

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Student Equity Department

2023-2024 AT A GLANCE

What a Year!

This academic year has been filled with numerous accomplishments, events and lots of activities. 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 La Comunidad student, **Alphonso Gonzalez**. Alphonso began his educational journey at GCC in 2016, and although it has not been an easy journey, he continued to pursue his goals and has demonstrated what an incredible person he is. He values his education, seeks opportunities to actively help others, and has a generous heart. He was hired as a student worker for the Student Equity Department in 2017, and increasingly became more involved on campus over the years. He has participated in the Mentoring Men of Color program, the Team Internship Program, and much more! Alphonso was admitted to his top choice, Cal Poly Pomona, as a Manufacturing Engineering major! All of his hard work and dedication is admirable and we are excited to share that he will be this year's **commencement speaker!** Words can not express how proud we all are of Alphonso. Witnessing his personal growth, seeing his confidence blossom over the years, and now seeing him thriving in life is an honor.



When asked what memory he will take with him as he transitions to Cal Poly Pomona, Alphonso shared the following:

“One memory that I’m going to take with me is the love and support my second family, the Student Equity counselors and staff have given me. Dr. Barsegyan being my biggest supporter, Arpi Amirian being like a mother figure, always reminding me to do my best and never give up. The Student Equity counselors were there for me every step of the way and I will carry the love and support the Student Equity program has given me.”

Let's Congratulate our Newly Tenured Student Equity Counseling Faculty

The Student Equity Department is excited to share that two of our counseling faculty have been board-approved for tenure! This is a huge milestone, as they are our first Student Equity full time tenure-track counselors at GCC. Having committed counselors officially tenured will help us continue to build our services, and grow our programming for our students. The students we serve deserve to have consistency and dedicated counselors to support their diverse needs. Please help us congratulate Kevin Dimatulac and Jamie Sanchez!

Kevin Dimatulac is a Filipino-American, first-generation college graduate that earned his Bachelor's degree in Sociology from California State University, Northridge and his Master's degree in Educational Counseling from the University of Southern California. Prior to his tenure track role, he worked at various colleges including CSUN, USC, PCC, LACC and GCC.

During the tenure track process, he served as Cultural Diversity Coordinator, helped pilot GCC's Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American learning community, chaperoned GCC students across the country to visit Historically Black Colleges and Universities, and served on several shared governance and hiring committees. More recently, he was elected as Guild Secretary and will be stepping in to the role of co-coordinator for the Graduate Counseling Internship Program for the Student Services Division.

Kevin is happily married to his graduate school sweetheart that works in Student Affairs administration at a private four-year university. During his free time, he loves packing his truck, going camping and outdoor rock climbing.

Jamie Sanchez has a Bachelors in Child and Adolescent Development with a minor in Psychology from California State University, Northridge, and a Masters in Education with an emphasis in Counseling from California State University, Dominguez Hills. Jamie is a first-generation college student, daughter of Guatemalan parents, and was raised in the city of Los Angeles. During her tenure at GCC, she has been co-chairing the Dreamer Support Committee, taught Student Development courses, has been active in multiple committees and task forces including the Latinx Heritage Month planning committee, and is currently serving as an At-Large senator.

Jamie is married and is a proud mother to her two-year old daughter. She enjoys spending time with her family, trying new foods, and doing spinning classes.



Students of Distinction

This prestigious award acknowledges current Glendale Community College students who excel academically, participate in leadership activities, and demonstrate commitment to a goal or purpose. Students are nominated by campus community members, and a committee composed of faculty, staff, students, and managers select the top ten students to be honored and recognized for their outstanding achievements. This year, **FOUR** of the ten students that were selected are from our Learning Communities. Congratulations to **Emilio Dulay** (APIDA Community), **Alphonso Gonzalez** (La Comunidad), **Katherine Juarez** (La Comunidad) and **Lemont Marcell McDowell** (Black Scholars), who were four of the ten finalists for Student of Distinction! You are incredible and well deserving of this honor! From the ten finalists for Student of

Distinction, two students are then selected each year for Student of the Year. Join us in congratulating **Emilio Dulay** for the J. Walter Smith Student of the Year Award and **Alphonso Gonzalez** for the Elsie Bishop Student of the Year Award! Both Emilio and Alphonso are involved on campus, have high academic achievement, and will be transferring this year and continuing their educational journeys in their respective universities. Congrats to Emilio and Alphonso!



