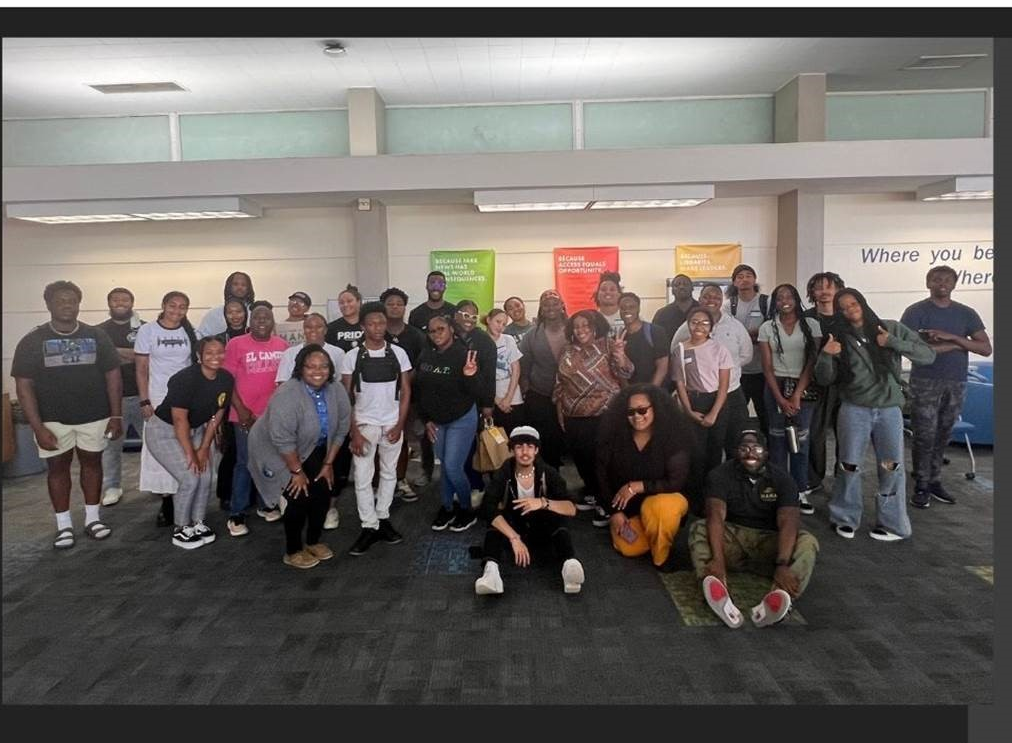


THE TEA WITH BSSC

THE OFFICIAL BLACK STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER NEWSLETTER

September 7

Vol. 1



Summer at SEA photos

The Black Student Success Center and MANA hosted a 3-day event (7/25-7/27) to address the equity gaps faced by students who identify as Black/African American and/or AANHPI. Students were able to attend activities that were shaped by pillars of academic, personal, and professional support, all housed in a framework of community building.

The goal was to recruit 80-100 past, present and prospective students to participate in Summer at SEA. We worked with Outreach and School Relations to connect with high school contacts from local high schools. We also shared the invite with current students who have not had a chance to build community quite yet. Overall, the event went well, and we are looking forward to hosting it again next Summer!

