



The San Diego Chapter of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges

Chapter Newsletter: Fall 2020

Women Take the Lead in 2020

The 2019 - 2020 inaugural year of the San Diego Chapter of the American Association for Women in Community Colleges was full of great energy and enthusiasm. Women and their allies came together representing institutions of higher education from around the county. We are not letting COVID-19 stop us from gathering virtually in 2020 - 2021 for another year of meaningful growth and networking. Members of our Events Committee are hard at work to bring intentional programming that was requested by our members. We start the year off in September by examining **Working from Home with Kids during a Pandemic**. Also in September, diversity, equity, and inclusion leaders, Dr. Pamela Luster and Dr. Juliana Barnes will discuss the impact of making space for women as they encourage **Women Mentoring Women**. As the election nears, we will hear from a **Panel of Elected Women** who will discuss the impact of equity. Join us for a **Fun Social Hour** in October, followed by **Palomar College Women** hosting our November event. We will close the semester out in December with a holiday gathering. Please look for more details on page 2 and on our website sdcaawcc.org.



Photo provided by Lisa Gilbert



Photo provided by Hossna Sadat Ahadi



Photos provided Veronica Gerace

Palomar Women Empower One Another in Support of BLM & Antiracism

Our notion of womanhood in academia is about standing in solidarity with all women and leading efforts towards equity, social justice, and antiracism at our campus. At Palomar College, we have empowered one another to lead many conversations, forums, and healing circles regarding *Black Lives Matter* and Antiracism efforts. Although there are others who have also spoken and supported these brave spaces as well, the women have further empowered one another and themselves to lead many projects to transform the evolving ethos of our campus. For the first time, women of color have been acknowledged for their leadership efforts, powerful narratives, and lived experiences that are transforming our system by recognizing the inequities and using an antiracism framework to lead the college to transformational change.

We as women are resilient to the many pandemics our society is challenged with. We will continue to educate and elevate our students, homeschooling our children, remember to self-care, and empower one another towards institutionalizing equity and social justice at our campuses.

In Unity,
 Dr. Hossna Sadat Ahadi
 San Diego AAWCC, Campus Lead, Palomar College



Photos provided by Hossna Sadat Ahadi

Mariam Mena Campus Lead San Diego City College



Fearless and fabulous, Mariam Mena is in love with life and all possibilities towards extraordinary achievements. As a graduate of SDSU, holding a degree in Women's Studies, and National University with a Masters in Educational Counseling, Mariam's enthusiasm for life stems from her dedication to immersing great intentions for transformational change in our communities. Her commitment fuels her passion for helping women recognize their strengths, talents, and infinite value.

In this society, women remain one of the most disenfranchised groups, and when race is added to that equation, women become even more marginalized. There is an Arabic proverb that says, "You cannot clap with one hand." In essence, Mariam understands that a movement towards gender equity cannot happen with one person, there needs to be a collective of women. Mariam has the blessing of chairing the *City Women Rock Committee*, which consists of phenomenal women who strive to uplift each other and students. *City Women Rock* is a prime example of how each woman is a source of power. Together, we hold the power of resilience and transformation.

Mariam is honored to be the **Campus Lead for City College** for the San Diego Chapter of the AAWCC. As the campus lead, Mariam hopes to grow the movement of women empowering women. What does this mean? From a social dimension, it means laying the foundations to establish a sense of sisterhood, promoting leadership, integrity, and respect. In sisterhood, we amplify, listen, encourage, share knowledge, mentor, and give back. Not only is sisterhood about supporting other women, but research in the *Harvard Business Review* found that women who have a close circle of female contacts are more likely to land executive positions with greater authority and higher pay. This, in turn, allows them to lead teams and craft policies that will ensure gender equity and blaze trails for future women.



Photos provided by Mariam Mena

Click Here to Join

We welcome all women and supporters of women!

We have held our virtual events without incurring costs. Once we are able to meet in person, this will likely change. The \$20 Membership fee helps to cover the cost of events and covers the cost of membership in the national AAWCC organization.



Photo by Daniel PH

Share Your Talent

You shared a lot of great programming ideas to better support the needs of one another. Please share your talent. We welcome help and new ideas of any sort. Can you help in serving in one of the following roles?

Campus Leads - for Colleges in San Diego County

- Contact: Claudia Perkins - cperkins@sdccd.edu

Events Committee Members

- Contact - Shawn Fawcett - sfawcett@sdccd.edu

Social Media Coordinator

- Monica Romero - mdromero@sdccd.edu

Web Developer

- Veronica Gerace - vgerace@sdccd.edu

Newsletter Editor

- Veronica Gerace - vgerace@sdccd.edu

Upcoming Events

- **Working from Home with Kids During a Pandemic**
- Friday, September 11 - Time 11:30am - 1pm
- **Women Mentoring Women**
- Wednesday, September 30 - Time: 2:30 - 4pm
- **Social Issues Affecting Women in Higher Education - Panel of Elected Women**
- Wednesday, October 14 - Time: 11 - 1pm
- **October Fun Social Event**
- Thursday, October 15 - Time: 5pm - 7pm
- **Palomar College Women Hosted Event**
- November (More details to come)
- **Holiday Gathering**
- December (More details to come)



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sdcaawcc.org

