

Glendale News-Press

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Aaron and Anna Abelian, owners of Novin Herbs & Spices, aim to create a magical experience for the patrons of their shop.

Photo by Ani Duzdabanyan / Glendale News-Press

Spice Shop Keeps Old World Traditions Alive

By Ani Duzdabanyan
Glendale News-Press

One day last week, Anna Abelian, co-owner of Novin Herbs & Spices in Glendale, took a moment to help one of her customers find the right

pepper.

She located it in a row of colorful containers filled with bulk spices, arranged by the wall under the shelf that carries symbols of ancient culture — an antique grinder, wooden statues of Indian elephants, a hookah and an old coffee-making machine.

Abelian's husband, Aaron, noted that the store smells like "magic," with sweet, piquant and piercing aromas wafting from every corner.

"Spices doing magic," he reiterated. "There are unlimited ways to use spices in cooking and baking!"

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GUSD Narrows Contact Tracing to Keep Kids in Class

By Zane Hill
Glendale News-Press

After starting out the school year quarantining entire classrooms after a potential COVID-19 exposure, the Glendale Unified School District has recently begun implementing new guidelines to keep more students in the classroom.

The policy change, approved by the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, comes

after about two months of the district requiring entire classrooms at a time to stay home for up to a 10-day quarantine period. District officials were briefed on the new policy, described as the "phase two quarantine model," at last week's Board of Education meeting.

"We have decreased the number of students who have been put into quarantine significantly, whereas before in a

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PRESCHOOLS

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Viar, Praised for College Leadership, to Exit in June

By Zane Hill
Glendale News-Press

After spending nearly a decade helping to right the ship at Glendale Community College, David Viar is retiring as president of the institution after the current academic year ends in June.

GCC announced the decision this week, with the college's Board of Trustees committing to hiring an executive search firm at its Tuesday, Oct. 19 meeting to assist in identifying Viar's successor. The board anticipates selecting his replacement on May 17.

Hired in 2013, Viar will cap a 45-year career in academia after he determined this school year was the best time for him, his family and the college to take a different path.

"For the last couple of years, I'd been thinking about it from time to time," he said in a phone interview this week, "but only recently

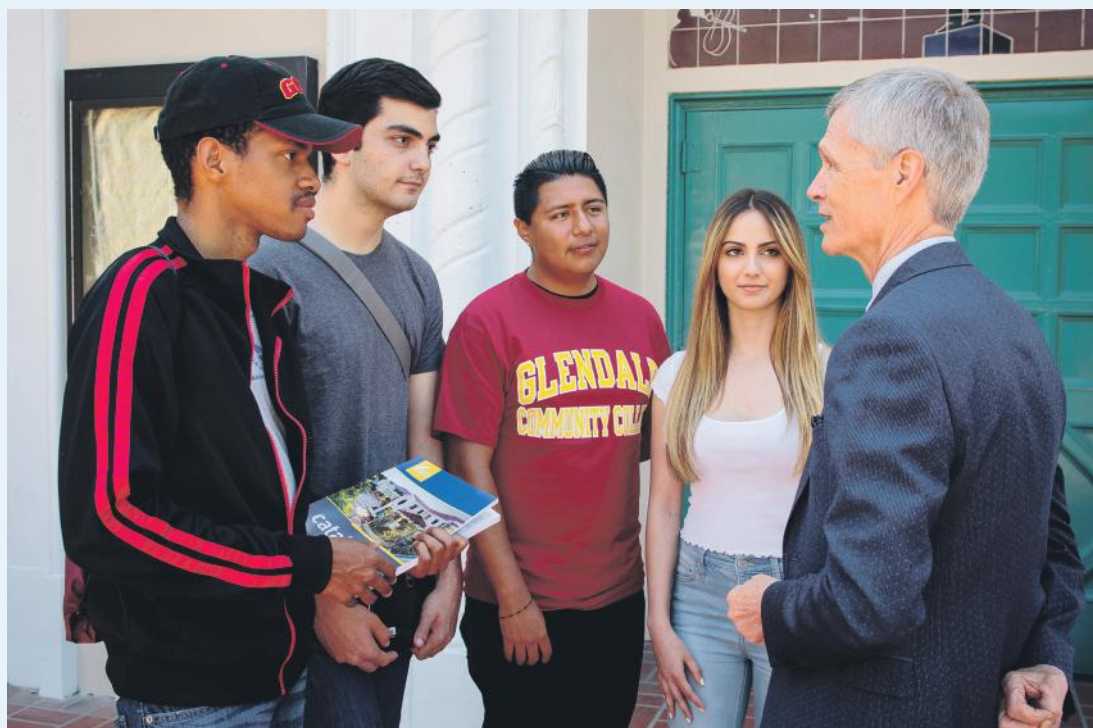


Photo courtesy Glendale Community College

David Viar, president and superintendent of Glendale Community College, speaks with students before the coronavirus pandemic. Viar is retiring in June, the college announced this week.

did I come to the conclusion that now is the best time for all of us."

