



NEWS RELEASE

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Aug. 20, 2019

HANCOCK WELCOMES STUDENTS BACK FOR 2019 FALL CLASSES

Thousands of new and returning students were back on Allan Hancock College campuses as they began fall 2019 classes on Monday, Aug. 19.

More than 10,500 students started credit and noncredit classes at Hancock's Santa Maria campus, Lompoc Valley Center and Santa Ynez Valley Center as well as online. This fall's students include recent high school graduates, returning students working on degrees and certificates, students preparing to transfer to a four-year university, and more.

"We want to welcome all our fall students, and let them know that Hancock is here to support them in attaining their educational goals," said Hancock Superintendent/President Kevin G. Walthers, Ph.D. "We're proud to play a role in helping change the odds for our students."

Hancock students got a helping hand their first day back, as college staff and student ambassadors manned information booths located at multiple on-campus locations, answering questions and even helping students find their classes.

"If I see a student that looks a little lost, I greet them and ask if I can help them find their classes," Hancock Student Ambassador Staci Tilley said. "I'm a second-year student, and I have the campus memorized, so it's a great feeling to be able to help someone find their way around. I really love helping out our students."

That support will continue long past the first day of classes thanks to a wide array of support services for Hancock students. Students can continue to get help individually and as groups at Hancock's math, writing and tutoring centers, get assistance and guidance as they plan for four-year college at the University Transfer Center and even get help to find and applying for jobs through Hancock's Career Center. In addition, all of Hancock's student services departments will continue to extend their hours for students and will stay open until 7 p.m. every Tuesday.

The new students Tilley assisted weren't the only ones new to Hancock. This fall, the college also welcomed 51 new employees (hired over the spring and summer semesters). New faculty hires included assistant professor of photography Shane Anderson, assistant professor of biology Luke Blacquiere, assistant professor of music Nichole Dechaine, LVN program assistant professor Luz Veronica De Leija, assistant professor of machining and manufacturing technology John Gerrity, assistant professors of mathematics Anna Kopcrak and Laurene Lee, assistant professor of biology Jennifer Morris and assistant professor of dance Sydney Sorenson.

The new faculty and other recently hired Hancock staff and administrators were recognized by Dr. Walthers during the college's All Staff Day event on Aug. 16.

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Photo caption: Allan Hancock College students began fall classes Aug. 19.