



## SRJC Alumni & Friends

Frank Kobayashi's career trajectory changed radically due to his time at SRJC. As the former SRJC Associated Student President and now the Dean, Career Education and Workforce Development at West Valley College in Saratoga, Frank credits his time at SRJC to opening his eyes to his own potential.

After high school graduation, Frank decided to attend Santa Rosa Junior College to take advantage of the Doyle scholarship despite being accepted to UC Davis. He quickly realized he was not having a true college experience though, so Frank connected with the Student Activities office and the Associated Student Government.



As a freshman senator, and later Associated Student Treasurer, Frank found the classes at SRJC to be incredibly engaging. "SRJC is a close knit community and students are able to develop relationships with faculty through one-on-one time. This experience as a student helped me form deep relationships with various faculty over the years in my educational and career pursuits." He particularly credits Susan Carpenter as a mentor who helped enhance his particular interest in child development.

In his third year at SRJC, Frank ran for Associated Student President and won, diving into the issues at SRJC and learning about the shared governance model. As president, Frank had the opportunity to build relationships across campus with faculty, staff, and administrators while working with students and developing leadership skills in others. He learned the operational functions of a college through hands on experience while pursuing his transfer credits to UC Davis.

After completing his degree at UC Davis, Frank moved to Hiroshima, Japan to teach English as a Second Language classes for two years before heading back to Stanford to complete his Masters in Education Policy to learn more about the community college system, entrepreneurship and business.

Frank merged his two passions for education and entrepreneurship by co-founding College Media Solutions, a magazine company that specialized in developing customized financial aid handbooks for forty community college clients. Later, Frank and his partners spun the printed magazine off into an online platform named Financial Aid TV which still partners with colleges today to help students understand financial aid.

Transitioning back to community college life, Frank was hired as the first Director of Contract Education at West Valley College to apply for contracts and grants. He built the program to \$2 million in peak revenue from grants. Currently, Frank is the Dean of Career Education and Workforce and faces many of the same challenges that SRJC also faces. "The challenge at

community colleges is that there are fewer people doing more things. It is difficult to steer a ship in a different direction and innovate when the practical and operational tactics take up most of your time.” Despite the obstacles, Frank still makes time to give back to SRJC, as when he was recently featured as a Center for Student Leadership guest speaker.