Prior to becoming the top Vaquero, Viar was president of

American River College in Sacramento for eight years, and before

that he spent 15 years as chief executive of the Community College League of California, which he co-founded in 1990 to advocate for the state's 73 community college districts.

At GCC, Viar was tasked with stabilizing an institution that, in the wake of legendary President John Davitt, had hit choppy waters financially and administratively.

"When the Board of Trustees hired Dr. Viar, his original commitment was to serve for five years, yet we have been fortunate to have him for what will be a remarkable nine-year run," said GCC Board of Trustees President Dr. Armine Hacopian in a statement. "During his tenure, his steady, patient, student-focused, collegial approach to decision-making has made a positive difference that will benefit this institution for years to come."

"From the first day I met Dr.

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GHS Student Chosen to Advise School Board

By Zane Hill
Glendale News-Press

Glendale High School senior Brandon Doronila credited everyone involved in his academic career when he was sworn in as the student representative on the Glendale Unified School District Board of Education last week.



Brandon Doronila

Doronila had to overcome emotion as he accepted his role, which is to represent all 25,000 of GUSD's students during school board meetings and to keep officials up to date on student issues and responses to policy. Now the Associated Student Body president at GHS, Doronila previously enjoyed roles in student government at John Muir Elementary School and Wilson Middle School.

"I wasn't the most popular kid. I had a hard time socializing," he told the school board. "I really came a long way, because growing up in Glendale Unified School District, I made so many friends that have been there for me. I want to shout out to all my friends for believing in me, for always being there and supporting me, and my wonderful teachers always pushing me to be the best

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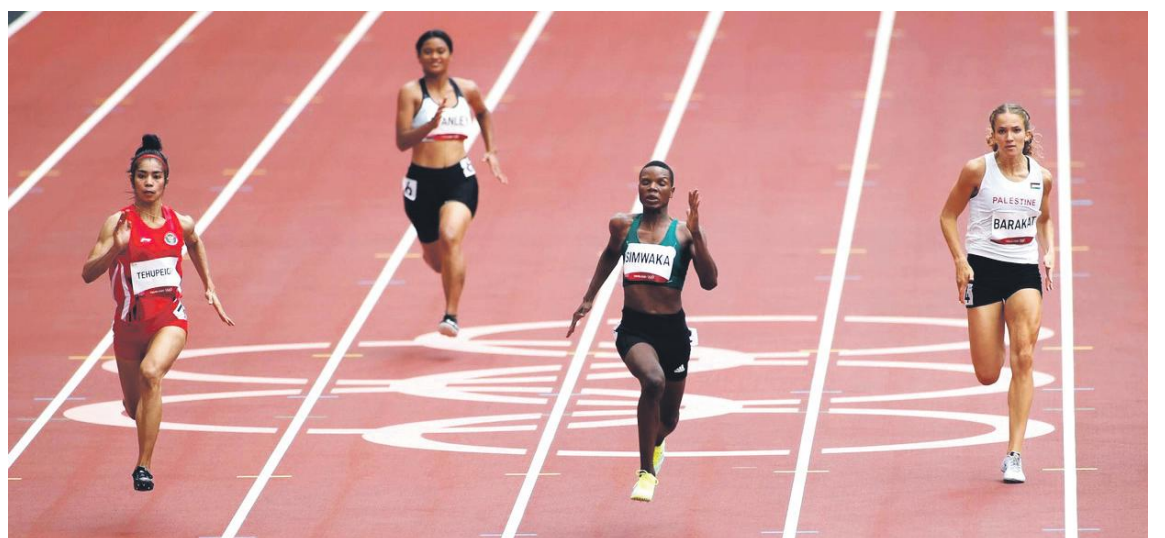


Photo courtesy Hanna Barakat

Though Hanna Barakat (right) did not qualify for the 100-meter finals, her time of 12.16 seconds was a personal best and a national record for Palestine.

GCC's Role in Sprinter's Olympic Feat

By Oscar Areliz
Glendale News-Press

It was quite the summer for Hanna Barakat. Despite not participating in the past two track and field seasons at Brown

University, the 22-year-old sprinter managed to compete alongside the world's best athletes on the biggest stage in all of sports.

Barakat, who graduated from Flintridge Preparatory School in 2017 and often trained at Glendale

Community College, represented Palestine in the Tokyo Olympics during the summer, fulfilling a dream she's had since she was a child.

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