

Congratulations EOPS Class of

2024



Dear EOPS graduating and transfer students,

On behalf of the EOPS family, we would like to congratulate you on your achievements at Glendale Community College. This year, we have over 230 EOPS students who will be graduating with a Certificate and/or Associate Degree. We are extremely proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Your dedication, resilience and strong work ethic helped you reach your academic and career goals. As you embark on the next chapter of your life, we wish you great success.

We are delighted to celebrate the Class of 2024 during our commencement ceremony. If you are earning a Certificate and/or Associate Degree we encourage you to participate in the graduation ceremony on Wednesday, June 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM. For more information regarding the GCC Commencement ceremony, [visit the website](#).

EOPS will be providing complimentary Caps and Gowns and EOPS sashes, to our graduates! If you have completed the graduation petition with EOPS, check your email from EOPS for information on how to obtain your graduation cap and gown, and tassel. On Wednesday, May 29th from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM EOPS will have a Graduation Social celebration in your honor and we encourage you to attend. [RSVP to attend the EOPS social event](#).

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.

As the academic year comes to an end, we'd like to highlight some of our EOPS students and share their inspirational experiences.

Armenuhi Snkhchayan

Armenuhi came to the United States 6 years ago with her husband and newborn baby. She and her family experienced many hardships as they tried to adjust to a new life. She remembers feeling alone, as she had no family or friends to lean on for support and was afraid of what her family's future would look like. Soon, she realized that she is in control of her life and took a courageous step and enrolled in GCC during the pandemic, in fall 2020.

As a parenting student, Armenuhi didn't know how far she would go in college. She recalls that when she first started GCC, she wanted to pursue a certificate, then one of her counselors, who believed in her potential of succeed, encouraged her to continue for an associate degree and transfer to a university.

Armenuhi is an Early Childhood Development major and holds a strong GPA of 3.9. She will be graduating GCC with an AS-T degree in Early Childhood Education and AA in Social Science in spring 2024 and has been accepted to CSUN for the fall 2024 semester. Her passion is to work with children and help them as they grow and develop.

Alongside being a full-time student, she works on campus as a peer mentor for the CalWORKs program. As a student worker she has gained many valuable experiences in which she trusts will open a lot of employment opportunities for the future. Armenuhi shared that her husband is also a parenting student at GCC. She believes that the most incredible part of this journey is that their son will witness both parents walking on stage together during the graduation ceremony. She is now certain, more than ever, that her family's future is going to be brighter due to investing in her education and transferring to a university.

Armenuhi's said, "it's never to late to get an education. A lot of students who are parents or who many think they are not young enough to begin college should know that it's never to late. Education is a lifelong process, and you can begin anytime." She shares that programs like CalWORKs and EOPS are here to support students to help them reach their goals. She recalls, the moment she took the first step and enrolled in college, she immediately gained confidence and pushed herself because she knew her worth and potential.

On behalf of EOPS, we would like to congratulate Armenuhi for her many accomplishments and achievements at GCC and wish her all the best in her future academic endeavors.



Juanita Martinez Ambrosio



Juanita is a first-generation college student who began her time at GCC in the fall of 2022. She attended GCC because of the opportunities, resources, support, and guidance that were offered.

Knowing that she enjoys building community, establishing connections, and growing as an individual has led to her interest in pursuing her major in Communication Studies. Juanita has also been an essential part of the Voices Organizing Immigrant Communities for Educational Success (VOICES) club on campus which has helped her build and be part of a supportive community. She strives to provide that opportunity and experience to other students by connecting with others.

During her time at GCC, one of the major challenges that she faced was deciding on her major and career path. As a first-generation student, she felt the pressure to make the right choices for the success of her future. She shared that EOPS was a great support and guidance for her. They offered resources such as, Student Development 100: College Orientation and Student Success. She shared, “they have great counselors who helped me navigate my success at GCC. Without them, I would have felt lost. I found EOPS counselors to be exceptional at connecting with students and understanding their experiences. They provided me with the guidance and resources I needed to overcome my struggles in deciding my major. Thanks to their help, I was able to pursue my goals and establish the necessary tools to succeed.” As a full-time student, Juanita has done an excellent job of being an active club member, an excellent student, and has done an exceptional job at balancing all of her responsibilities.

When asked to describe the EOPS program in one word, Juanita said, “Guidance. Being part of EOPS as helped and encouraged my higher education journey though financial and personal support.” In terms of advice that she would give to a student who is considering applying to EOPS, she said, “DO IT! EOPS is an incredibly helpful tool that can assist you throughout your educational journey. The staff and counselors at EOPS genuinely want to see you succeed and will help you grow both as a student and an individual. Thanks to their guidance and support, I can confidently say that I am reaching my goals, as the counselors have been instrumental in guiding me though this journey.” Juanita is happy to share that she is graduating GCC with an AA-T in Communication Studies, an AA in Social Science and will be transferring to California State University, Chico as a Communication Studies major.

Something that she wishes she could go back and tell herself in her first semester of college is, “Put yourself out there now before you miss great experiences and opportunities in front of you.”

EOPS congratulates Juanita and wishes her the best as she continues reaching her goals!



