

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Equity Department

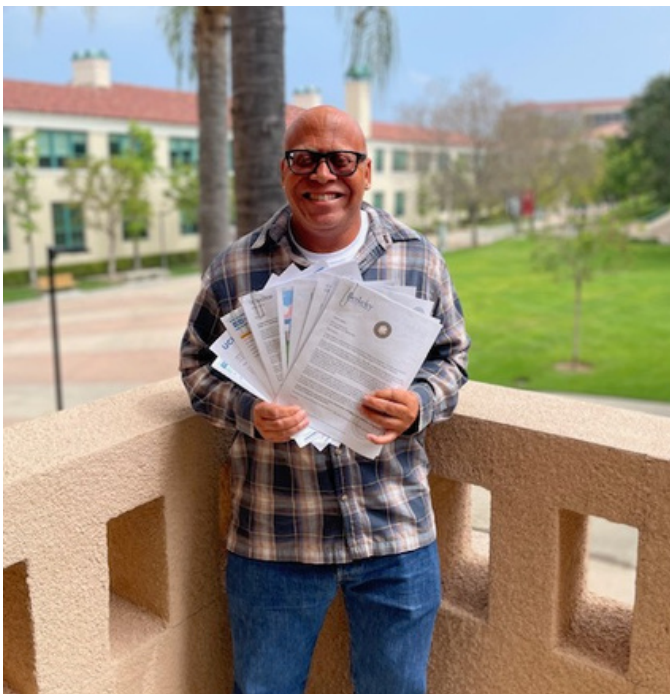
2022-2023 AT A GLANCE

What a Year!

This academic year has been filled with a number of opportunities for our students. As the year comes to a close, we would like to share some Student Equity highlights with you all!

Student Spotlight!

Join us in congratulating our Black Scholars student, Darren Gaines. Darren was admitted to all 9 UC campuses! Darren's first attempt at GCC was in 2015 and then again in 2018, and although he has faced many challenges, earning his first "A" inspired him to reach academic excellence. Not only does he strive to be an excellent student, he aspires to be a valuable and contributing member of society. This upcoming fall, Darren will be attending UC Berkeley and pursue a degree in Sociology. We are extremely proud of Darren and know that he will thrive in all of his future endeavors.



Darren wanted to share the following words with students and the GCC community:

“Ask for everything! Make connections with your professors and counselors, especially those in Student Equity. Don't be afraid to ask for what you need to help you succeed in school, including food and financial support. GCC has many wonderful resources for almost everything, you just need to get the courage to ask for what you need. Study hard, focus on your goals, and apply for scholarships. Don't sell yourself short; shoot for the stars! Work hard and the rewards WILL come.”

Summer Bridge

Starting college can be an adjustment for many students, which is why we developed a Summer Bridge program. Summer Bridge is designed to help incoming GCC students with a successful and smooth transition into college. Through this program, students are introduced to career/major exploration tools and get an opportunity to begin thinking about their academic and career goals. Summer Bridge also discusses successful study techniques, helps familiarize students with important campus resources, helps them plan their courses, reviews transfer options and degree requirements, and helps students develop a growth mindset. Participating students also have the opportunity to gain insights and support from GCC SPARK peer mentors who are continuing GCC students. SPARK mentors share their experiences and tips for success, while incorporating activities and ice-breakers throughout the program. Summer Bridge is a great way to begin college! Close to 200 students participated in Summer Bridge



2022, a majority being BIPOC students. Due to its success over the years, it served as a model for GCC and is now embedded into the GCC PromisePlus+ program!

PromisePlus+ students are now required to complete Summer Bridge starting summer 2023. As Summer Bridge continues to grow and evolve, we want to thank everyone who referred students to it and helped us develop Summer Bridge to what it is now.

NEW! Hombre A Hombre

This year we piloted Hombre A Hombre, a Latino empowerment program that aims to create a sense of community for GCC's Latino male students. The goal is to provide opportunities for self-exploration as our Latino students gain an understanding of themselves and the world around them. Through Hombre A Hombre, we created a space for students to engage with one another, partake in new activities, learn new skills, have male to male conversations, cultivate new relationships and talents, and explore their role within higher education.

This year, participants had the opportunity to engage with one another through a video game night event, learned to play pickleball, learned how to start a podcast, learned to tie a tie, and most importantly, engaged in conversations on what it means to be a man and how culture plays a role in their college and career journeys and trajectories. We are really excited for this new program and hope to continue serving more Latino students next semester!



