

# CAPITAL PROJECTS SANTA ROSA JUNIOR COLLEGE



## SR Intercultural Center welcomes all students

*Centering anti-racism, equity, and justice*

In 2019, the SR Intercultural Center (IC) in Pioneer Hall opened informally to students, but the story of the SR IC really began five years earlier when SRJC applied for and received an HSI grant to establish MI CASA (Multicultural Innovation Center for Academic Success and Achievement). Soon after, the Our House Intercultural Center in Petaluma was established.

When that HSI grant ended, MI CASA closed. However, seeing how well the Our House IC provided an inclusive space for all students, SRJC wanted to create an intercultural center on the Santa Rosa campus, too. SRJC transitioned the important work that began in MI CASA to the new SR Intercultural Center in Pioneer Hall. Measure H funding provided for modernization throughout the district, including Pioneer Hall. The new SR Intercultural Center Tenant

—Intercultural Center, continued on page 2



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**INTERNATIONAL  
EDUCATION WEEK  
NOVEMBER 15-19**

**FOOD  
DISTRIBUTION  
NOVEMBER 22**

**THANKSGIVING  
BREAK  
NOVEMBER 25-28**

**A Look Ahead:  
Public Safety  
Training Center**



—*Intercultural Center, continued from page 1*

Improvement project included new flooring, painting, new ceiling panels, and LED lights, and more. The SR IC is bright and airy, filled with lovely artwork that reflects the diverse students and communities the district serves.

Dr. Genevieve Bertone, Director, Student Life and Engagement, is thrilled with the renovation. “As a community college, equity is at the heart of our work. I love how the Intercultural Center is in the center of our campus. It’s located close to student services, has the best view of the quad, and will definitely be an important resource in re-engaging students as we transition back to campus.”

The SR IC has student work stations and meeting rooms, sofas, study tables, and large screens. It is even equipped with an area for small children, including a bookshelf filled with picture books and toys. “Basically, this space is going to support a lot of awesome people doing important work,” added Dr. Bertone, who gave a special shout out to Project Manager Amy Haedt for her leadership role.

Malena Hernández, Coordinator, Student Success Programs, recognizes the importance of having this inclusive space and what it means to the SRJC community. “The work we are doing in the SR Intercultural Center, along with the SRJC’s other cultural centers, is critical to the college’s efforts in anti-racism, equity, and justice,” she said. “I’m excited to see the remodeled center come to life with students, staff, faculty, and our families. We’ll be collaborating closely with the whole JC community as we continue to create a campus where queer, students of color, and other marginalized communities thrive.”

### **A Few Programs Available at the SR Intercultural Center:**

**APASS**, a one year learning community focused on the Asian Pacific American experience.

**Native American Summer Bridge**, a summer program for high school students focusing on the Native American experience.

**Puente**, a one year learning community focused on the Latinx American experience.

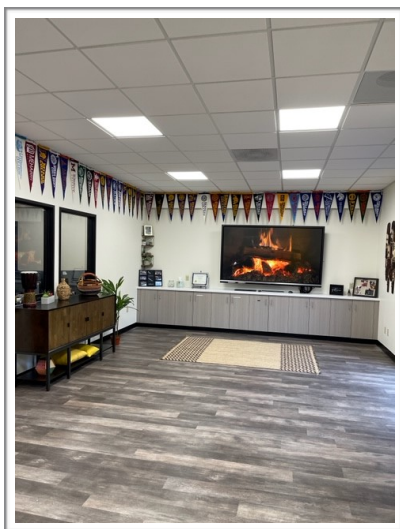
**Queer Resource Center**, a center (within the center) providing support for LGBTQQA2S+ and allies

## **The Sawubona Black Student Support Center**

*Black Students are excited to enjoy the newly renovated center*

In Pioneer Hall and adjacent to the SR Intercultural Center is the Sawubona Black Student Support Center. It now houses Umoja, a cohort-based learning community focused on enhancing the cultural and educational experiences of Black students, and other Black student success programs, and will serve as a hub for Black students. Sawubona is KwaZulu and means *‘I see you, you are important to me, and I value you’*— essential to SRJC’s values.

“The center’s goals include providing a space where Black/African American students are welcomed, feel safe, and have intentional support and resources to help them achieve their educational goals,” said Regina Mahiri, Center Coordinator.



