Our Commitment

The SWANA Student Resource Center is a welcoming space dedicated to building belonging, inclusion, and community for students with ties to the Southwest Asian and North African (SWANA) region, and for anyone who wishes to learn, connect, and support. Through culturally grounded programs, academic and career resources, and wellness support, the Center is a home base where SWANA scholars excel academically, prosper professionally, and contribute to communal enrichment.



Contact Us

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@SWANA.CSUS

ACADEMIC AND INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER, 1012

SOUTHWEST ASIAN AND NORTH AFRICAN STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

SACRAMENTO STATE

Student Affairs
& Inclusive Excellence

OUR PROGRAMMING

WELLNESS

Culturally grounded programs like Chai and Chat, Rock Climbing, Cooking with SWANA, along with campus wellness partners, support student wellbeing.

ACADEMIC & CAREER SUCCESS

Exam study halls, scholarship workshops, Grad School 101, and job market readiness sessions prepare students for success at Sac State and beyond.

CULTURE & BELONGING

Chai & Chat, Diwan Café, the SWANA Welcome and Leadership Lunch, SWANA Month, and SWANA Fest celebrate heritage and build a sense of home on campus.

ADVISING & COUNSELING

Advising, career, and wellness partners hold regular hours in the Center, so students who come for community also find the services that carry them to graduation.

ZĪTU PEER MENTORSHIP

zītu, an Akkadian word meaning "planting a seed," pairs underclassmen with upperclassmen mentors for guidance, connection, and leadership growth.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

The Center advocates for SWANA student needs and builds campus and community partnerships that expand scholarships, mentorship, and opportunities.

GRADUATION & ALUMNI

SWANA Graduation honors graduating scholars and their families, and the SWANA Alumni Network keeps graduates connected to the Center and to current students.

WHAT IS SWANA?

SWANA stands for Southwest Asia and North Africa: the western portion of the Asian continent and the northern portion of the African continent, along with the seas and trade routes that have connected them for thousands of years.

A REGION, NOT A SINGLE PEOPLE

No single definition of the region exists, and there is no single SWANA identity. People connected to the region speak different languages, practice different faiths, and carry different histories. SWANA is a geographic term rather than a description of one people.

WHERE THE TERM CAME FROM

SWANA was coined by activists seeking to decolonize terms in the 1990s. Unlike "Middle East," which reflects a Eurocentric perspective, SWANA emphasizes the region on its own geographic terms rather than its relation to Europe.

COME SEE FOR YOURSELF

We hope this introduction inspires you to visit the SWANA Student Resource Center and explore the region more deeply.