

GOALS WITHIN REACH

Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education helps adults achieve their goals including:

- ESL
- CITIZENSHIP
- HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/GED
- COLLEGE TRANSITION
- CAREER READINESS



SMRC SANTA MONICA
REGIONAL CONSORTIUM
FOR ADULT EDUCATION
AN ADULT EDUCATION BLOCK GRANT CONSORTIUM

Lynn Harvey, Santa Monica College ESL instructor, is helping adult education students learn English so they can be more productive members of the community and achieve college and career success.
PHOTO BY BRIAN AVERILL



EDUCATION IS THE KEY

Consortium puts adult learners on the path to college and career success

BY JENNIFER BONNETT

Want to expand your range of skills to get a better job? Want to learn English or become a U.S. citizen? Maybe you need to help your children with their schoolwork or finally earn your high school diploma. Or maybe you want to take courses to earn a college degree.

The key to achieving all these goals is one thing — education — and adults in our community are getting the education they need thanks to the Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education.

This collaboration between the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District and Santa Monica College’s Adult Education Center is aimed at making sure adults have access to the right education that can improve their career prospects, the lives of their families and the community. It is part of a statewide initiative designed to address the education and workforce needs of working-age adults. Whether students need literacy, GED or high school diploma, vocational, counseling or college preparation courses, the Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education is providing the community with key educational offerings that improve lives.

The Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education is in the process of identifying community and business partners to develop on-site and off-site curricula to meet the academic and workforce needs of adults in the region, according to Dione Carter, Dean of Noncredit and External Programs at Santa Monica College and Co-Chair of the Consortium.

“As these partnerships are identified, faculty, classified staff and administrators will work closely with business and community partners to tailor noncredit programs, including student support services, for their employees and/or clients,” she says.

“Adult education is not just ‘get your diploma’ anymore. We want to get you on a professional track to wherever that leads you.”

ANTHONY FULLER
Principal, Adult Education Center, Co-Project Director,
Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education

Partners, such as the LA County Workforce Development Board, share input with the consortium on current educational programming needs. These could include ESL courses, high school equivalency exam (GED) preparation, and noncredit courses that allow adult education students to gain employment in high-demand careers.

Students have many courses and supportive services available to help them achieve their goals, but that wasn’t always the case. In 2008, statewide funding cuts to adult education programs drastically affected the courses being offered in the community.

SMMUSD Adult Education Center Principal Anthony Fuller says if it weren’t for the efforts of Lorena Martin, administrative assistant for the center, he’s not sure the Adult Education Center would have survived.

“Ms. Martin kept the adult school going, whether funding was ebbing or flowing over the last 26 years. Because of her efforts and the increase in funding provided by our great state, we are poised to re-energize and expand adult education on the west side of Los Angeles,” he says.

This new era was made possible by Assembly Bill 86, which created the Adult Education Planning Grant. It outlined expectations for consortium development and implementation requirements.

With the passage of the AB 104, the Adult Education Block Grant, consortia began the transition from planning to implementation.

The intent of AB 104 and The Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education is to expand and improve the adult education system.

“Adult education is not just ‘get your diploma’ anymore,” Fuller says. “We want to get you on a professional track to wherever that leads you.”

Timeline: Changes to adult education

JUNE 2013:	JUNE 2014:	JUNE 2015:	SUMMER 2017:	MARCH 2018:
Under Assembly Bill 86 , the state budget appropriates \$25 million to the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to allocate funding for planning and implementation grants to expand adult education accessibility.	The Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education is established to respond to the education and training needs of the region’s working-age adults.	Assembly Bill 104 approved supplemental funding commonly known as the Adult Education Block Grant that funds career training and other programs in alignment with noncredit.	New noncredit short-term vocational and workforce preparation courses were developed and sent to the state California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office for approval.	The California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office approved proposed courses .

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS

What's your reason?

I want to learn English.



I want to become a citizen.



I want to get my high school diploma.



I want to go to college.



I want to get a better job.



Where can I find the courses I need?

