

FEATURED SBCC FOUNDATION
LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBER

Madeleine Jacobson



SBCC Foundation Board and Legacy Circle member Madeleine Jacobson says that the importance of education was impressed upon her at an early age. Her mother was an elementary school teacher, and she recalls former students surfacing decades later to express their profound gratitude. Jacobson herself discovered the joys of being in the classroom when she served as a tutor at Santa Barbara City College, helping students learn English.

“I loved working with students, providing the extra help they needed while getting to know their personal stories and backgrounds. It was a moving experience,” Jacobson recalled. “It cemented the deep appreciation I already had for public education, and spurred me to become more of an advocate for making college accessible to everyone.”

Soon Jacobson was asked to join the board of directors of the SBCC Foundation, and brought a wealth of experience serving in nonprofit leadership roles. The Foundation became her focus for the next 10 years, as she served on committees and eventually as president.

“I realized after so many years of passionately supporting SBCC through the work of the Foundation—including the SBCC Promise, scholarships, and so many critical student success programs—that it really made sense to continue my support into the future through a planned estate gift,” Jacobson said. “SBCC is such a vital part of our community. I love that it opens doors for people—even those facing serious obstacles—to reach for their dreams, expand their horizons, or change careers.”

After completing her term and stepping off the board for a while, she rejoined in 2021 and is happy to be part of the ongoing work that provides students with life-changing opportunities at SBCC. She is also a member of the President’s Circle, along with her husband Peter. The President’s Circle provides core support through annual unrestricted gifts that make the Foundation’s work possible.

Thanks to Jacobson’s passionate leadership, support, and planned gifts, SBCC students will have opportunities to change their lives for the better for many years to come.



Madeleine Jacobson with fellow board members Scott Vincent (left) and Frank Tabar (right)