



# NEWSLETTER

Summer 2021

Vol. 1,

Issue 4

**Destigmatize \* Educate \* Empower**

## WHAT A SEMESTER!

We hope summer finds you healthy and happy. Our fourth issue is full of success stories. From feminism and social justice to NASA and the sciences to our graduates and transfers, DSPS is thrilled to share the triumphs of our students. Enjoy!

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

### Meet Tatiana Calle!

My name is Tatiana Calle and I have been attending Glendale Community College since fall 2015. I attended GCC from fall 2015-fall 2016. I left and then came back to GCC Spring 2018. On June 9th, 2021, I received my Associate's degree in Psychology and my certificate of completion from the Estudiantes Unidos Program. I'll earn my second Associate's degree in Sociology by December 2021.

My college experience hasn't been easy. I was battling major depression and was thinking of giving up on going to school. On top of everything, I had an auditory and visual learning disability, which means I'd have to practice learning something over and over until I grasped the concept of everything. I received help from the DSPS office here at GCC, which helped not only with my school career but also boosted my confidence. The counselors at the DSPS office, Rita and now retired Mary Elizabeth, had helped me so much in my education goals and I will forever be grateful for that. I eventually got back on track and developed a focus on making sure I completed both Associate's degrees.

My confidence started to build up when I joined different organizations. I joined La Comunidad, which helped with networking and making new friends. I also became President of the GCC Feminist Society thanks to Professor Michelle Stonis who had reached out to me and asked if I wanted to take the opportunity. I also joined the Estudiantes Unidos program, dedicated to helping Latinx students with the help of amazing personnel, Nane Kakosian, David Crawford, and Hoover Zariani. All of these organizations helped me grow by giving back to people and learning from others.

My feminist journey is constantly changing and evolving and has helped immensely with the career I will be choosing. This past March I earned my certificate of completion as a counselor advocate volunteer from the organization Peace Over Violence. I plan to become a counselor for women and men coming out of domestic violence relationships. I am an Indigenous Latina who is starting my journey of discovering my roots and accomplishing all my life goals. I'm thankful for Glendale Community College and all of the counselors, professors, and personnel who have helped shape my life.

## IN THIS ISSUE

Welcome	1
Student Spotlight	1
DSPS Means Success!	2
Spring Semester Wrap Up	3
Among the Stars!	4
Contact	6





# DSPS Means Success!

The 2020-2021 school year saw DSPS students earn and graduate with certificates and/or Associates degrees, as well as acceptances and transfers to universities.

Accounting

Addiction Studies Counseling

Administration of Justice

Architecture

Child Development

Cinematography and Editing

Communication Studies

Computer Science

Dietary Services Supervisor

Early Childhood Education

Fitness Specialist

General Office

IGETC

Math

Physics

Psychology

Real Estate Broker

Registered Nursing

Restaurant Management

Sociology

Spanish Language

Studio Arts

Cal Poly Pomona

CSU Bakersfield

CSU Dominguez Hills

CSU Fullerton

CSU Long Beach

CSU Los Angeles

CSU Northridge

University of Southern California

We are so proud of our students and their accomplishments, and know that they will continue to thrive and work wonders!

[Check out the DSPS video](#) congratulating our students on their hard work and achievements!

# SPRING WAS BUSY!

access

DSPS along with GCC's Social Justice Unity Coalition hosted **A WOMAN'S PLACE: OVERTURNING THE EXCLUSION OF WOMEN IN POSITIONS OF POWER.** Featuring legendary Disability Rights activist, Judith Huemann, among other organizers and activists, the panel discussed their important work toward social justice.



Next came our first virtual **DISABILITY RESOURCES FAIR.** Over the course of a week, students learned about the services offered by Ability First, Department of Rehabilitation, Access LA, Verdugo Jobs Center, and the Independent Living Centers of Southern California. And ILCSC provided free COVID-related supplies, such as hand sanitizer bottles, disposable masks, face shields, and disposable gloves to students registered with DSPP.