PROGRAM	What is it?	SMMUSD Adult Education Center	Santa Monica College
Diploma/ Credit Recovery	Allows students who are missing only a few credits to obtain their high school diploma by taking their unfinished courses.	✓	
High School Equivalency Exam Prep (GED)	Classes that can help students who are extremely deficient in credits pass the GED exam, which earns them a high school equivalency degree.	✓	
Adult Basic Education	For students who need to develop better writing or math skills for their job or to prepare for secondary English or math courses.	✓	✓
Citizenship	These courses prepare students to become U.S. citizens, including how to fill out the citizenship application and skills that will help them during the in-person interview.	✓	✓
ESL	Students who speak a foreign language may need to learn English to reach their goals. Students are assessed into beginning, intermediate or advanced ESL, and progress is assessed until the student is proficient in English.	✓	✓
Noncredit Classes	Enrichment courses like computer skills and customer service that help students gain job skills, but not necessarily a certificate/degree.		✓

How do I get started?

1. Apply/register
2. Assessment
3. Orientation
4. Counseling
5. Educational Plan
6. Follow Up



"Adult school classes are usually in the evenings, so I can go to work during the day"



"Community college classes are offered during the day, so I can be with my family in the evenings."



New career



Advance in current job



English proficiency



Citizenship



Transfer to four-year college

SUCCESS!

'ALL THESE DOORS WILL BE OPEN FOR YOU'

ESL classes were Berta's first step to better opportunities

BY ANNE STOKES

Since coming to the United States more than 20 years ago, Berta Torres has built a career in property management, raised a family and worked hard to achieve the American dream. She took classes occasionally because balancing work, three children and being a student wasn't always possible. Last year, however, she decided to make the jump to full-time student. Today, Torres is taking advanced ESL classes at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center and plans to earn her high school diploma before continuing on to earn a business degree.

"Without my high school diploma, it's going to be impossible to have better opportunities," she says. "My goal right now is to improve my language and also get my high school diploma. I know it's not going to be easy, but I'm positive that I am capable of doing it."

Torres says teachers were flexible, which made it possible to fit studies into her busy schedule. She says educators were always available for extra tutoring and one-on-one help, and they allowed her to take work home whenever she could.

"The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District doesn't just hire any type of teachers, they hire extraordinary teachers," she says.

Learning English has benefitted Torres in her job as a property manager.

"Without language, I'd be unemployed. I need English for everything, like signing all the paperwork, all the maintenance requests to the company to fix things on the property," she says.

“Without English it would be practically impossible to do all of these wonderful things.

BERTA TORRES
Advanced ESL student, Santa Monica-Malibu
Unified School District

Speaking English has also helped her be more involved in her children's education.

"I see other parents at my kid's school and without English, they don't participate because they don't understand," she says. "I am a PTA member and without English it would be practically impossible to do all of these wonderful things."

Her determination and hard work have not gone unnoticed. Torres says that her accomplishments are setting a good example for her three children.

"They are very proud of me, even though they say I'm too old to take classes," she says, laughing.

Torres admits that going to back to school and learning English is hard, but worthwhile.

"It's like you have a magic key to open the door. If you know English, all these doors will be open for you," she says. "Sometimes you feel like you don't want to continue, but if you push yourself that's the only way you're going to get better."

Berta Torres says the benefits of learning English have been twofold: She's better at her job as a property manager and she's more involved in her children's education.
PHOTO BY BRIAN AVERILL



Different students with a shared goal: to learn English

Alexandra Morgan sees her beginning ESL course as a "mini-United Nations." Morgan, an ESL instructor with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center, says there are around 18 countries represented among the 20 to 30 students in each class.

Those students include Syrian refugees, and immigrants from Iran, Spain, Russia and the Ukraine. Some students have only been in the United States for weeks. She says she also has students from Mexico, who have been here for years.

No student is turned away, no matter what his or her legal status may be.

New ESL students are assessed and placed into beginning, intermediate or advanced courses. Students progress until they are proficient in English, which can help them achieve other goals such as citizenship, high school equivalency, career training and college.

