



A Message to our Graduating and Transfer Students

On behalf of everyone at EOPS, we would like to congratulate you on your achievements at Glendale Community College. As you embark on the next chapter of your life, we wish you great success. Your dedication, resilience and strong work ethic helped you reach your goals!

This year's EOPS celebration will be different from those of the past. We will be hosting a virtual celebration for our EOPS graduates and transfer students on Wednesday, June 10th from 12-1pm. If you are earning a Certificate, Associate Degree and/or transferring, please check your GCC e-mail for an invite and zoom meeting link to participate in our EOPS celebration.

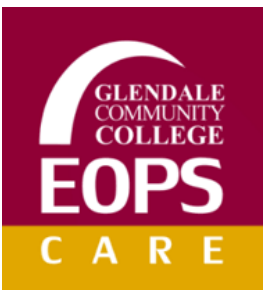
We would like to acknowledge our GCC Foundation for their generosity in purchasing caps and gowns for EOPS graduates this year.

Graduating students, please refer to the email sent to you from EOPS about the steps on how to get your cap and gown. We encourage you to wear your graduation regalia during the EOPS celebration event on June 10, 2020.

All students who are graduating this June and want to participate in an on-campus graduation ceremony, are invited to attend next year's commencement with the class of 2021. We hope to see you at next year's graduation ceremony.

To our graduates, we hope your educational experience at GCC will help you as you continue onto the next chapter of your life. To our transfer students, we wish you continued success at your chosen university.

We have highlighted some of our EOPS success stories below.



Congratulations Class of 2020

Veronica is a first-generation college student who is majoring in Political Science. She reminisced about the time she first began college in Fall 2018 and the heightened level of nervousness she felt during her first weeks of college. The lack of knowledge about college opportunities and financial assistance were very worrisome. When Veronica found EOPS in her first semester, she felt a sense of relief and her worries began to diminish.

One of Veronica's core values is to help others and give back to her community. She has volunteered at two local hospitals and later at community center in Pasadena, helping guide Spanish speaking individuals through the citizenship process. Helping community members and educating them about their citizenship rights sparked her interest in Political Science. Veronica is graduating GCC with an AA-T in Political Science and transferring to CSU, Northridge, in fall 2020. She hopes to one day become a lawyer working within international relations or human rights.

Veronica hopes that all students find their true passion. "Never give up! There are so many resources available and many different pathways to achieving your goals."

Veronica Curiel



Ani Saroyan



Ani can be described a goal oriented, positive and energetic person. She began GCC in Fall 2018 with her eyes set on one day becoming a lawyer. She will earn her AA-T in Sociology at the end of Spring 2020. Ani has been accepted to UCSD, UCSB, CSULB, CPP and Loyola Marymount University. She is proudly committing to UC Santa Barbara.

Ani has a strong passion for sports, having played basketball for over ten years. Her love of sports will soon be combined with her professional passion, law, with the goal of practicing Entertainment Law. Ani plans to work with sports players to help advance their future careers, advocating for them to get the best possible contracts.

The positive experiences Ani has had at GCC have helped her to get to the next chapter in her life. Ani credits her great professors who have positively challenged her, and contributed to her success. The EOPS program has also helped her throughout her journey to accomplish her goals, from the moment she began GCC. She said she will always be thankful for the support, counseling and help she has received. Ani states that "The key to success is being motivated and goal oriented."

Manar Al Rayys

Manar came to the United States five years ago with hopes for a better future. In pursuit of her dreams, she enrolled in the GCC Garfield Campus. She developed her English writing, reading and speaking skills and earned a Front Office Clerk certificate. Soon after in 2016, she transitioned to the Verdugo campus where she continued to advance her English skills.

Manar is forever grateful for the support and services she has received at GCC. She proudly shared, "without the experiences at GCC, I would not have been where I am today." In her first semester, Manar attended our annual job fair. She recalled a sense of nervousness as she walked by the tables; she didn't feel that she had the experience or skills to land a job. However, she gathered her strength and approached an employer called "Child Care Career". She expressed her desire and passion to work, and was instantly hired as an on-call teacher. The temporary position soon turned into a permanent one, in an after-school program in La Cañada. Recently, she was promoted to Associate Teacher working with 2nd and 3rd graders. Manar creates activities, helps with homework and reads stories to these students. She is passionate about teaching children, "I learn from them, they learn from me, it's a nice feeling."

Manar will earn her AS degree in Child Development-Teacher, in Spring 2020. She is beyond thankful to EOPS which provided her with financial, educational and emotional support. She says her counselor, Roxanne Rafii, constantly encourages her to continue to advance her education. Manar will continue taking classes required to transfer to a university for her bachelor's degree. She is very proud of all that she has accomplished in the last five years. Her love of teaching children motivates her to continue her education.



