



2024-25 FACULTY AND STAFF
GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name of Project/Program: Dream Big Club, Verdugo Campus Date: 5-30-24

Applicant's Name: Aarin Edwards

GCC Position: Acting Associate Dean Department: Student Services

E-mail: aedwards@glendale.edu Phone X5846

Please check which category best describes your project:

- Arts & Culture
- Athletics & Fitness
- Career & Work Training
- College Operations & Facilities
- Humanities/Social Sciences
- Science & Technology
- Other

Amount requested: \$ 8,600

Please attach a one- to two-page typed request that provides a comprehensive summary of your project/program and establishes the need. Please include the following:

- What do you propose to do?
- Who will be involved in the project/program?
- What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community?
- How does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan?
- Timeline for the project/program.
- How do you propose to use the funds requested? Please include specific budget information.
- Please list any other sources of funding you have applied for and include dollar amounts if already awarded.
- How will the Foundation's support be recognized?
- How do you plan to evaluate this project's success?
- If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward?

Please email this completed and signed form along with your proposal to zjacobs@glendale.edu

Submission Deadline – Thursday, May 30, 2024 by 5:00 PM PST

Your signature indicates approval of this request to the Glendale College Foundation

Applicant's signature *Aarin Edwards*

Chair or Department Head Signature *Aarin Edwards*

Print name of Chair or Department Head Aarin Edwards

Grant Review Committee comments and/or recommendations:

This grant was denied/approved on _____ The amount awarded is \$ _____

The Dream Big Club, Verdugo Campus

1. What do you propose to do?

Garfield students who advance to our Credit Verdugo Campus have a nontraditional experience. They are often first-generation college students, new to the United States, have experienced violence, trauma, oppression, and deep poverty, or come to GCC having had negative past educational experiences. It takes a big dream to overcome those barriers persist in noncredit, and massive courage to transition from the small, safe Garfield environment to the larger and more confusing Verdugo credit Campus.

The Dream Big Club at the Verdugo Campus will become the support network that connects former Garfield students at GCC's credit Verdugo campus with a reliable, accessible, and equity-focused community of counseling faculty, classified professionals, peer mentors, and students who will support them in their transition from noncredit to credit.

The goals of the Dream Big Club at the Verdugo campus are the following:

- To provide a stable and consistent support network that will follow students as they advance from the Garfield Dream Big Club to the Verdugo Dream Big Club.
- To connect former Garfield noncredit students to the Verdugo student services and learning communities that will help them to be successful in credit, including Promis Plus, the Pride Center, CalWORKs, EOPS, equity groups, GCC Cares, and the Veterans' Center.
- To provide caring case management counseling, and peer mentoring when noncredit students transferring to credit are most intimidated and vulnerable: during their two semesters.

Our goal in Year 1 is 30 regular club members.

2. Who will be involved in the project/program?

The Dream Big Club at the Verdugo Campus will be operated by Garfield and Verdugo Student Services team members, including counselors, classified staff, and Peer Mentors. The project will be overseen by the Associate Dean of Student Services. An advisory group will be comprised of team members and student workers from both credit and noncredit.

3. & 4. What are the benefits of this project/program to the students, college, and the community, and how does this project/program support the College's Institutional Strategic Plan?

The benefits to students of the Dream Big Club at Verdugo Campus are described above, but this project also can benefit our district in important ways and support Institutional Strategic Plan Goals A, B, C, and D.

Goal A, "Promote and Protect Anti-Racism, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility: GCC Garfield Equity Gap data shows Asian/Pacific Islanders, Black, Filipino, Latino, male students and students over 50 do not transfer from noncredit to credit at rates equal to the general noncredit population. The Dream Big Club will be the strategic intervention Student Services will use to decrease these equity gaps, using intentional strategies designed to reach these important equity groups.

Superintendent/President Dr. Ryan Cornner

Board of Trustees Dr. Sevan Benlian • Yvette Vartanian Davis • Dr. Armine Hacopian • Desirée Portillo Rabinov • Ann H. Ransford

Data clearly shows interactions with Garfield counseling leads to success. Students who interact with Garfield Counseling transfer to credit at a rate of 30.6%, while students without counseling interactions transfer at a rate of 15.9%. Students interacting with counseling earn noncredit certificates at a rate of 22.4%, while students without counseling interactions earn certificates at a rate of 7.7%. The Dream Big Club is the method we will use to broaden the population counseling and student services interacts with, increasing successful transfers to credit and closing equity gaps.

Goal B, “Clarify Student Pathways”: Many Garfield students do not have the knowledge of American educational systems that is the foundation to understanding how education leads to career goals, and which sectors of education lead there. Students often ask what the difference is between noncredit and credit, or between a community college and a four-year institution, or what degree, certificate, or training program is needed to pursue a particular career goal. The Dream Big Club will provide this path-clarifying education through a fun, social, and interactive support network.

Goal C, “Facilitate Student Entry into Pathways: The Dream Big Club will support students to understand complex procedures in credit, including those associated with grades, financial aid, and administrative issues like parking.

Goal D, Help Students Stay on Pathways: Through weekly meetings, forging strong relationships and supportive communities, frequently offering basic needs and student support services, and communicating the links between students’ big dreams and academic persistence, the Dream Big Club will support students to stay on their paths.

The Dream Big Club will also support the college to successfully convert noncredit students to credit students, increasing credit enrollment and contributing to funding through the new Student-Centered Funding Formula.

5. Timeline for the project/program: The Verdugo Dream Big Club will meet weekly at the Verdugo Campus Wednesdays from 12:30-1:30, 14 weeks in Fall 2024 and 14 weeks in Spring 2025.

6. Project Budget: *Twenty-five percent of Garfield Students are in CalWORKs, so CalWORKs can provide 25% of funding for this project.

Item	Foundation	CalWORKs	Total
Food	6000	2000	8000
Supplies	450	150	600
Total	6450	2150	8600

7. How will the Foundation’s support be recognized? The Foundation’s logo and the sentence, “Supported by through a generous grant from the Glendale College Foundation” will be included on all project materials.

8. How do you plan to evaluate this project’s success? We will collect the student IDs of all Club members and track their persistence, certificates, degrees, and university transfers. We will also cross-check against the key equity groups listed in Goal A above.

9. If successful, we will seek to institutionalize this program through Program Review and the college’s budget allocation processes.