Morgan says she tries to create a comfortable place to learn by using humor, repetition and playfulness to help her students to become part of the diverse fabric of America.

"If someone wants to learn, then it is my pleasure to help them," she says.

NOTHING HOLDING HER BACK

Vivian didn't let missing high school credits stop her from reaching her career goal

BY EDGAR SANCHEZ

Beaming in her white cap and gown, Vivian Gonzalez graduated from Lawndale's Leuzinger High School in June 2009. Her family applauded as she and her classmates received diplomas.

She didn't know it then, but an error in her transcript would become a roadblock when Gonzalez went to apply for a college nursing program seven years later. However, it didn't stop her from pursuing her career goal.

"I was determined to continue making my parents proud," says Gonzalez, now 26.

The saga began back in high school. Gonzalez had to change schools her senior year when her family relocated to West Covina to be closer to an injured family member.

But when Gonzalez went to enroll in her new local school, she was denied admission and told she was better off remaining at her old school.

Gonzalez missed two weeks of classes before re-enrolling at her old school, Leuzinger High, which nevertheless bestowed a diploma upon her in 2009.

Then in 2016, Gonzalez decided to recover the missing high school credits she needed for admission to college.

A single mother to a 4-year-old boy named Gianni, Gonzalez was determined to make up those five classes and become a nurse. She enrolled at Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center that September.

Before enrolling, she inquired about the age limit for students.

“I was determined to continue making my parents proud.”

VIVIAN GONZALEZ

SMMUSD Adult Education Center student

"They told me I could be 99 years old and I could still get my high school diploma," Gonzalez says, laughing. "I loved that attitude."

Twice a week, she drove from her day job, where she was a customer service representative for a mobile-phone store, to evening classes.

She received straight As and completed her high school diploma in the fall of 2017.

Letitia "Titia" Murphy, Gonzalez' favorite Adult Ed teacher, called Gonzalez "pretty amazing."

"Vivian is very dedicated and hard working," says Murphy, the Adult Education Center's high school diploma lab teacher. "She showed up on a regular basis. She is a motivating student, really determined to succeed."



Vivian Gonzalez was surprised to learn she was missing high school credits when she tried to apply for a nursing program.

PHOTO BY JANE MINAEVA

I didn't complete high school. What do I do?

There are plenty of reasons why students don't finish high school. "You have students who come in that started a family, or ... they just failed their classes and couldn't graduate," says Harmony Rousseau, counselor at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center. Rousseau helps students finish what they started by evaluating their transcripts and creating a plan that includes one of these two options:

Earn high school diploma

For students missing just a few classes. Students can take these classes (usually senior-level English, government or economics) at the Adult Education Center to earn a high school diploma. Classes are free and can be taken in evenings.

Pass the High School Equivalency Exam (GED)

For students who are extremely deficient in credits.

The GED exam is taken on a computer and costs around \$140. Rousseau recommends students first take the official practice exam at GED.com to see how likely it would be for them to pass. The practice exam also lets counselors like Rousseau see which areas may need review, such as math or English. Free practice exams are available through the Adult Education Center.

THE NEW AMERICANS

Citizenship program prepares immigrants for life in the U.S.

BY ANNA QUINLAN



Citizenship students learn about the path to becoming an American thanks to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center's Citizenship Program.
PHOTO BY RICHARD HARTOG

When Farzad Sedaghatkish immigrated to the United States from Iran, he did so via the Diversity Visa Program with hopes of one day becoming a U.S. citizen.

“I wanted to be a U.S. citizen to be able to participate in this democracy by voting in elections, and have a U.S. passport to travel freely in the world for the first time in my life,” he says.

In October 2011, at 46 years old, Sedaghatkish arrived in America, the country he had loved from afar and was finally able to call home.

The process of becoming a citizen was overwhelming though, made only more difficult by the fact he spoke little to no English and didn't have anyone to share his experiences with.

Exactly five years after arriving on U.S. soil, Sedaghatkish enrolled himself in the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center's Citizenship Program — a decision he is glad he made. “I have learned much from this program,” he says, “especially from my teacher, Mrs. Patricia. She really helped me, and I am very thankful to her and this program.”