Hovhannes Buniatyan

Hovhannes is a 1st generation college student who migrated to the United States at the age of 14 with his family. As a non-native English speaker, he challenged himself to learn English while in high school. He worked hard to assimilate to the American culture and embrace his new life, yet he always misses his friends and family back home in Armenia. Hovhannes is a goal driven and motivated student and his achievements at GCC has be a testament to his commitment.

Hovhannes began GCC in fall 2021 as a Business major. He is passionate about math, finds numbers fascinating and enjoys the world of business. He recalls his first semester at GCC being difficult because he now had to adapt to the college environment and culture. He said, "in college, you need to be independent, and the responsibility lies solely on you to choose your class schedule, complete your work and connect with counselors and professors when needed." While a full-time student at GCC, Hovhannes also works for the City of Glendale coaching summer camps and assisting during other community events.

He will be graduating GCC in spring 2024 with a 4.0 GPA and will earn an AS-T degree in Business Administration and AA-T degree in Economics. He will be attending California State University, Northridge in fall 2024 as an Accountancy major. After he earns his bachelor's degree, he plans to continue his education to become a Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

He believes that the three (3) required EOPS counseling appointments each semester were critical to him as he learned to navigate college and all that it has to offer. Priority registration gave him the advantage of managing his class schedule and the book vouchers ensured he had his books each term. Tutoring in the Learning Center also helped him stay on track with his classes.

Hovhannes hopes that current GCC students take advantage of many opportunities available at GCC. He continues to say, "it's important to understand yourself and learn to do something you enjoy and are happy with. Don't be forced to choose something and don't overwhelm yourself with only schoolwork as self-care is very important."

EOPS wishes Hovhannes all the best as he embarks on a new chapter in his life at CSUN!

Karla Martinez Luna

Karla enrolled at GCC after graduating from high school and education has always been a priority for her. She recognizes that education is transformative, ensures a brighter future and upward mobility. She would encourage students to apply to EOPS to not only take advantage of the resources they offer, but also the opportunity to connect with a counselor.



Throughout her time at GCC, she has built an incredible relationship with EOPS counselor Jessica. Karla shared, "She has helped me stay on track with my educational plan and has been a reliable support during challenging times in my personal life." Karla also shared that the EOPS program and counselors' kindness, strong work ethic, and dedication to making a positive impact on student's lives have been truly inspiring to her. She strongly believes that EOPS has been invaluable to her and her success as a student.

Karla is currently serving as the president of Voices Organizing Immigrant Communities for Educational Success (VOICES) club on campus. She has demonstrated great leadership and team-building skills throughout her time as an active participant of the club. She is friendly, warm, and welcoming to students and this will definitely help in her future career goal of becoming an educational counselor for underrepresented students.

During her time at GCC, she majored in Child Development and Psychology and will be receiving her AS in Child Development: Teacher, AA-T in Psychology, AA in Social Science, and AS-T in Early Childhood Education. She is happy to share that she will be attending California State University, Northridge this upcoming fall semester and plans on being involved on campus by taking on internships and peer mentoring opportunities. Her goal is to continue her education and receive her bachelor's degree and continue to pursue her master's degree to become a counselor.

Congratulations to Karla as she continues on to the next chapter of her life at CSUN! EOPS wishes you continued success!

2024 EOPS Dinh T. Luu Memorial Scholarship Recipient Lusine Kalashyan

On behalf of the EOPS program and Dinh Luu's family, we congratulate Lusine Kalashyan for being selected as this year's Dinh Luu Scholarship recipient. This scholarship honors EOPS students who earn a minimum 3.0 GPA and are majoring within the field of Human Services.

Lusine is a parenting student who dreams of becoming a Registered Nurse. She came to the United States three years ago with her husband and two children. She is in her 1st year at GCC and her short-term goal is to develop her English language skills to then begin taking pre-requisite courses for the nursing program. She shares that she has always been fascinated with the medical field. Back home in Armenia she desired to become a doctor, but financial and family responsibilities hindered her from pursuing her dreams.

Lusine recalls the many challenges she experiences when she moved to the United States, such as a language barrier and adjusting to a new culture and life. She continued to say, "my strength is what keeps me going and I am challenging myself to use the services and benefits to help reach my goal." She feels that the support services like EOPS, CalWORKs and scholarships opportunities available will help make her dreams of becoming a Registered Nurse a reality. She hopes by becoming a nurse, she can give back to her community and make a positive impact in the healthcare field.

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.

Here are some final important reminders, as we near the end of the spring 2024 semester:

- Summer and fall 2024 registration has begun. Make sure you are enrolled in your classes for the upcoming terms. If you need course recommendations, please see an EOPS counselor.
- Be sure you complete your three (3) required EOPS counseling contacts by Wednesday, June 12, 2024.
 - To schedule an appointment, complete the [EOPS counseling appointment request form](#).
 - Visit an EOPS counselor during drop-in counseling. Weekly drop-in hours can be found on the [EOPS home page](#).

Most importantly, believe in yourself, focus on your ability to be successful and good luck on your final exams! YOU GOT THIS!