

News Release  
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## **Bank of America Grant Gives High School Students Running Start to Santa Barbara City College**

For some high school graduates in Santa Barbara, higher education does not seem like a viable option. Some have never thought of themselves as college-bound, while others are overwhelmed with family and financial responsibilities. Regardless of the reason, these students don't see college in their future. The Running Start program at Santa Barbara City College targets these students, opening the door to higher education by providing academic, financial, and tutorial support. Thanks in part to a \$7,500 grant from Bank of America, motivational and financial incentives will continue to be provided for Running Start students.

“Without Running Start, I would never have thought about college,” said Running Start Student Alisha Sanchez. “I would have graduated high school and just gotten a full-time job. Running Start made me realize that college was a real option for me, and that I could do it.”

Running Start begins as a six-week summer program that includes a college success class, financial assistance, comprehensive academic and personal counseling, financial planning assistance, peer adviser support, field study days, and personal development. On average, 95 percent of students completing Running Start enroll in the fall semester where they are provided continuous year-long support, critical guidance, and access to resources so they are able to thrive.

“The Running Start program provides the opportunity for our local high school students that haven't thought about attending college, to not only attend, but succeed!” said EOPS Director Marsha Wright. “Through Running Start these students learn how to navigate the college system, enhance their study skills, and build their confidence. At the end of the six-week summer program, the Running Start students are well-prepared and ready to start the fall semester.”

Bank of America funding assists with the cost of textbooks, meal vouchers, and programmatic elements that underpin academic success. A longtime supporter of Santa Barbara City College and its students, Bank of America is committed to improving financial lives by bolstering SBCC programs that teach students the skills they need to succeed in life.

“SBCC's Running Start program offers a comprehensive set of support systems and tools to students. We are grateful for Bank of America's investment in the future of these students and our community,” said Geoff Green, CEO of the SBCC Foundation.

## **About Bank of America**

At Bank of America, our focus on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) factors is critical to fulfilling our purpose of helping make people's financial lives better. Our commitment to growing our business responsibly is embedded in every aspect of our company. It is demonstrated in the inclusive and supportive workplace we create for our employees, the responsible products and services we offer our customers, and the impact we make around the world in helping local economies thrive. An important part of this work is forming strong partnerships with nonprofits and advocate groups, such as community and environmental organizations, in order to bring together our collective networks and expertise to achieve greater impact. Learn more at [www.bankofamerica.com/about](http://www.bankofamerica.com/about), and connect with us on Twitter at [@BofA\\_News](https://twitter.com/BofA_News).

## **About the SBCC Foundation**

The **SBCC Foundation** was established in 1976 to provide Santa Barbara City College with private philanthropic support. The foundation acts in partnership with the college and bridges the gap between available public funding and institutional need, as determined by the college leadership. Serving as the vehicle through which individuals and organizations may invest in the college, the foundation fuels the educational excellence that has long been the hallmark of SBCC. The SBCC Foundation provides more than \$4 million annually for student success programs, scholarships, book grants, and other critical needs of the college in order to support SBCC students as they prepare for careers, transfer to four-year universities, and pursue lifelong learning goals.

**Photo caption:** Running Start students Michael Sanchez and Leslie Marin. Photo courtesy of Monie Photography.

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