

San Diego Chicano/Latino Concilio on Higher Education
San Diego, California

VIA EMAIL

October 23, 2023

TO: Dr. Mark Sanchez
President and Superintendent, Southwestern College

We appreciate the time you spent meeting with our SD Concilio on October 18, 2023. Our dialogue regarding the priorities of our SD Concilio and the progress of Southwestern College was very helpful. We offer the following notes from our conversation:

- Your administration is focused on systems change. The enrollment of SWC is now back to pre-pandemic levels.
- SWC needs better transfer metrics, especially with the University of California campuses. Your administration has met with the UCSD chancellor and some UC regents.
- SDSU teachers Bachelors Degree programs at the SWC campus as does Arizona State University. Talks are taking place with the University of Southern California for similar programs at SWC.
- A great challenge for SWC is diversifying its faculty, particularly how full-time faculty are hired.
- In 2022, Chicanos/Latinos were 28.9 percent of faculty applicants and 27.9 percent of hires.
- Chicanos/Latinos now make up 26.7 percent of SWC full-time faculty, with 75 total Chicano/Latino faculty, up from 62 in 2018.
- The SWC administration is promoting an understanding of what it means to be a community college that is also a Hispanic Serving Institution and making steady progress. The college is citing relevant research on HSI's.
- SWC is investing in the retention of its Chicano/Latino faculty, always listening to their concerns.
- Retention of faculty has been good. They appreciate strengthening the binational context of SWC.
- The SWC strategic plan emphasizes the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office and their "Vision for Success" to reach the goal of a more diverse faculty.
- SWC is expanding Mexican American Studies, hiring more faculty. Enrollment is strong in MAS courses.
- SWC has expanded its Puente Program to a second cohort with additional resources in fall 2023.

Please let me know if we recorded any of these points incorrectly.

We respect the work you are doing to make Southwestern College a truly Chicano/Latino “serving” institution. Please feel free to call on us if we can be of service.

Sinceramente,

Patrick Velasquez
Co-Chair, SD Concilo