In addition to the citizenship curriculum that ultimately prepared Sedaghatkish to complete and submit his citizenship application and pass the official citizenship review, the program also provided a sense of community.

“I met so many nice people from all over the world in this class,” he says, “from South American countries, from

Ukraine, Russia, Egypt and Iran. Most of these people were above 50 years old, like me.”

Citizenship classes give students support for completing what can be a very complex process, says citizenship teacher Patricia Hernandez.

“Also, it is helpful to have support, and a place to ask questions when the need arises,” she says.

Hernandez says classes serve another important function: They can help correct false information and prevent missteps that could delay the citizenship process. For instance, many students don't realize interviews must be done in English. Also, well-meaning friends and family sometimes complete the citizenship application for the students, which can introduce mistakes — mistakes that Hernandez says are only discovered when students review their application in class.

Sedaghatkish took his oath to officially become a U.S. citizen on August 22, 2017.

“After becoming a U.S. citizen, I can participate in this democracy. I came here because I love this country, its system and its freedom,” he says. “Also, I am so happy and proud to become a citizen of the United States and be the same nationality as my only daughter, who was born in this great country.”

“**I came here because I love this country, its system and its freedom.**”

FARZAD SEDAGHATKISH
Former citizenship student

How to be a citizen

The Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center Citizenship Program helps prepare foreign-born residents for the citizenship process, including:

- **Naturalization requirements and documentation**
- **100 civics questions**
- **Dictation**
- **Interview skills (attire and appropriate behavior)**
- **Application form**
- **Practice tests**

It's one of the only citizenship classes available to students on the west side of Los Angeles. Citizenship class happens during the regular school year, with students continuing to attend classes until they pass their citizenship interview.

“Once the student passes their interview, they return to class to be ‘debriefed’ and share their experience with their fellow classmates,” says citizenship teacher Patricia Hernandez. “They share their pride in becoming new citizens, serving as an example and encouraging other students to not give up.”

HELPING STUDENTS GET THERE

Santa Monica College is offering noncredit courses that prepare students for in-demand jobs

BY JENNIFER BONNETT



Through a partnership with the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District, Santa Monica College has expanded its noncredit programs for underserved adults ages 18 and older who need education to access jobs in industries with a high demand for qualified workers.

"There is a statewide slogan for California Community Colleges: Doing What Matters," says Sal Veas, Santa Monica College Faculty Chair of the Business Department. "We do our best to live up to that goal."

"We are ultimately a stepping stone to help students fulfill their dreams, whether it's career advancement or their entrepreneurial aspirations."

SAL VEAS
Santa Monica College Faculty Department Chair, Business

These noncredit courses are designed to help students get a new job or a promotion in their current one, but they also to serve as a gateway to the college, should students decide to pursue a college degree at a four-year college.

"Our programs are more than a series of courses. We are ultimately a stepping stone to help students fulfill their dreams, whether it's career advancement or their entrepreneurial aspirations."

The noncredit short-term vocational and workforce preparation programs will focus on working-age adults who would like to make the transition to a credit-based college education and/or into the workforce.

Newly approved noncredit courses include those in the areas of:

- Business
- Computer Science and Information Systems
- Early childhood education
- Kinesiology

Two of Santa Monica College's noncredit Certificates of Completion are Customer Service Skills and Business Essentials. Students who complete these programs are prepared to excel in jobs that involve interaction with customers, according to Veas.

"These programs provide context for the business environment and practical tools to use to provide quality customer service during those exchanges," he says.

As a student progresses through their career path, their new job responsibilities may require additional skills — and Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education has them covered.

