

SEPTEMBER WAS A BUSY MONTH ON THE MOORPARK COLLEGE CAMPUS

The campus joined the nation in commemorating the lives lost in the September 11th attacks. A video honoring the patriots lost during that tragic day was the central point of the remembrance. Ryan Spires and Benjamin Scotti from the Moorpark College's Veterans Resource Center were featured in the video sharing their memories of that fateful day and the motivation to enlist in the military. [Moorpark College Remembers 9/11 video](#)

CONSTITUTION AND CITIZENSHIP DAY

In addition to continuing the instruction and delivery of services to students, the College observed Constitution and Citizenship Day on the 17th with a welcome message from Dr. Sokenu followed by a panel of Moorpark College alum working in public policy and government. The panel facilitated by Professor Rolland Petrello of the Communication Studies Department included alum Caitlin Rosenberg (class of 2018), who currently is an associate at Emily's List, the nation's largest resource for women in politics. Also on the panel was Shawn Haq (class of 2018) who works in the office of Senator Kamala Harris and Robert Rosenberg (class of 2012) who interned at the Obama White House and was involved in Rotary International projects in East Africa. Each of these alums highlighted the commitment to service and community instilled in them while at MC. Thank you to the panelists and Professor Petrello as well as Kristen Robinson, Student Activities Specialist responsible for coordinating the program.



SOCIAL JUSTICE ON CAMPUS

The campus integrates the theme of social justice into various professional development and campus programming in September and will continue to do so throughout the academic year. The goal is to equip members of the campus community to reflect on their own experiences, develop skills to be effective equity advocates and create a climate that supports equity, diversity, and inclusion of all stakeholders. Last week, the Classified Senate sponsored a hands-on workshop entitled Valuing Cultural Competence; participants engaged in guided exercises empowering them to build competence necessary to serve all students and work collaboratively with colleagues from varied cultural backgrounds.

Dr. Loretta Ross gave a lecture titled "Understanding White Supremacy" on Tuesday, September 29th to an audience of over 100 attendees. A distinguished voice on women's rights and reproductive justice, Dr Ross captivated the attention of participants on the Zoom webinar by providing a critical framework for understanding the racist tropes that inform and continue to define the nation. She demonstrated the importance of building intersectional alliances across race, gender, immigration status, sexual orientation and social class identities.

MOORPARK COLLEGE'S SOCIAL JUSTICE WORKGROUPS CONTINUE TO ADDRESS THE FOUR THEMES:

- Diversifying the Curriculum to reflect the experiences of Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other People of Color
- Diversity in Hiring of faculty, staff, and administrators
- Providing Culturally Responsive Student Services
- Leadership on Racial Issues and Civic Engagement

These groups have a student, faculty, classified, and administrator lead who rotate facilitation duties. Most of the groups have broken into subgroups to address particular issues and the hiring diversity workgroup has District HR representation. A reading club that will discuss Ta Naehsi Coates 'Between the World and Me' was formed by members of the Diversifying the Curriculum workgroup. All members of the campus community are welcomed to participate in the book discussion and copies of the book are available on loan from the MC Library.

The Moorpark College Academic Senate Council approved a resolution in support of Black lives matter on Tuesday, September 29th. Congratulations to Academic Senate President, Dr Erik Reese and the Senate Council for engaging in the courageous conversation allowing the faculty a robust discussion leading to a unanimous resolution in support of the lives of our Black/African American students, faculty, staff, and administrators. The resolution approved by the Academic Senate came from members of the social justice work groups; the resolution is being taken to the Classified Senate and the Associated Students of Moorpark College for review, discussion and vote as well.

We are in the process of prioritizing the action items identified by the four work groups with the intention of establishing a work plan with outcomes for this academic year. We will map the outcomes of each of the workgroups to MC's Education Master Plan as well as metrics from the Student Equity and Achievement Plan. To effect long term transformation of the College's culture, we must integrate this work into our established campus governance process. A campus Town hall meeting is scheduled for November 5th during which a campus level dialog and commitment to the work plan for the year will be a central agenda item.

MC will begin work on modifying our mission and values statements and we have applied for an IEPI Partnership Resource Team to visit the college in Spring 2021 to focus on how we:

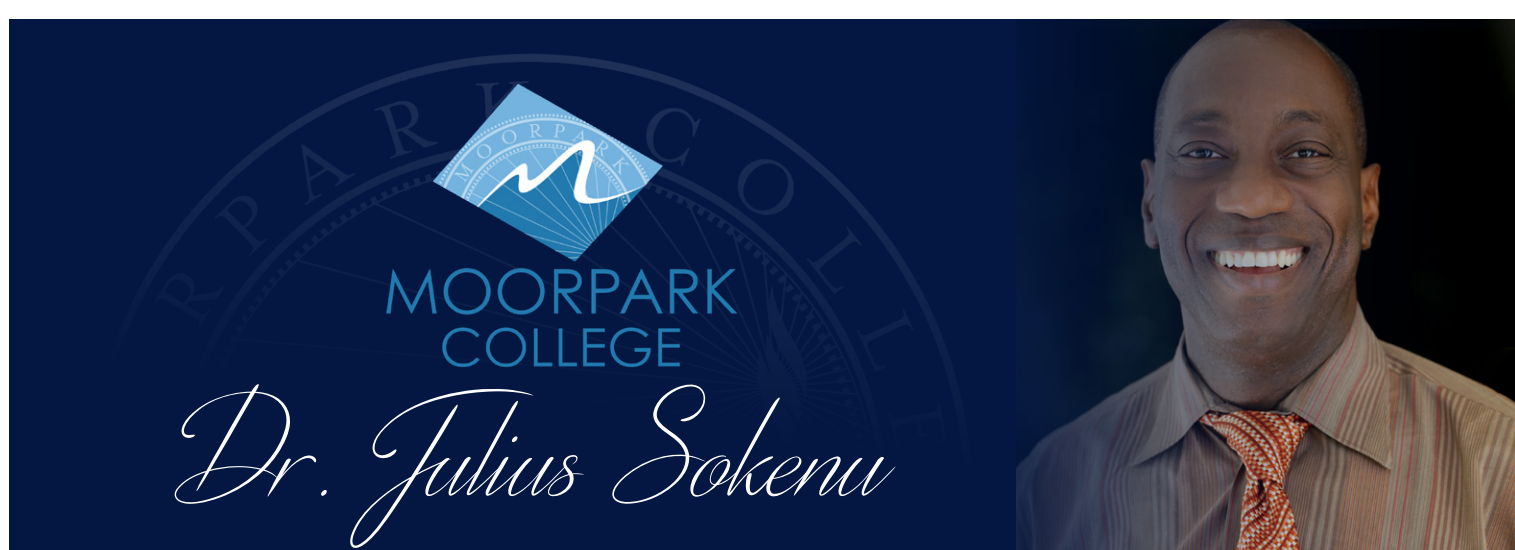
- Build infrastructure and the leadership capacity to implement the equity and inclusion goals in our various College plans
- Analyze the impact of Distance Education on the success of disproportionately impacted student population
- Develop systems and practices to ensure our online academic, student services, and administrative services are designed to facilitate student equity and success
- Review policies and procedures to ensure student equity and success are indeed a priority in the virtual learning environment



LATINX/ HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The College began its celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month on September 22 with a lecture by Dr. Tomas Avila Carrasco from Santa Barbara City College entitled "Hispanic/Latino/LatinX Identity Labels: An Examination of Cultural Values and Personal Experiences". Dr. Carrasco's lecture provided a historical context to ground attendees' understanding of the role of identity politics in the discourse on people of Spanish heritage in the U.S. The lecture was followed by a robust open discussion facilitated by Moorpark College faculty Dr. Marnie Melendez featuring Dr. Josepha Baca of the Business Department, Maria Thayer of the International Student Office and Associated Students of Moorpark College's Nicole Bicakci. There were over 60 attendees including students, staff, faculty and administrators. Thank you to the Multicultural Day Committee chaired by Professor Tammy Coleman and the panelists for a thoughtful and informative exploration of identity and experience.

The LatinX Heritage Month celebrations continues on Tuesday October 6 from 5:30 -7:00 p.m. with a reading by Dr. Martin Alberto Gonzalez, a local author. He will read stories from his social justice-based book "21 Miles of Scenic Beauty...and Oxnard".



PRESIDENT SOKENU IN THE COMMUNITY

Dr Sokenu is proud to be in Ventura County Leadership Academy's Cohort XXVI. He and his subgroup were assigned the city of Oxnard as their exploration project. The team including Jessie Weihe of Mustang Marketing, Jeremy Shumaker of AMR & Gold Coast Ambulance and Shari Mogridge interviewed President Luis Sanchez of Oxnard College, Dr. Tom Mcoy, Interim Superintendent Oxnard Union High School District, Mayor of Oxnard Tim Flynn and Trevor Zierhut, a political consultant working on Measure M which increases sales tax for the city of Oxnard. The interviews provided Dr. Sokenu a better appreciation of the city of Oxnard, the strengths, opportunities, and challenges facing Ventura County's most populous city. Below is a picture of the team with Mayor Tim Flynn at the Collection in Oxnard.

Dr. Sokenu and Professor John Loprieno, interim Director of Advancement, Marketing and Communication at Moorpark College, were among the 18 members of the community appointed to the General Plan Advisory Committee for the City of Moorpark. The inaugural meeting of GPAC was held last week and members were charged to serve as liaison between the Committee and their constituency groups and recommend to the City Council a comprehensive 50 year plan for the city's development.

