Student Services Newsletter

June 2023

SBCC
SANTA BARBARA
CITY COLLEGE

Kudos

It Takes a Village to… Fix up a Parking Lot!

Many thanks to **Juan Patino** and **Pepe Acosta** who were busy at the end of May patching the larger potholes along parking lot 1A in front of the Student Services building. They started by filling in the base composed of different materials including concrete (upper left photo). Oil was poured around the perimeter to act as an adhesive, and then asphalt was distributed, loosened with diesel fuel, and packed on top (upper right photo). Finally, the tractor was used to roll over and compress the asphalt into place. **Marco Lombardo** (left photo) painted the speed bumps with a fresh coat of white paint.

Clean Windows!

You may have noticed recently the squeaky clean exterior windows surrounding the Student Services building. A huge thanks to Financial Aid's **Valdas Karalis** for getting the ball rolling by submitting a facilities work order. The work order stalled for a bit, but once Valdas contacted the Vice President, Student Affairs office, **Paloma Arnold** immediately contacted **Brian Fahnestock**, Interim Vice President of Business Services, who procured funds to pay for the cleaning. Thank you to all who helped move this project along to completion!

Akil Hill Named 2023 Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year

L to R: CSEA President Liz Auchincloss, Akil Hill, Superintendent/President Dr. Murillo, Board of Trustees President Jonathan Abboud

At the May 18th Board of Trustees meeting, **Akil Hill** was named **SBCC's 2023 Outstanding Classified Employee of the Year**. CSEA President **Liz Auchincloss** read the following statement at the May 18th Board meeting.

Liz said, "Akil works as a Senior Admissions and Records Technician. He provides above and beyond service in Admissions and Records which includes working with faculty and staff in Student Services and across campus. In particular he does outstanding work with the Athletics department to ensure athletic eligibility and makes one on one calls to athletes with academic success. In this role he works with over 900 students for 20 teams. He is the co-founder/co-host of *Vaquero Voices*. Akil is also the co-founder of the Black Faculty and Staff Association. He is an integral member of the SBCC Umoja community, providing ongoing support to the program, staff and students. He facilitated the installation of the Umoja mural. Akil has served as a mentor to many students over the years, many of whom still stay connected with him. He brings people together to do the right thing through building coalitions. He is one of the few people who can say things to people that they do not want to hear in a way where he is heard. Over and over again he calls things the way they are and in a way that helps people reflect and grow. He has been an instrumental part of cultivating a warm, positive and inclusive culture at SBCC. He has put his heart and soul into this campus and it's evident in the work that he has done. Akil is humble, kind, has an incredible work ethic and is always someone who will go above and beyond."

Out of a total of fourteen classified staff who were nominated, two out of the five finalists not only work in Student Services, they work in the Admissions & Records department! The four Honorable Mentions were Admissions & Records Senior Technician, **Rosa Ruiz**, Chemistry Lab Tech **Tracy Reynolds**, Administrative Assistant II **Cristina Garcia Otero**, and Administrative Assistant III **Erin Coulter**. Congratulations to all of the nominees!

Announcements

- Please make sure that the messaging on your department websites, voicemails, emails, and in-person is consistent. Contact **Chris Miller** to help with your voicemail messaging and to create a department phone tree, if you'd like.
- The online orientation will continue being updated this summer, and **Vanessa Pelton** will reach out to the work group in a couple of weeks to help with that. She will also reach out to certain departments to arrange for the vendor to make videos in September.
- As you are aware, SBCC has been looking to replace Pipeline, our current portal system. **Dean Nevins**, Executive Director of Information Technology/CISO, spearheaded the Campus Portal Workgroup that evaluated various vendor demos. In an email sent on Monday, June 5th, Dean stated that the workgroup met on Friday, June 2nd "to discuss the evaluation of the RFP submissions and to select a winning vendor. The committee voted unanimously to select Pathify as the winning bidder."

  Dean added, "the final decision to move forward rests with the Board of Trustees who must approve the contract before we can start implementation. If the Board approves

our contract with Pathify, I will start working on an Implementation team." Dean thanked everyone who participated in the workgroup "for all of their hard work in getting to this decision."

- On Tuesday, May 30th, **Madeline D'Adamio**, Client Success Manager for Ocelot, conducted a Zoom training session for Student Services staff/faculty/managers who are interested in being the first participants to onboard the Higher Education chatbot platform. Used by 90 other community colleges, Ocelot brings with it a huge database of information that is very specific to California Community Colleges. If you or anyone from your department is interested in reviewing the training, please email **Becky Saffold** at rmsaffold@sbcc.edu for the link.

Upcoming Events

- Hispanic Heritage Month Planning work group: Dean **Christina Llerena** will be inviting folks this month and next to plan for events such as workshops/activities regarding the Latine experience, Día de los Muertos, and a Spotlight on Raíces.
- In an effort to help students during the first week of the fall semester, Student Affairs is planning on coordinating some "Ask Me" stations strategically located around campus to help students with general basic information, wayfinding, and answering questions.