

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The SBCC Foundation's Inaugural *Spring Forward!* Gala Successfully Raised Over \$425,000

Santa Barbara, CA – The SBCC Foundation's inaugural *Spring Forward!* Gala, held on Saturday, April 27, 2019, was one for the record books! With **more than 300 guests in attendance**, the event **raised over \$425,000** to support all SBCC Foundation programs, including the nationally recognized SBCC Promise, innovative student achievement programs, scholarships, emergency funds, book grants, and other critical needs of the college and its students.

The event was held on the beautiful Santa Barbara City College campus, in the Sports Pavilion, which was transformed into an elegant venue by [Merryl Brown Events](#). The SBCC Culinary Arts, Music, and Art departments all played key roles, and surprise guest **Michael McDonald** joined **SBCC's New World Jazz Ensemble** for an exhilarating performance.

SBCC's new Interim Superintendent / President Dr. Helen Benjamin inspired the room, while current student Juwan Vega, faculty member (and alumna) Geordie Armstrong, and alumna Cynthia Inda, each shared a personal account of the power of an SBCC education.

"The event highlighted the transformative role of SBCC in the lives of so many," said Geoff Green, CEO for the SBCC Foundation. "We are grateful to all of the donors, sponsors, alumni, students, staff, faculty, college trustees, volunteers, foundation board members, and friends of SBCC from near and far who joined us."

The Luria Foundation and Union Bank were the Presenting Sponsors for the event. Trustee Sponsors were Yardi Systems and the Herbert & Bui Simon Foundation; Potek Winery was the Chancellor Sponsor, and the President Sponsors were: Montecito Bank & Trust, SEI, Armstrong Associates / Leslie & Earl Armstrong, the Jurkowitz Family Foundation, Nanette and Henry Nevins, the Santa Barbara Foundation, and the Vincent Family. For a complete list of sponsors, please visit <https://www.sbccfoundation.org/spring-forward-gala/>.

Photos from the event, taken by extraordinary photographers Nell Campbell and Isaac Hernandez, can be viewed in the [Spring Forward! 2019 photo gallery](#).

Next year's ***Spring Forward!* Gala** is scheduled for **May 2** – mark your calendar!

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About the SBCC Foundation

The SBCC Foundation has provided Santa Barbara City College with private philanthropic support since 1976, serving as the vehicle through which individuals and organizations may invest in the college and its students.

As an independent 501c3 nonprofit organization and partner to SBCC, the SBCC Foundation awards more than \$5 million annually for student success programs, scholarships, book grants, emergency funds, and other critical needs of the college. For more than four decades, the resources raised and managed by the SBCC Foundation have supported SBCC students as they prepare for careers, transfer to four-year universities, and pursue lifelong learning goals.

In 2016, the Foundation launched the SBCC Promise, offering all local high school graduates the opportunity to attend SBCC full-time at no cost. The SBCC Promise relies entirely on private support and covers all required fees, books, and supplies for up to two years. To date, more than 3,000 local students have participated in the SBCC Promise. By removing financial barriers, the SBCC Promise ensures that SBCC's life-changing educational programs are fully accessible to all local students.

For more information, visit <http://www.sbccfoundation.org>