



smcfa
Faculty Association
OF SANTA MONICA COLLEGE

Professionalism ♦ Participation ♦ Protection



Santa Monica College Benefits and Retirement Conference

Friday March 20, 2026

Santa Monica College | 1900 Pico Boulevard, Santa Monica

8:30 a.m. **Registration and Continental Breakfast**
HSS Building Quad

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Peter Morse, President, SMC Faculty Association
Room: HSS 105

9:30 – 10:20 a.m. **What We Wished We'd Known Before Retiring**
Mitra Moassessi and Tom Peters, SMC Faculty Association, retired
Room: HSS 105

10:30 – 11:30 a.m. **Concurrent Session 1**

Room: HSS 151

- **My Retirement System: Introduction to CalSTRS for Full-Time Faculty**
Joanna Leong, CalSTRS Benefits Planning Specialist

As a full-time faculty, you are automatically a member of the Defined Benefit Program in CalSTRS. Learn the basics of this component of your future retirement security. Find out how to save more for retirement, purchasing service credit, and the limits in working after retirement.

Room: HSS 153

- **CalSTRS: Part-Time Educator**
Rob Obedoza, CalSTRS Development Specialist

Find out about the CalSTRS benefits and services available to you as a part-time educator. Compare the two benefit programs that may be available to you and determine which program you're currently paying into. Learn ways to increase your retirement income, the importance of supplemental savings and considerations to keep in mind throughout your career. You're helping students build their future, don't forget about yours.

Room: HSS 154

- **SMC Full-time Retiree Health Benefits**
Alysha DeLuna, Human Resources, SMC

Learn more about health benefit options available to retired full-time faculty. What coverage is available to me and my family? How much could it cost me? What happens if I retire before I turn 65?

11:40 a.m. – 12:40 p.m. Concurrent Session 2

Room: HSS 151

- **My Retirement Decisions: For Members Close to Retirement**
Joanna Leong, CalSTRS Benefits Planning Specialist

Is your retirement date within reach? This workshop is designed for members who are close to retirement and are looking for information on the steps needed to make informed decisions. In this hands-on workshop you will learn how to calculate your retirement benefit but also include topics like beneficiary options, service retirement forms, choosing retirement dates, defined benefit supplement and what to know for after retirement. Start preparing for the retirement you want by getting the accurate information you need.

Room: HSS 153

- **CalSTRS Boost Your Retirement for Full- and Part-Time Faculty**
Rob Obedoza, CalSTRS Development Specialist

Understanding Pension2, the low-cost supplemental savings program designed to help fill in the gap and complement your CalSTRS retirement benefit.

Room: HSS 154

- **SMC Health and Leave Options - Know your contract**
Peter Morse, SMCFCA

Learn about health and leave options available to full-and part-time faculty actively employed by the district.

12:40 – 1:10 p.m. Lunch in the HSS Quad

1:15 – 2:00 p.m. Session 3

Room: HSS 105

- **Open session with SMCFCA Leadership**
Peter Morse and other SMCFCA leaders, SMCFCA

Bring any thoughts or questions you might have for the SMCFCA leadership.