

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Jennifer LeMay
Director of Marketing and Communications
SBCC Foundation
(805) 730-4409
lemay@sbccfoundation.org



Sarah Stretz Joins SBCC Foundation As Chief Development Officer

Santa Barbara, CA – The SBCC Foundation is excited to welcome Sarah Stretz as its new Chief Development Officer.

Sarah is a 4th generation Santa Barbara native who attended Santa Barbara High School. After earning her BA in English from UCLA, she began working in advertising sales in Los Angeles at television networks A&E, History Channel, Weather Channel, CBS, and Fox. During her tenure in the television industry, she worked with national corporations such as Walmart, Lexus, Honda, Starbucks and Wendy's. She also oversaw station compliance for political campaigns on the local and national level as well as marketing and advertising campaigns for locally-owned businesses.

In 2013, Sarah relocated with her family back to Santa Barbara where she worked as a Business Development Director for the American Heart Association where she led fundraising and PR for the Go Red for Women campaign and Heart Ball. She successfully launched the first Red Tie Society on the west coast and set a record-breaking day of giving. For the last 6 ½ years Sarah served as the Development Director at the Music Academy where she oversaw Foundations Corporate partnerships, Women's Auxiliary fundraisers as well as their Benefits program. Sarah was instrumental in bringing the Music Academy's annual Gala back to its campus where it has become a beloved community event. In 2020 she successfully launched an online auction that garnered over \$200,000.



Sarah has served on the Board of the National Charity League, Junior League of Santa Barbara and Albuquerque and the Santa Barbara Swim Club. While living in Tampa Bay she was a member of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers Women's Organization and involved in the NFL's Play 60. She is a current member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and Charitable Gift Planners Council, a sustaining member of the Junior League of Santa Barbara as well as actively involved in the San Marcos High School Aquatics program.

"I am excited to join the SBCC Foundation's outstanding team, working to engage the community, partnering with local leaders, building relationships, and supporting programs that empower students to succeed," Sarah said. Foundation CEO Geoff Green added, "We are delighted to welcome Sarah to our team. This is a critical moment for our community colleges and with Sarah's leadership, the SBCC Foundation will continue to ensure that our community's support of SBCC is strong and the generosity of our partners and donors rises to meet the moment."

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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 45 years, 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 recent, local high school graduates the opportunity to attend SBCC full-time at no cost. The SBCC Promise relies entirely on private donations and covers all required fees, books, and supplies for up to two years. To date, more than 6,000 students have participated. 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 sbccfoundation.org