am tired of people denying the lived experiences of Black people on this campus.

I am tired of having shared experiences of racism with Black students, faculty, and staff that have occurred right here on this campus.

I am tired of trying to convince myself that continuing my education at SMC is a good idea.

I am trying to believe.

I am trying to believe that these responses sent out by the president, these meetings and town halls, these gatherings and protests will prove to pave a new path for this college. But I don't.

I am trying to believe that the mandatory training for faculty and staff will yield fruitful results. But I am not certain.

I am trying to believe that the massive awareness of the most recent, or most publicized, hate crime on campus will result in a change in the hearts of the students. But I am concerned.

I am not hopeful.

I am watching.

I am waiting.

I am weary.

But I hope that I am wrong.

Do better.

Karsyn R. Carter, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry
Graduate Student, Master of Arts in Counseling c/o 2027
Graduate Student Association President 2025-2026

Upcoming Campus Events

For more information on any campus DEI events, please check out the ODEI's DEI Events Calendar

Center for Women and Gender Equity (CWGE)



Every Thursday: Coffee and Connection

You are welcome to stop by for coffee and a sweet treat. Relax with friends, learn about future events, pitch collaborations about gender and intersectionality, and so forth. Honoring our faculty allies, coffee & connection honorees and our frequent flier **10:30am-12:30pm at CWGE.**

3/13: Healing is Resistance with Social Practitioner Wanda Johnson

Wanda is an activist and the mother of Oscar Grant. In 2009, the life of Wanda's son, Oscar Grant was taken by an Oakland BART transit officer. She has since embarked on a journey to turn the pain into purpose. Food and Snacks will be available. **12pm-1pm at CWGE.**

3/14: It's Okay Not to Be Okay

Raising Awareness About Black Mental Health. Destigmatizing mental health in Black communities through storytelling. Refreshments will be provided. Guests: Dee McKinney, Lakisha Powell, Minister Stan Farmer, William Cleodus Baptiste. **6pm at CWGE.**

3/16: CWGE Open House: The Starfish Story

25 Year Anniversary CWGE Art Installation. Join us in the CWGE for our 25 Year Anniversary Open House featuring a new CWGE Community Art Installation by artist Jessica Warren. There will be treats and refreshments provided! See you there! **11am-3pm at CWGE.**

Student Disability Services (SDS) Diversity Organization Council (DOC)



5/14: SDS Student Graduation Party

Calling all Seniors who are graduating this Spring and were students who worked with the Student Disability Services office during your time here at SMC - Please come by to let us celebrate you on this wonderful accomplishment! We will be holding a graduation party for you with music, treats and activities! **1-4pm at Filippi Academic Hall Courtyard**

5/14: BSU Meeting

Join the Black Student Union for community, fun, and learning about upcoming events and plans for next year. **6:30pm at the IC**

5/14: Spanish Culture and Conversation Club

Join Spanish Culture and Conversation Club to practice your Spanish, enjoy community, participate in fun activities, and food. **5-6pm at the IC.**

Intercultural Center (IC)



5/12: Collective Hour: Beyond the Game: The Mind, Body, and Female Collective
 This Collective Hour focuses on the identity and experiences of female athletes. These sessions will delve into body image and self care, and finally how we can not only be a team but a collective. Any feminine identifying person who is a current or past athlete is welcome! **4-5pm at the IC**



5/15: Collective Hour: Waiting to Exhale: Our Wealth in Community and Sorority
 This Collective Hour is a safe space for Black students to navigate their womanhood through the lens of creativity, self-affirmation, and rejoice. **5-6pm at the IC.**



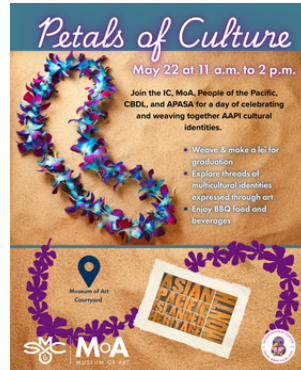
5/15: Lavender Graduation Celebration
 Annual LGBTQIA+ Celebration for Graduates.
7-9pm Soda Center



5/17: Asian & Pacific Islander Graduation Celebration
 Annual API Celebration for Graduates. **9am-12pm SMC Chapel**



5/21: Black Graduation Celebration
 Annual Black Celebration for Graduates. **6-8pm at the Soda Center.**



5/22: Petals of Culture Celebrate AAPI Heritage Month
 The IC, MoA, People of the Pacific, CBDL, and APASA celebrating and weaving together AAPI cultural identities. Weave & make a graduation lei, Explore multicultural identities expressed through art, and Enjoy BBQ food and beverages. **11am-2pm SMC MoA Courtyard**



5/23: Latinx Graduation Celebration
 Annual Latinx Celebration of Graduates. **8:30am-12pm at the Soda Center.**