How to get today's hot jobs

There are several new noncredit, short-term vocational and workforce preparation certificates will be offered at Santa Monica College in Fall 2018/ Spring 2019. These career pathways were identified as a need in the Santa Monica-Malibu region and will prepare students for entry-level employment in:



Bicycle Maintenance



Computer Basics & Internet Safety



Customer Service



Early Childhood Education



Business Essentials



Rehabilitation Therapy Aide

Inquire:

SMC Bundy Campus Noncredit Office
3171 Bundy Drive, Room 112
Los Angeles, CA 90066
(310) 434-3400

SMC Student Services Clerk Nataly Gonzalez: Gonzalez_Nataly@smc.edu
SMC Student Services Specialist Luis Jauregui: Jauregui_Luis@smc.edu

WORKING TOGETHER

Employment fair jumpstarts adult education students into fast-tracked employment

BY MICHELLE CARL

The Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education hosted its first-ever job fair geared specifically toward adult education students. Some 150 participants visited around a dozen employers during the fair, located at Santa Monica College's Bundy Campus.

Several students were interviewed and a few were even hired — right on the spot.

That couldn't have made Cristina Gutierrez any prouder. Gutierrez is a noncredit counselor with Santa Monica College who helped organize the job fair. She often works with adult education students, many of them ESL students, to develop resumes and practice interviewing skills that will lead to successful employment.

She recalls an ESL student who was apprehensive about going to the job fair.

"She wasn't confident about herself. This was a challenge for her to put herself out there," Gutierrez says. "But she really wanted to work, so she went to the fair, interviewed on the spot and came back and got the job. I'm really excited for her."

The job fair is just one example of how the consortium is partnering with employers and workforce development agencies

to get students on the fast track to employment.

Gutierrez says adult education classes help put more people into the workforce who may have a barrier to getting a job.

"Our students are mature, prepared and committed. They're ready to get employed, the only thing they need to work on is improving their English skills; that shouldn't be a barrier for them," she says. "They deserve an opportunity to be able to work and contribute to our community."

One employer that participated in the employment fair was OneWest Bank, which has taken its partnership with Santa Monica College to a new level by hosting job preparedness, customer service and financial literacy seminars.

OneWest Bank's Job Preparedness Workshop focuses on characteristics such as the importance of being on time, using correct grammar, dressing appropriately, teamwork and money skills.



“ [Our students] deserve an opportunity to be able to work and contribute to our community.”

CRISTINA GUTIERREZ
Noncredit counselor, Santa Monica College

These are the same skills employers like OneWest Bank look for in potential employees. But these are also skills that make students more successful in life, says M. Victoria Wozniak, Relationship Center Operations Manager for OneWest Bank.

"Beyond the importance of training individuals for a career in financial services, financial literacy impacts

daily decisions such as balancing a budget or planning for retirement," she says.

Because the Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education works closely with workforce agencies, students are obtaining the right skills to get to work.

"We know that our work with Santa Monica College will improve the lives of individuals and in turn support economic growth in the community," Wozniak says.