The Sawubona Black Student Support Center is currently being renovated and has received upgrades as part of the Pioneer Modernization work. The lovely African artwork and artifacts were donated to the Center by Mark Hager on behalf of his parents, Robert & Elizabeth Hager. Mark’s parents were in the Peace Corps and traveled to Kenya, Nairobi, Swahili, Madagascar, South Africa and Swazi Land.



## MEET THE SRJC CAPITAL PROJECTS TEAM:

### Energy & Sustainability Manager David Liebman

SRJC Energy and Sustainability Manager David Liebman first came to Sonoma County in 2009 to attend Sonoma State University. “I enrolled in the viticulture major,” he said, “but once I got there, Sonoma dropped the major.” He began as an undeclared major, and quickly fell in love with Sonoma County and its natural beauty.

David grew up in Los Angeles the middle child of three. A city boy with a deep love of nature, David recognized early on it was not where he would stay. “LA is a prime example of what not to do if you want a healthy relationship with the environment.”

While in high school, David and his friends would escape the city by hiking in the Santa Monica Mountains. “We would hike days at a time,” he said, speaking fondly of those treks into the nearby wilderness. However, David’s appreciation of the natural world and plant life began earlier as a young child working beside his father.

“My dad’s hobby is growing plants, orchids in particular,” David remembers always having his hands in a pot of dirt, helping his father repot the orchids and tomatoes.

“The best way to get children to eat vegetables is having them grow their own food,” David advised.

David’s appreciation of healthy and sustainable food, including vegetables, is also thanks to his mother, who is an excellent chef. “My mother loves preparing wonderful meals for family and friends,” he said, adding that she is so committed to the art of cooking that she even spent a summer attending a cooking school in France. One of David’s earliest cooking memories with his mother is making homemade pasta when he was eleven or twelve. By the time David was in high school, he often prepared a weekly dinner for his family.

After graduating from Sonoma State University in 2013 with his degree in Energy Management & Design, David was at loose ends.

“I spent some time in limbo,” he said, “quickly finding out there were not many jobs in the environmental sustainability field yet.”

David went to a lecture given by Climate Corps, and decided to volunteer as an intern at Strategic Energy Innovations (SEI).

Climate Corps is an award-winning fellowship program that provides emerging leaders committed



to sustainability professional development opportunities. Climate Corps interns and fellows work with nonprofits, local governments, and businesses to implement sustainability and resiliency projects.

David applied to become a Climate Corps Fellow at Oakland Unified School District (OUSD). David was living in Rohnert Park at the time and commuting to Alameda.

“I quickly learned that commuting is life-sucking,” David said.

The irony was inescapable. David was championing sustainability and spending four to five hours a day in a vehicle. It was an unsustainable way of life.

When David learned that a PG&E funded fellowship opened up at SRJC, he immediately applied. David quickly proved a valuable asset to the college district. In his current role, his passion and commitment has resulted in his successive pursuit of additional funding, with the district receiving grants and rebates totaling more than \$6.4 million. His projects include the new Quinn Central Plant currently under construction, a reclaimed water tank, and the Urban Microgrid Project. *(Read more about these projects in the September 2021 Capital Projects newsletter.)*

David, who now lives in Santa Rosa, is an avid cyclist and excited about the new bicycle pathways planned for Santa Rosa and the campus. He recently completed a 545-mile bike camping trip in eight days, biking from Santa Rosa to Los Angeles.

David loves living and working in Sonoma, not only for its beautiful landscape, but for the ethos of the place. “We have a strong, sustainable food culture in Sonoma County,” he said. “The only way as a society that we can survive is by having a sustainable relationship with the environment.”

### Thai Food Restaurant Recommendations

***“I eat copious amounts of Thai food,” said David. He recommends that anyone traveling to Portland dine at Eem Thai BBQ & Cocktails. In Sonoma, David recommends TIPPS Thai.***





# The Lindley Center for STEM Education

*Crane Delivery and Steel Erection Photo Essay - photos by Daniel Mendez-Cisneros*



**November 1** Crane delivered to the Lindley Center for STEM Education Construction Site



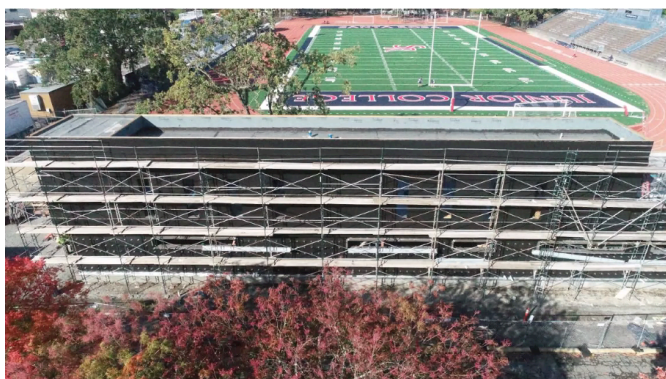
**November 2** Steel delivery begins and is inspected by crew.



