SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

AREA OF INTEREST COMMUNITIES

Fostering the engagement and sense of belonging of racially minoritized students through a proactive, anti-racist, culturally responsive approach

... a holistic approach to increase success, retention, persistence, and completion ...

... intentionally centering the experience of racially minoritized students ...

... transitioning SMC from "race-neutral" to an actively anti-racist and culturally responsive institution ...

Aol Communities Methodology:

First Time In College (FTIC) students select one of 7 Areas of Interest (based on their academic/career interest)

7 AoI Communities include:

- Instructional Faculty Lead(s)
- Counseling Faculty Lead(s)
- Academic and Career Counseling Cluster
- Peer Ambassadors
- Peer Cohort / Learning Communities

AoI-based Student Care Teams (SCTs) for racially minoritized students include:

- SCT Coach
- Peer Navigators
- Financial Aid Contact
- Health and Wellness Contact

Cohort of "Undecided" Students served by:

- Instructional Faculty Lead(s)
- Academic & Career **Counseling Cluster**
- Peer Ambassadors

What do AoI Communities do?

Targeted Student Programming

- Faculty interests and research
- Applied learning opportunities
- Student research opportunities
- Transfer opportunities
- Workforce & Career opportunities
- Scholarship/financial resources opportunities

Peer Cohort / **Learning Communities**

- AoI-based Summer Bridge
- AoI-based Orientation and **Onboarding**
- Regular interactions with smaller cohort of students
- New noncredit courses which are introductory, anti-racist, and culturally responsive (to help undecided students select an AoI)

Proactive, Holistic, **Intentional Support**

- Relational approach to services
- Identifiable team of practitioners







Education



Wellness

Health and Society





Arts, Media, and Entertainment

Business

Culture, History, and Languages

People and