What adult education means to the community



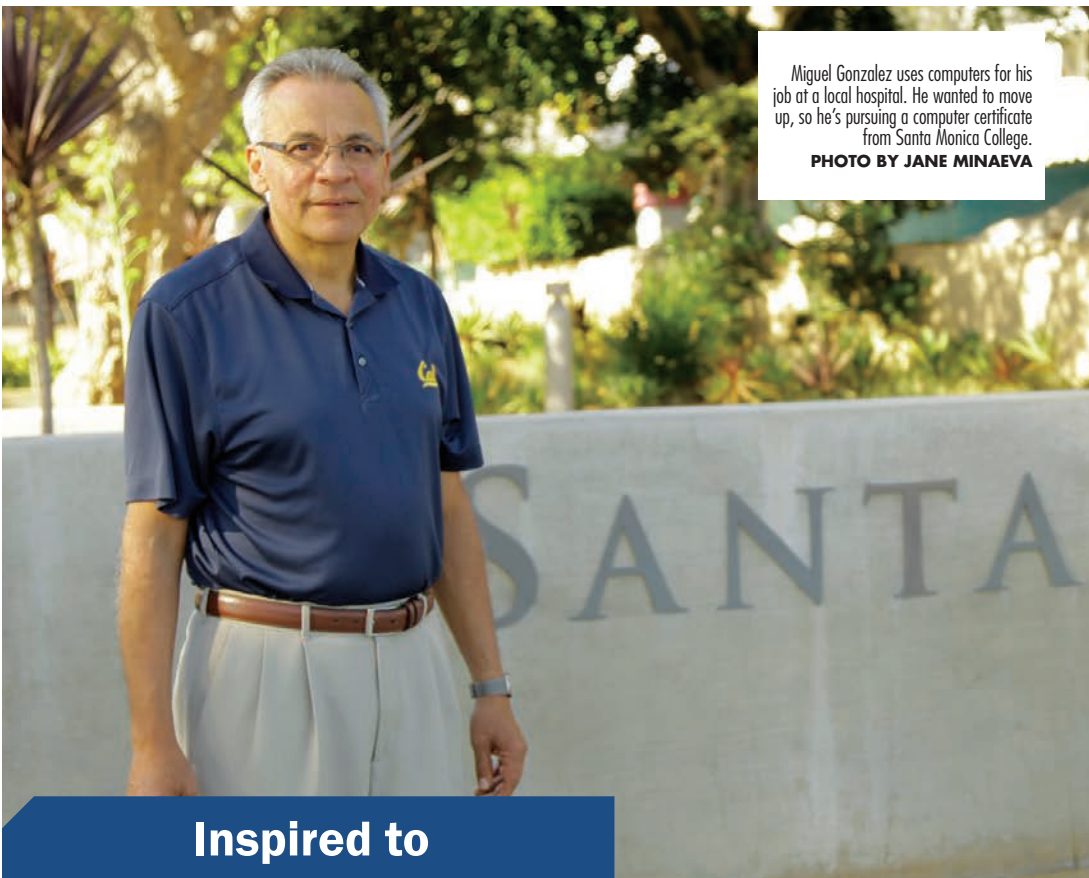
"JVS SoCal (formerly JVS Los Angeles) is a regional nonprofit leader in workforce development. Core to achieving our mission — empowering individuals to achieve dignity and independence through sustainable employment — is a collaborative model that engages government agencies, educational institutions and both the

private and philanthropic sectors, because one-size does not fit all in meeting the needs of adults seeking job training or a career ladder.

JVS has worked in close partnership with the Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education. By leveraging our collective resources and seamlessly integrating our systems, we

have been able to make referrals and host workshops that give adults a greater range of opportunities. The result has been a meaningful impact on the lives of adult learners seeking a pathway to hope and economic opportunity."

~Josefina Santiago, JVS Director
of Workforce Development



Miguel Gonzalez uses computers for his job at a local hospital. He wanted to move up, so he's pursuing a computer certificate from Santa Monica College.

PHOTO BY JANE MINAEVA

DETERMINED TO DO MORE

He earned his GED, now Miguel wants to move up in his company

BY TINKA DAVI

Inspired to Continue Learning

Many adult education students realize their journey can go beyond adult school and community college. That's because adult education gives students the foundational skills to be successful at community colleges and four-year colleges and universities.

Students receive more support from instructors to help them improve their English, study skills and more in adult education and noncredit classes. These skills prepare them for more rigorous academic study required for Associate of Arts (A.A.) or Associate of Science (A.S.) degrees, and for four-year degrees, like a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.). These degrees are required for many professions and can also increase the earning potential of students.

Comprehensive counseling available through adult schools and community colleges can map out pathways for students who want to continue their education at a four-year university. Santa Monica College has a Transfer Admission Guarantee (TAG) program that offers students guaranteed admissions to several colleges and universities one year prior to transfer.

Miguel Gonzalez dreams of working with computers. But to do that, he first had to go back and finish something he started years earlier — high school. As a child, Gonzalez attended elementary school in his native country, Mexico. When his family moved to Southern California, he was unable to continue his education.

"I came from a poor family and my father didn't have the income to support everyone's education," he says. "A couple of my older brothers finished their education, but, in my case, I worked to help support the family."

He took classes to learn English because he says that was important for finding jobs in this country.

The family moved around Southern California, and Miguel eventually married and had children. The moves and his family obligations only allowed him to attend school off and on.