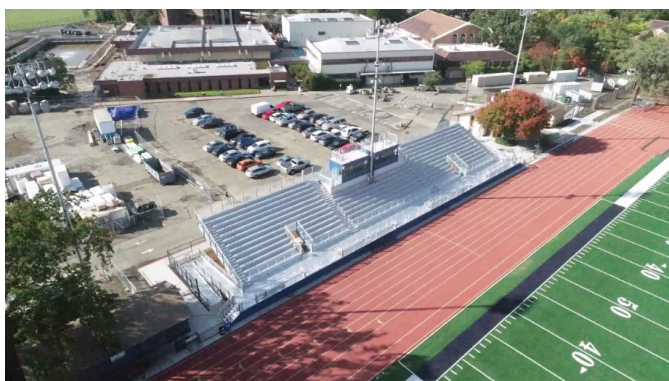
**November 3** Steel detection begins and excitement mounts.



## Kinesiology, Athletics & Dance, Phase 2: New Fields, Field House & Pool



The baseball and softball fields turf is complete. The soccer field sod placement is complete, and work on the bioswale and the concrete sidewalk along Bear Cub Way is underway. At Bailey Field, fluid-applied weather barrier is in place at the exterior walls and veneer installation,



roofing and sheet metal flashing is in progress.

The new stadium is complete and the SRJC football team held its home game on October 16. After pumping out rain from the new outdoor pool, work began again on the beautiful tile work.

## The Baker Hall Life Sciences Lab & Classroom Renovation

The Baker Hall Life Sciences Lab and Classroom Renovation Project, scheduled for completion by December 2021, includes some new equipment like the anatomy lab cameras and monitors (*left*), a new freezer (*center*), and new casework (*right*). The project also includes new exterior wood doors, four exterior rain screens, new cedar sitting benches, audio visual upgrades in thirteen classrooms and the recently installed exterior steel canopy.



**The Baker Hall Life Sciences Lab move-in will take place over Winter Break.**





## SUSTAINABLE SRJC

As part of the sustainability work funded through Measure H, the district is installing water bottle filling stations throughout the district. The water bottle filling stations are providing students, faculty, and staff with access to clean filtered water and reducing associated health risks of drinking unfiltered water. The stations are also reducing plastic water bottle usage. Seven stations out of fifteen have been installed so far, with filling stations available on the Petaluma campus in the new science building, at the Public Safety Training Center in the multipurpose room, and at Baker Hall, Lounibos Hall, and the Quinn Swim Center at the Santa Rosa campus.

In 2014, SRJC installed water bottle filling stations at the Bertolini Student Center, but now with additional funding, the increased number of water bottle filling stations are benefiting even more students and staff throughout the district at multiple sites. We are grateful to the SRJC students and staff who are deeply committed to helping us achieve our sustainability goals, and to the Sonoma County community for its continued support.



## SECURITY UPGRADES TAKING PLACE AT THE SANTA ROSA CAMPUS

November continues to be a very busy month for the Security Upgrades taking place on the Santa Rosa campus. Buildings receiving work conduit pathway installations this month include Analy Hall, Robert Call Center, Facilities Operations, Forsyth Hall, Haehl Pavilion, the Robert Quinn Swim Center, and the Don Zumwalt Parking Pavilion. Forsyth and Analy will also receive door cutovers during the week of November 15. Some installation will continue through December 3, including work at the John Lounibos Center.

This work may affect offices and classrooms for a short period of time, but the construction team is doing its best to keep disruption to a minimum.

## The SRJC Foundation New Office Building

On November 12, bidding took place for the contract to build work on the new SRJC Foundation building. Designed by STRATA Architects, this new 2,500 square foot office building will provide the Foundation much needed event space. The anticipated move-in date is January 2023.