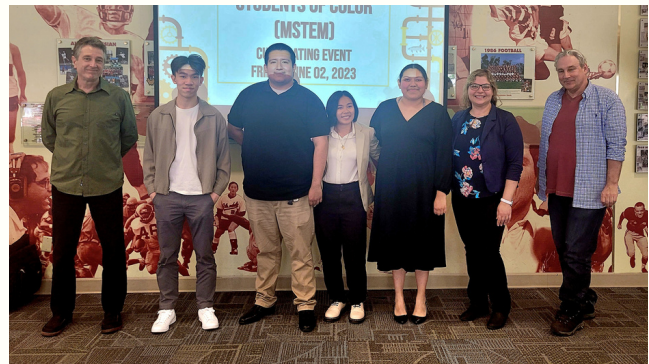
Mentoring Programs

Studies continuously demonstrate that having a mentor results in a positive impact on one's life, which is why we developed the Mentoring Men of Color (MMC) program and the Mentoring STEM Students of Color (MSTEM) program. Both programs seek to match students with faculty, administrators, and/or staff who provide leadership opportunities, professional guidance, and promote engagement to increase motivation, retention, graduation, and transfer rates. These programs also seek to close achievement gaps for disproportionately impacted students through interactive activity-based mentor-mentee relationships and aim to enhance participants' sense of self and belonging.

This year, students worked on a variety of projects with their mentors including the development of a community mental health resource guide, the creation of a conflict resolution workshop, website development for the Language Equity Across Disciplines (LEAD) conference, engineering for Go Baby Go, a non-profit organization that provides modified toy cars to children with disabilities, and more! Being part of our mentoring programs is a year commitment and takes a lot of time and dedication. We want to thank all the mentors and all of the students that participated!



MMC Cohort



MSTEM Cohort

University Tours

Our in-person university tours are back! After a two year hiatus due to Covid, we were excited to start our tours once again. This year, we offered students multiple opportunities to participate. We set up tours to local campuses including UCLA, CSUN and CSUDH! Students were able to learn more about what these universities offer, explore their transfer options and interact with their peers. There were specific stops to service areas such as EOP, Dream Resource Centers and other programs that students can find helpful after transfer. We received special presentations and admissions information and enjoyed a fun and informative day at each of these campuses.



This year, we also visited Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). For many of our students, this was their first time flying, leaving California and/or leaving their families for overnight travel. Nevertheless, they took this opportunity. All participants found this tour valuable, fun, a powerful growth experience, and they all said it was something they will never forget. We visited Howard University, Morgan State University, Bowie State University, Lincoln University and participated in a sightseeing tour of Washington DC, including the National African American History and Culture Museum! More trips are being planned for 2024, stay tuned and share with your students!

Career Adventures

The career exploration process can feel overwhelming to a lot of DI students. To help support them through this journey, we developed Career Adventures, a series of workshops designed to help students explore their interests, identify their career paths, and take action toward next steps in their journey. There are three different phases from which students can choose, depending on where they are in the career exploration process.

This opportunity is open to all DI students at GCC! Students who participate engage in various activities throughout the sessions and are connected to campus resources and services to ultimately ensure participants continue seeking experiences and opportunities well after they complete the Career Adventures series. This program also aims to create a warm handoff to GCC's Career Services, where they gain even more support and guidance throughout their time here at GCC. By demystifying the career exploration process and connecting our DI students to GCC's services, we help them establish goals and stay on track to reach those goals.

We want to thank Career Services, the MCEC and all the amazing students who participated! We had a wonderful time working with you all and we look forward to next year!



Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to all of the recipients of our Black Scholars/BSU Scholarship! Thanks to the generous support of the GCC Foundation, we were able to offer five students with a \$1,000 scholarship each! We want to congratulate our amazing scholarship recipients, **Adrienne Kenton, Jasmine Matthews, Lemont McDowell, Darren Gaines, and Billi Brooks!** You are all incredible and are well deserving of this scholarship which rewards students for their campus and community involvement.

Thanks to the Glendale College Guild and their generosity, three students were awarded the Guild Scholarship this year. One student from each learning community was selected as a recipient! Congratulations to **Samarion Bryant, Madelyn Tapia and Laurent Almendarez!** As well, many of our students were recipients of scholarships through our scholarship office and were recognized at GCC's Honors and Awards Banquet this year. Congratulations to all of our students! You are all amazing and are well deserving of the scholarships you were awarded!



A Warm Welcome to our New Cultural Diversity Coordinator!



