

Form Name: PRIE - Campus Issues Form (SCC Inside)
Submission Time: February 22, 2024 9:39 pm
Browser: Chrome 121.0.0.0 / Windows
IP Address: 23.120.18.212
Unique ID: 1197412627
Location:

Committee or Individual Lori Petite, Communication Faculty & Academic Senate Past President

Email petitel@scc.losrios.edu

Issue/Concern Drinking Fountains on Campus

Describe the issue/concern:

Summary of Concerns:

Many of the traditional drinking fountains on our campus have been replaced with single-function water bottle filling stations in recent years, outside of collegial consultation and shared governance processes. Single-function stations require the user to provide their own cup or water bottle to obtain a drink of water. Individuals are not able to utilize the bottle-filling station as a drinking fountain. This negatively impacts all constituent groups of our college, including students, staff, faculty, administrators, and the community we serve. The current issue is both a safety issue and a barrier to student success.

A few examples highlight these concerns:

1. In the Performing Arts Center (PAC), an instructional and performance setting in which students sing, speak, play musical instruments, and perform on stage--all of which are dehydrating activities--there is no drinking fountain inside the building. Traditional drinking fountains have been replaced with single-function bottle filling stations. Students, staff, community members, or performers in the main Auditorium or other classrooms in the PAC do not have access to potable water without a cup or water bottle in their possession.

2. In the North Gym, specifically where the fitness center is located, and which includes aerobic equipment, weights, and other machines, there is a single-function bottle filling station only. Students and staff using the fitness center have no way of hydrating unless they have brought a water bottle with them. This presents an avoidable and serious health risk for individuals engaged in vigorous activity and is a barrier to student success. Similarly, the South Gym also appears to be equipped with single-function stations.

3. In the Student Services building, which houses Admissions & Records, there is a single-function station only. This building is one of the first entry points and the first "welcome" for new students to our college. In this case, students have no opportunity to arrive prepared for the conditions they will face on our campus. This is barrier to student success, disproportionately affecting our most vulnerable students, who lack the financial resources to purchase a bottle of water from a vending machine.

4. Many, though not all, buildings on campus appear to be outfitted with the single-function bottle filling stations. A few exceptions exist, including the new Mohr Hall and the Natural Sciences building, which are equipped with dual function units including both a drinking fountain and a bottle filling station. However, given the location of these buildings, it is challenging for students in other areas of the campus to benefit from these units.

5. District has a legal duty to provide potable drinking water for employees, per Cal OSHA law. Access to potable water is significantly restricted by the

current equipment as well as the location of the few dual function units or traditional drinking fountains on campus.

a. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/1524.html>

b. <https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3363.html>

6. Collegial Consultation and Shared Governance Processes:

a. The decision to replace drinking fountains with single function water bottle filling stations has taken place outside of collegial consultation and shared governance processes required by law, per California Education Code, Title 5 Regulations, and our own LRCCD Board Policies and Regulations.

b. There has been no consultation on this issue with the Academic Senate, though processes for institutional planning are a 10+1 issue. Further, the availability of potable water for our students is directly linked to student success, which is a 10+1 issue.

c. College governance processes require the effective participation of all constituent groups on decisions that directly affect them. District has failed to engage our governance processes in this matter.

7. The lack of access to potable water has life-threatening implications and serious health consequences as a result of dehydration, particularly during warm weather or exertion. However, even at mild levels, dehydration negatively affects our students' success in terms of fatigue, focus, decision-making, coordination, irritability, and anxiety.

What do you recommend or suggest solving this issue/concern?

Recommendation:

To remedy this situation all single-function water bottle filling stations located inside our buildings should be immediately replaced with dual-function units which include both a drinking fountain and water bottle filling station.

How will this recommendation support the success of SCC students and benefit the campus community?

Support Student Success & Benefit Campus Community:

Water remains one of the most essential needs our students have, vital for health and well-being, and is critical to their success on our campus.

Proper hydration supports physiological functions, enhances performance, and contributes to psychological well-being. Meeting a basic need communicates we care about our students.

Water is also necessary for all employees as well as the community we serve. Providing access to water without barriers provides a supportive environment for our entire college community.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.