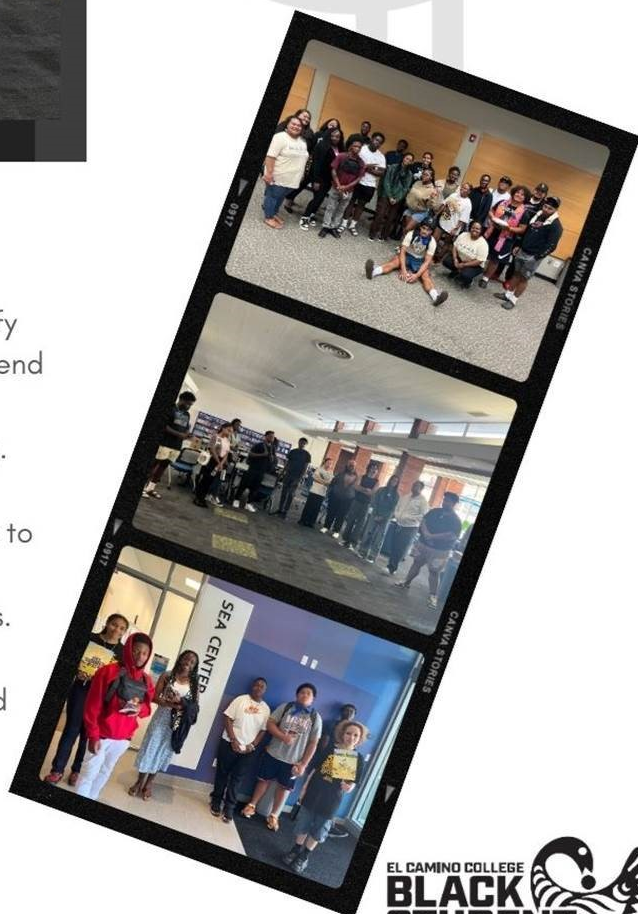
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Meet the Counselors



Chidi Agu

I have been helping people reach their academic goals for nearly a decade and love the work that I get to do. My unique experiences throughout higher education have included me starting college across the country, dropping out, transferring from Mt. San Antonio College, graduating summa cum laude from UC Santa Barbara with degrees in psychology and sociology, studying public policy at the Harvard Kennedy School, and most recently, receiving my master's in education counseling from San Diego State University. I believe everyone has a story worth listening to and that students too often blame themselves (or are blamed by others) for systemic failings. Working with Black students is sacred work and I'm grateful for it every day.

Outside of work, I love bike riding, creative writing, philosophy, vegan food, sitcoms, video games, and basketball -- Go Lakers!

Dr. Autumn Blakley

My name is Dr. Autumn Blakley, and I am thrilled to be aligned with the intentional commitment to Black student success at El Camino College. A little about me... Before joining the BSSC at El Camino College, I was a professor of Counseling Education at Loyola Marymount University and CSU Long Beach. Throughout my career, I have had a focused interest in the promotion of social justice and racial equity in higher education that has driven my passion to introduce innovative programming and policies that are directed at unraveling institutional barriers as well as providing equitable avenues for success for marginalized student populations at several institutions, including CSU Dominguez Hills where I received a BA in Sociology. Additionally, I received my Master of Arts in Counseling from Loyola Marymount University and my Doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University, Long Beach. My research is centered on the sense of belonging of Black female undergraduates attending Hispanic-serving institutions as well as the furtherance of the visibility Black women in academic and professional spaces. I am eager and excited to work with our students here at ECC as well as advance our mission of equity and justice throughout the campus. Some personal passions of mine are the theater, Greek Mythology, politics, and extensive reading. All of which I am ready to share with you all!





BSSC BACK TO SCHOOL KICKBALL GAME

Wednesday, August 23, 2023, The Black Student Success Center hosted a kickball game to welcome students back for the Fall semester. To make things exciting, the teams were split into staff versus students. There were faculty and staff in attendance along with new and returning students. The game ended in a tie (5-5), and we awarded the MVP of the game. The game was a great opportunity to build community and show students that they have a support network on campus. We are looking forward to future games!

HOURS OF OPERATION

Monday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Tuesday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Wednesday: 10:00am – 7:00pm

Thursday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

TUTORING AVAILABLE!

Math Tutor – Tuesdays: 1:00pm–3:00pm

Writing Tutor – Tuesdays: 11:30am–2:00pm

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/20 – Black Wednesday

9/21– Fall 2023 University Fair

9/25 – Mommy Scholars Meet and Greet

9/26 – Community Circle

9/27 – Warrior Network

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