This year, we welcomed a new Cultural Diversity Coordinator, Carla Ruiz! Carla hit the ground running right from the start. She worked with multiple people and departments across campus and led an amazing year of programming filled with events and activities that engaged the campus community through celebration of culture and diversity. We celebrated Latinx Heritage Month, Filipinx Heritage Month, Native American Heritage Month, Black History Month and much more! This year's Asian Pacific American Heritage Month (APAHM) celebration included GCC's second annual Night Market. A certificate of recognition on behalf of the California State Senate was presented to Carla Ruiz by senator Anthony Portantino during the Night Market event.

Thank you to all the committees who worked tirelessly to bring us amazing events, student panels, professional panels, trivia nights, performances, film screenings, discussions and workshops! We would not be able to organize these celebrations without all your support! Our campus community and students thank you. Please check out the Cultural Diversity website for recordings of past events and information on upcoming events. Carla has a lot more in store for us in the next academic year.

Alumni Spotlight

Help us congratulate Manny Luna in reaching his educational goals and starting his career as an engineer! During his time at GCC, Manny was involved in the La Comunidad learning community, AIMS, and was the Vice President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE). Given his mechanical engineering major, he spent most of his time studying and was an SI for Calculus I, II and differential equations. He graduated with an Associates Degree for Transfer in Mathematics in 2020 and transferred to Sacramento State University!

Manny has since graduated from Sacramento State with a B.S in Mechanical Engineering and is currently working for Lockheed Martin Space as a Materials Engineer contractor for NASA! He creates sandwich panels for space aircrafts, his focus being optimizing strength, and runs simulations of different scenarios that may occur in space. He is also working on implementing AI/machine learning into his work.

Manny wanted to share the following quote with students and the GCC community:



"It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop"

- Confucius

Learning Communities

The goal for our learning communities is to create a sense of belonging, create community, and help students build genuine connections with one another and the campus at large. Learning community participants engage with one another through various social mixers, discuss and explore culture and identity through learning community group meetings, and receive specialized academic counseling. Learning community students also have access to technology and book loans, bookstore credit and more!

Black Scholars is a learning community dedicated to supporting Black and African-American students at GCC. Our goal is to create a supportive network for our Black Scholars by helping them establish a sense of community on campus, creating spaces that help Black Scholars make long lasting friendships and providing access to specialized counseling and support.

La Comunidad is a learning community designed to help support students who identify as Latino/a/x. Our goal is to establish a brave space for students that encourages self-advocacy and leadership, create a sense of belonging and community, keep students engaged on campus, and guide them throughout their educational journeys.

AAPI Learning Community to be launched Fall 2023!

Given the profound impact Black Scholars and La Comunidad has had on its participants over the years, we are getting ready to launch a NEW learning community for Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students at GCC! We are thrilled to be starting this new and much needed learning community for AAPI students this fall.

Guardian Scholars Support Program

The Guardian Scholars Support Program is designed to support current and former foster youth. We aim to bridge the educational barriers that foster youth experience by providing a supportive environment where students can reach out when needed. Dedicated Guardian Scholars counselors check in with students on a bi-weekly basis. It is an intrusive support program aimed at ensuring Guardian Scholars succeed at GCC. We support foster youth through financial means as well as help students access resources (on and off campus) that will ensure our Guardian Scholars have every opportunity while at GCC.

If you have any students that may benefit from joining one of our learning communities or the Guardian Scholars Support Program, please refer them to our office located in San Rafael 207 (second floor) or have them scan the QR code. Please also have students reach out to us if they are interested in Career Adventures, University Tours, and any other support service we provide through the Student Equity Department.



Thank You to our Interns!

Thank you and a big congratulations to our counseling interns Claudia Buenfil and Diego Rodriguez! They both recently earned their Masters in Educational Counseling from University of La Verne and we could not be more proud! Claudia and Diego joined the Student Equity team this year through GCC's Graduate Counseling Internship Program which aims to support aspiring counselors who are in graduate school seeking hands-on experience within the community college setting.



We also want to thank Lara Lanting, our MSW intern! Lara recently earned her Masters in Social Work from CSUN! Lara participated in our MSW Internship Program, a partnership developed with CSUN that provides opportunities to MSW interns for gaining experiences in supporting college students through case management. The Student Equity MSW Interns provide additional support to our students by connecting them to off campus resources as needed.



Our interns have all been incredibly genuine when working with our students and have their best interests in mind. We are thankful for their support and the guidance they have given our students in their capacity.

Thank you!

Thank you to the GCC community for all of your support and commitment to our students. Many of our students in Black Scholars, Guardian Scholars and La Comunidad are graduating or transferring, and we feel fortunate to have been able to be part of their journey at GCC. We had an amazing year, and we look forward to what the future holds!

- Student Equity Department