We were treated to an incredible workshop on **THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF DISABILITY AND RACE IN MEDIA AND EMPLOYMENT** presented by the Andraéa LaVant Group. In the session, which was cosponsored with Cultural Diversity, our participants learned about the challenges and growing opportunities in the media industry.



Our final presentation for spring was a co-facilitation on Autism 101 with the Armenian Autism Outreach Project (AAOP). In addition to learning what autism is, how it can manifest, and the potential strengths of individuals with autism, participants heard from one of our students with autism, learning about her experiences in college.

Ellen and Stela's Gateway to Success DSPP Adult Reentry group built camaraderie and support throughout the semester. *If you're interested in learning more, please email Ellen at [elleno@glendale.edu](mailto:elleno@glendale.edu).*

Rita and Diana held Fundamental Communication workshops on communicating with instructors and celebrating successes. ASGCC joined us to demonstrate how to get involved on campus and how online gaming works. The wonderful Career counselors presented on workplace interactions and the Health Center gave tips on setting healthy boundaries with families. *If you're interested in learning about these workshops for fall, please email Rita at [rzobayan@glendale.edu](mailto:rzobayan@glendale.edu).*

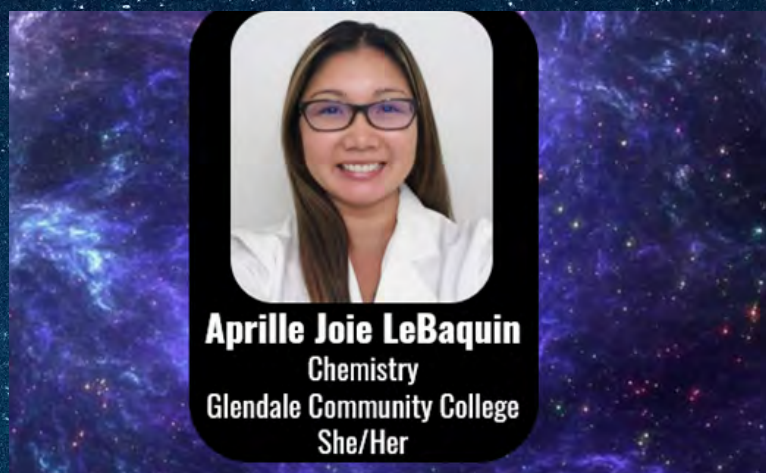
DSPP thanks ASGCC and the Senate for the grants that made these presentations and workshops possible.

Have questions or ideas about the newsletter? Contact the editor, Rita, at [rzobayan@glendale.edu](mailto:rzobayan@glendale.edu).

Icons credit: made by [www.flaticon.com](http://www.flaticon.com)



# AMONG THE STARS!



**Aprille Joie LeBaquin**  
Chemistry  
Glendale Community College  
She/Her

**Learn more about  
Aprille's  
participation in two of  
NASA's programs for  
students interested  
in STEM.**

My name is Aprille and I am a non-traditional GCC college student. I am a sophomore with a visual learning disability. I have explored various academic majors and worked many jobs in pursuit of my life's purpose. After more than ten years of entering and leaving college, I believe I have finally found the route to my career journey. I heard about the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) Program from chemistry instructor, Asmik Oganessian. It is based out of Oklahoma State University. This NASA STEM Pathways Activities program invites a diverse workforce of community college students interested in aerospace. It encourages students of various majors to apply for the program because the diversity of students allows creative ways of planning, building, and problem solving in space exploration. Ms. Oganessian posted the NCAS flyer on the Canvas Announcements page in her organic chemistry class in November 2020. With her and Professor Newberry's guidance, I applied for this program and received a letter of acceptance from NCAS on December 3, 2020.

In January 2021, I participated in their five-week self-paced online course and learned about the history of NASA and its missions and research. The course consisted of online reading materials and videos to watch before completing each module quiz. There is also a final project included due by the end of the course. My fellow NCAS peers and I received guidance and support from our assigned principal investigator and assistant. We also attended Subject Matter Expert (SME) presentations, which are live video conferences with a NASA professional who described their academic and career journey followed by a Question & Answer panel. My final project was a literature research paper about "In-Situ Resource Utilization Capabilities (ISRU)," regarding NASA professionals who explored different techniques of collecting, processing, and storing raw astronomical objects from planets and in deep space then applying them into useful materials that can be used by astronauts and scientists for life resources and experiments.