Gonzalez eventually earned his GED and then his high school diploma at the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center. Not content to stop there, he then enrolled in classes at Santa Monica College.

He likes that he can find classes that fit around his current work schedule at a local hospital, where he does clerical tasks on a computer.

"I check in clients, make doctor appointments, do work orders for departments, handle requisitions for supplies using two different programs and deal with vendors. It's all about computers," he says.

“Ultimately, my goal is to be able to get a degree, transfer to a different department at the hospital and work in the business office.”

MIGUEL GONZALEZ
Santa Monica College student

However, his goal extends beyond those responsibilities.

"I want to learn Express and Excel — anything related to expenses and productivity in the finance department," he says. "Ultimately, my goal is to be able to get a degree, transfer to a different department at the hospital and work in the business office. I should be able to manage more."

Gonzalez has achieved past goals of learning English after immigrating from Mexico, raising and supporting his family, getting his high school diploma and working in the field of computers. He's certain to meet his next goal — a computer science certificate from Santa Monica College.

"I only need four classes. I've taken one and have three more classes to go," he says.

Olga Saucedo works at the SMMUSD Adult Education Center and knows the value it provides the community because she is a former student.

PHOTO BY BRIAN AVERILL

BACK TO WORK



Adult schools provide the training needed for workers that face barriers to employment

BY JENNIFER BONNETT

Olga Saucedo first came to the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District Adult Education Center as a mother and wife in search of a career. She was missing just a few credits before she could finish her high school diploma, so she worked closely with her counselor and teachers on math and English.

“I never realized the value in an adult education center,” she says of her experience attending courses and eventually earning that diploma. “I had heard stories about everything the college had to offer, but never of the offerings of an adult school and of it being free.”

Today, she works at the Adult Education Center as an office assistant helping students register for citizenship courses and more — a position she never dreamed she would be offered after obtaining her diploma.

“The counselor offered me a job and, of course, I accepted,” Saucedo says.

Principal Anthony Fuller says Saucedo exemplifies the exact student his program is reaching.

“**[Working adults] can come back to school and realize school is something they can do.**”

ANTHONY FULLER
Adult Education Center principal

“The demographics are clear: The largest group in America right now is working-age adults,” he says, adding that the vast majority of them are under-employed. “These people are all around us, they just need the training.”

That’s where adult education can help. Adult education can teach adults new skills to advance in their current job, start a new career, or even move on to a four-year college.

“We’re trying to reach out to the adults out in the region working service jobs and get them onto pathways so that they can come back to school and realize school is something they can do,” Fuller says.

Saucedo knows firsthand the struggles students have when they come back to school. By working at the Adult Education Center and educating herself in all high school requirements, Saucedo has also been able to help her son who was struggling in high school math. Because of her knowledge in what the center offers, her son was able to take math classes at the adult school and graduate on time, she says.

The Adult Education Center employees meet with students from all walks of life. They know that by obtaining a high school diploma, more doors will open for them — doors to better jobs, college and more.

“I know the value in education, and I empathize with all students that walk through our door,” Saucedo says.

State funding makes new noncredit courses possible

New legislation has made it possible for Santa Monica College to expand its noncredit programs for underserved working-age adults.

Thanks to state Assembly Bill 104, the Adult Education Block Grant was created to assist adults striving to accelerate into employment, improve

wages and further their education. This funding is distributed to Adult Education Consortia through a comprehensive partnership at the state level with the California Department of Education and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office. Santa Monica College was designated for Adult

Education Block Grant funding as part of the Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education, which was established in 2014 to respond to the education and workforce needs for working-age adults.

PAST AND PRESENT

BY ALYSSA RASMUSSEN

Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education is innovating new ways to help adults reach their goals

? Who offers adult education courses in the Santa Monica region?

Santa Monica College (SMC) and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's (SMMUSD) Adult Education Center both offer adult education courses, which are known as noncredit courses at SMC.

? How long have these schools been improving lives?

SMC's noncredit citizenship course originated in 1977, followed by the first ESL course in 1982. Roughly 20 years later, parent education was added and the California High School Exit Examination (CAHSEE) followed. SMMUSD has served adult learners since 1992.

