



2024-25 FACULTY AND STAFF
GRANT PROGRAM APPLICATION

Name of Project/Program: Dream Big Lounge, Garfield 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: \$ 30,000

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

Aarin Edwards
Applicant's signature

Aarin Edwards
Chair or Department Head Signature

Aarin Edwards
Print name of Chair or Department Head

Grant Review Committee comments and/or recommendations:

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

The Dream Big Lounge, Garfield Campus

1. What do you propose to do?

This proposal requests funds to transform the large but mostly empty reception area of the Garfield Career and Counseling Center into a Dream Big Lounge, where students can build relationships with Counselors, Case Managers, and Student Services staff, find community, and learn about and share resources and advice. Current data indicates such a space can greatly increase credit enrollment, increase the persistence and success of Garfield students, and close racial, gender, and age-related equity gaps for GCC.

Data clearly shows interactions with our Garfield Counseling Center leads to Big Dreams coming true. Students who interact with our Garfield Counseling Center 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 challenge is how to expand our Counseling Center's reach to more students and to students who are not likely to take the initiative to connect with a counselor on their own.

Garfield students are nontraditional students, and they require nontraditional entry points to counseling. Traditional students are more likely to follow a traditional path towards counseling: (1) recognize they have a problem that affects their success in school, (2) make an appointment with a counselor they don't know in a "counseling center," (3) go to that appointment, and (4) leave that appointment and follow the advice of a counselor. Nontraditional students often will not follow that pattern, and consequently never receive the advice, and encouragement, and community that lead to success. Rather than starting from the big internal problem and working outward, nontraditional students often need to work with counselors through an "outside-in" approach.

Nontraditional students benefit from slowly building trust with Counselors and Case Managers, through small, more casual, and more frequent interactions. This approach has been widely successful in learning community programs, like CalWORKs, La Comunidad, Black Scholars, Student Government, and GCC's Pride and Veterans' Center. It is universally true that when students "hang out" with Student Services staff, they build trusting relationships that become access points to transformative academic counseling. Our Garfield Campus lacks spaces that create these kinds of opportunities, but the Dream Big Lounge will create them. The Dream Big Lounge will be where Garfield Counseling Center staff (faculty and classified) reach students from "outside-in."

2. Who will be involved in the project/program? The Associate Dean of Student Services will oversee this project, working with GCC's Facilities team and Purchasing Department. The work will be guided by an advisory group of Garfield Students, student workers, and Student Services staff and faculty.

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 Lounge are described above, but this project also has the potential to benefit our district in important ways and to 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. Black, Filipino, male, and students

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under 30 do not earn certificates at the same rate as other noncredit GCC students. 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. The Dream Big Lounge is the method we will use to broaden the population counseling and student services interacts with, increasing success 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 Lounge will provide this path-clarifying education in a fun, social, and interactive environment.

Goal C: “Facilitate Student Entry into Pathways: The Dream Big Lounge will support students to complete credit applications, enroll in credit and noncredit career education and academic programs, apply for Financial Aid, and connect with student support services at the Verdugo Campus.

Goal D: Help Students Stay on Pathways: Through informal interactions, 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 Lounge will support students to stay on their paths.

The Dream Big Lounge will also support the college to convert noncredit students to credit students, increasing credit enrollment and contributing to funding through the new Student-Centered Funding Formula. 5. **Timeline:** If granted these funds, the Garfield Student Services team will work closely with GCC’s Facilities and Purchasing Departments, with a goal to finish renovations of the Lounge by the end of Fall 2024, a soft launch in winter 2025, and a Grand Opening in early Spring, 2024.

6. Project Budget:

Item	Cost
Furniture and lighting	21,000
Renovations (paint, small electrical, etc.)	7500
Total	30,000

7. **How will the Foundation’s support be recognized?** The Foundation’s logo and the sentence, “The Garfield Dream Big Center has been made possible through a generous grant from the Glendale College Foundation” will appear on a prominently located plaque in the Center

8. **How do you plan to evaluate this project’s success?** We will collect the student IDs of students who come to the Dream Big Center and track their persistence, certificates, transfers to credit, degrees, and university transfers. We will also cross-check against the key equity groups listed in Goal A above.

9. **If your project/program is successful, how will it inform your practice moving forward?** The Dream Big Lounge will become the central space for student communities to meet, socialize, build connections, and access counseling and student services.