Two weeks after submitting my final project and completing the online course, I received an invitation to participate in the NCAS NASA Experience. This is a STEM engineering design challenge where selected student scholars are placed into teams and collaborate with



diverse professional workforce. These mentors guide student scholars in the STEM challenge, provide feedback on resumés, and share helpful strategies to apply for NASA internships. I will be participating in the NASA Experience in September 2021.

In April 2021, I applied for NASA L'SPACE Academy. I heard about this program from some of my NCAS peers who'd previously participated in it. L'SPACE stands for Lucy Student Pipeline Accelerator and Competency Enabler. This NASA program is based out of Arizona State University and is an online, interactive program for undergraduate STEM students who are interested in pursuing a career with NASA or other aerospace organizations. L'SPACE consists of two academies: the Mission Concept Academy (MCA) and the NASA Proposal Writing and Evaluation Experience Academy (NPWEE). I applied and was selected to start NPWEE May 2021. It was a 12-week synchronous program where students interacted with fellow L'SPACE student peers, principal investigators, and subject matter experts. L'SPACE students are placed into teams to complete a mission-related project that will be presented to a panel of NASA professionals.

My current experiences in NCAS and L'SPACE have taught me how valuable a diverse, collaborative academic workforce is when creating, innovating, and problem-solving projects. Everyone thinks differently and the input from each individual is highly valued by NASA. I have also gained stronger critical thinking and analysis skills, as well as appreciating the experience of stepping outside of my comfort zone. I am blessed with like-minded student peers who support each other even when we are in a competitive environment. Before last year, I did not think of aerospace industry as a possible career because I thought I was too old to be considered by NASA. Then I met several NASA professionals who were also non-traditional college students. I have a stronger belief that anything is possible if you build confidence, determination, and perseverance to pursue the career of your dreams.

**If you are interested in applying for NCAS, you can apply on their website. You will need to submit your contact information, current community college transcripts, a letter of recommendation from a professor, and a 300 word personal essay stating why you are interested in participating. The eligibility requirements are to be a U.S. citizen/naturalization, registered at a U.S. community college, enrolled or completed at least 9 units of STEM classes, and the ability to commit to the five-week online course with reliable Internet connection. You must be at least 18 years old and a high school graduate.**

**If you are interested in applying for NASA L'SPACE, you can fill out an application on their website. You will need to submit your contact information and academic information. You will also need to answer several questions that describe your academic background, educational goals, career goals, and important experiences that have led you towards your goals.**



# Summer 21 Contact Info

## Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)

Diana C., Flora, Karmen, Rita, Tina, Tracey  
csd@glendale.edu, ext. 5905  
MON to FRI, 8:00AM to 4:30PM for the office.  
Counselors' days and hours vary in the summer.



## Accommodations Resource Center (ARC)

David, Diana M., Elena, Ellen, Laura, Mauricio, Rozik, and Stela  
ARC@glendale.edu, ext. 5530  
MON to FRI 8:00AM to 4:30PM for the office.  
Specialists' and tutors' days and hours vary in the summer.

## Alternate Media

Scott, sziegler@glendale.edu, ext. 3366  
MON to FRI 8:00AM to 4:30PM

## Intepreting Services

Kim, kweissman@glendale.edu  
MON to FRI 9:00AM to 3:00PM

## Garfield DSPS

Jesse, jessev@glendale.edu, ext. 5027  
Monday 8am-7pm, Wednesday 9am-7pm, and Friday 8am-12pm

## Adapted Physical Education (No summer APE classes)

Dr. Parks: lparks@glendale.edu  
Coach-Laura: lauram@glendale.edu

**ARE YOU FOLLOWING OUR IG? WE HOPE SO!**

If you are, then you know that you're up to date with what's happening with DSPS and more. Check it out to learn more about workshop and scholarship announcements, employment opportunities, fundraisers, conferences, webinars, and deadlines.

**Follow us at [dsps\\_gcc](#).**