Ulises Carretero Gonzalez

Ulises began GCC after high school, with the ambition of earning a degree and joining the Police Academy to serve the community he grew up in. Ulises shared with me that growing up in Boyle Heights was very dangerous and that he is determined to help make his community a safer place to live for all, especially for his younger sibling. Ulises will be earning his AS degree in Administration of Justice in Spring 2020, and will be applying to the Police Academy later this year. After working in the field for some time, Ulises wants to advance his career to become a detective.

Ulises is a first-generation college student who experienced some difficulty his first year in college; he said it was hard for him to adjust to the rigors of college life. However, he is very thankful to his instructors who took the time to get to know him, and supported him throughout his educational experience at GCC. He is also happy to have joined the EOPS program where he received services and support to continue to achieve his goal. He says his EOPS counselors helped keep him on track towards earning his degree. He hopes all students take the time to get to know their instructors and counselors, and ask for help when needed. He states, "they are all good people who try to help you, don't be afraid to ask for help."

A Warm Farewell & Happy Retirement to our beloved Greg Perkins

Greg Perkins began his service to the GCC community as an EOPS counselor in 1991. Since then, he has dedicated his career to guiding and empowering students to achieve their goals. Greg has been a true catalyst for positive change at GCC and has not only supported students in the role of a counselor and instructor, but also as a passionate advocate who:

- Started the V.O.I.C.E.S student club in 2005 which has since been awarded the MOCA award more than any other club at GCC
- Started the Undocumented Student Scholarship Program - now called the GCC AB540 Service Scholarship
- Is the only Counseling Faculty who was ever awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award (DFA)
- Was the voice of student services in the Guild for almost 20 years advocating for diverse and equitable student support and resources.



The GCC Community and EOPS family is forever grateful for Greg's countless contributions. After 29 dedicated years of service to Glendale Community College, we hope your retirement is filled with happiness, well-deserved rest and new adventures.

Farewell messages from students:

"Thank you Greg for all your hard work. If it wasn't for all the effort and time you put throughout the years V.O.I.C.E.S. I would not be here today. Your work is greatly appreciated and recognized."
- Maria Jose Arnaiz

"Greg always was very nice to me. I remember when I got a scholarship and went to his office to get it. He is super supportive and nice. I am very thankful for his support, humility, and effort he put for undocumented students." - Luis Gonzalez

"We want to thank you for all the advice and help you gave us. You are a special person and will be remembered as one of the greatest counselors and V.O.I.C.E.S. members."
- Jocelyn Marcial

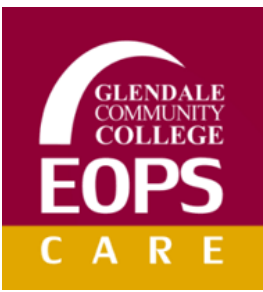
"Thank you Greg for everything you did for our AB540 students at GCC. Thank you for being our club advisor and making so many things possible. I am very sad that you are leaving us when I just started! I wish you nothing but the best in your retirement!" - Steven Moreno

"Hey Greg I want to say thank you for what you do for GCC and most importantly the club, it is sad we haven't gotten to make a memory for ourselves but anyways thank you so much."
- Elijah Olivares

"I want to thank you for everything you have done for us throughout the years especially for V.O.I.C.E.S. we all are truly thankful for you caring so much about it."
-Monica Perez

"Thank you for everything you do, and for always holding it down for The Raza. You will be missed, and your legacy will forever live on here at GCC. ENJOY and have a safe retirement!"
- Edward Sandoval

"Thank you so much for the dedication you have placed into all of the programs you have been a part of! Thank you also for guiding one of my friends who is a single mother through the EOPS program." - Alison Zamora



To our Continuing EOPS Students

We hope that reading the success stories of your peers will help motivate you as you continue to achieve your academic, career and personal goals. EOPS and the GCC community are here to support you throughout your journey.

Please take a few minutes to view a very special video message from our EOPS staff.

As you are aware, GCC will continue with remote instruction and services in the summer and fall terms. Stay connected with the EOPS department through our social media for the most important and current information.

**Find us @gcceops on Instagram,
Twitter & Facebook**



This is the first of many EOPS Newsletters to come. Our goal is to continue to stay connected with you by providing information related to your academics such as, dates/deadlines, upcoming events, success tips and much more!

If you have suggestions or comments, you can e-mail Ana Boduryan, EOPS Counselor, at abodurya@glendale.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!