? What is the adult education consortium?

A consortium is a group formed to accomplish a certain task that cannot be accomplished alone. As a result of Assembly Bill 86 passed in 2013, adult schools and community colleges in California formed

as adult education consortia to collaborate on ways to serve working-age adults. Locally, Santa Monica College and the Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District's Adult Education Center and other partners united as the Santa Monica Regional Consortium (SMRC) for Adult Education.

? What is the goal of the Adult Education Block Grant?

The Adult Education Block Grant (AEBG) aims to help underserved working-age adults further their education so they can gain employment or improve wages. The Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education uses AEBG funding to serve the specific needs of its population and employers. The consortium provides seamless transitions between adult schools and community colleges to help adult learners continue their education through noncredit courses to prepare for college and the workforce. The Santa Monica Regional Consortium's mission is: "Transforming, Empowering, Advancing and Motivating (T.E.A.M.) students to forge the career pathway of their dreams." Its vision is: "To prepare our students to thrive in an ever-changing global economy."

? How does the consotium help remove barriers to education?

A critical component of the consortium's goal requires alignment between Student Support Services (i.e., counseling) and academic programs. The consortium

continues to identify community and business partners to establish stronger pathways to academic success and gainful employment.

When students have access to transportation and childcare, it contributes to their success. Schools provide referrals to community resources, and the City of Santa Monica provides free public bus transportation to students enrolled at SMC. Free campus-to-campus shuttle service is also available to students enrolled at Santa Monica College.

? How do adult education programs extend beyond individuals to benefit entire communities?

The consortium is exploring partnerships with not-for-profit organizations, city, and county entities to identify the literacy, secondary education, and workforce preparation needs of the community as a whole. In Spring 2018, the consortium hosted its second annual Business & Community Partners event to promote awareness and collaboration. The consortium also hosted its first-ever technology resource fair in 2017.

? What's in store for the future of the consortium?

The consortium will continue to expand on technology and digital literacy, contextualized learning, and explore curriculum in other Adult Education Block Grant areas, including students with substantial disabilities and older adults programs.

Elected Officials

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SMRC for Adult Education Governing Board

	SMC	SMMUSD
Co-Chairs:	Dione Carter	Evan Bartelheim
Co-Project Directors:	Laura Manyweather	Anthony Fuller
Faculty Leads:	Lizbeth Köenig	Flavia DeMello
Administrative Assistants:	Saman Mehrazar	Lorena Martin

ACHIEVE YOUR GOALS WITH ADULT EDUCATION

Whether you want to learn English or advance in your career, adult education can make it possible. The Santa Monica Regional Consortium for Adult Education is making it easier for adults to get the skills they need to gain employment.



There's an Adult Education class near you!

SANTA MONICA

Main Library: 601 Santa Monica Blvd.

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Santa Monica High School: 601 Pico Blvd.

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Pico Library: 2201 Pico Blvd.

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SMC Bundy Campus: 3171 S. Bundy Drive, Los Angeles

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SMC Main Campus: 1900 Pico Blvd., Santa Monica

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SMMUSD Adult Education Center (AEC): 2510 Lincoln Blvd., Room 203, Santa Monica

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Ocean Park Library: 2601 Main St.

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Santa Monica College (SMC)

www.smc.edu

Come here for

- ESL, Citizenship
- Vocational Education
- Noncredit/Certificate Programs
- Associate Degrees
- Transfer Preparation
- Programs for Older Adults (Emeritus)

ENROLL: 310-434-3399

Parking is free at the SMC Bundy Campus with a free shuttle to the Main Campus (with valid student ID).

Santa Monica-Malibu Unified School District (SMMUSD) Adult Education Center

www.smmusd.org/adulted

Come here for

- Adult Basic Education
- Adult Secondary Education
- Citizenship
- English as a Second Language

ENROLL: 310-664-6222, ext. 76203, osaucedo@smmusd.org

Parking is free at the Adult Education Center and most locations can be reached using public transportation.