Mentoring Programs

Many of us understand the impact that a mentor can have on someone's educational and/or career experience. When developing the Mentoring Men of Color (MMC) program and the Mentoring STEM Students of Color (MSTEM) program, it was important to create something that had an outcomes-based model at its core. Our Student Equity mentoring programs seek to match students with GCC faculty, administrators, and/or staff who provide opportunities for self-discovery and leadership, professional guidance, and promote engagement to increase motivation, retention, graduation, and transfer rates. These programs require an activity-based mentor-mentee partnerships and aim to cultivate participants' self-confidence, highlight racial affinity, and nurture students' cultural wealth. This year, students worked on a variety of

projects with their mentors, including **video game development**, learning about and creating a **garden**, implementing a **book club**, helping **redesign syllabi**, **leveraging student voice** for instructional services, **clearing and staining fish** to make it transparent enough to study under a microscope, and much more! We want to thank all the mentors and all of the students that participated! We are already recruiting for next academic year. If you are interested in becoming a mentor, sign-up at www.glendale.edu/mentoring.



MMC and MSTEM Cohort

University Tours

Our in-person university tours continue to thrive! This year, we offered students multiple opportunities to participate. We set up tours to local campuses including **CSUN** and **CPP!** Students were able to learn about what these universities offer, explored their transfer options and interacted with their peers. We also coordinated Northern and a Southern California University Tours, where we visited **UC Santa Barbara, UC Berkeley, Cal Poly SLO, San Diego State, CSU Fullerton and CSU Los Angeles!** We visited service areas that would be beneficial for our students, received admissions presentations, and gave students opportunities to explore the campuses on their own. Students also participated in sightseeing, including the **Golden Gate Bridge** in San Francisco and **Embarcadero** in San Diego. For many of our students, this was their first time visiting these monumental places and they all demonstrated excitement and gratitude for such experiences. We look forward to future trips and creating more opportunities for our students!



Alumni Spotlight

Help us congratulate **Josh McCall** in reaching his educational goals and starting his career in cybersecurity! During his time at GCC, Josh was in the Black Scholars learning community, in ASGCC, and he participated in the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars (NCAS) Program, which demonstrated to him that his dreams were obtainable. Starting GCC was difficult, especially given that he had recently moved to California and was balancing a full-time job and his education. He transferred to Cal Lutheran University in fall of 2020 and has since graduated with a B.A in Computer Science. Josh is currently working at the **NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory!** He works in the field of cybersecurity, specifically utilizing Splunk and Python, to monitor and analyze security events, develop scripts to automate processes, and implement measures to protect the organization’s data and systems from security threats.

Josh wanted to share the following:

“My success might look good now, but it came with a rocky start. GCC is not just a college, but an institution that feels like home. You may not feel college-ready, or have dreams of working at NASA and going to space, but joining services like Black Scholars, ASGCC, student clubs, and talking with professors will inspire you. You’re not just enrolled in college, but on a journey that will change your life if you trust the staff, students, and most importantly, yourself. With every semester, I grew academically and as a person. I can not thank GCC enough for changing my life and giving me the opportunity to become someone beyond what I initially saw in myself.”



Scholarship Recipients



Congratulations to all of the recipients of the Black Scholars/BSU Scholarship! Thanks to the generous support of the GCC Foundation, we were able to offer five Black Scholars students with scholarships this year! We want to congratulate our amazing scholarship recipients, **Karen Waters, Kevin McAninch, Briana Kamara, Jahkara Smith, and Billi Brooks!** You are all incredible and well deserving of this scholarship which rewards students for their campus and community involvement.



Thanks to the Glendale College Guild and their generosity, one student from each learning community was selected as a recipient of the Guild Scholarship! Congratulations to **Alphonso Gonzalez, May Thein and Trinity Sneed!** In addition, many of our APIDA, Black Scholars and La Comunidad 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!

Career Adventures

Career Adventures is a seminar series designed to help students explore their interests, identify their career paths, and take action toward next steps in their journey. Our main goal is to help our students feel comfortable to then continue the exploration process by utilizing GCC's Career Services.

Through our Career Adventures series, students engage in various activities and are connected to many campus resources and services, where they can gain even more support and guidance throughout their journey at GCC.

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



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. We currently have three learning communities, **Black Scholars**, dedicated to supporting Black and African-American students at GCC, **La Comunidad** which supports students who are Latino/a/x and **APIDA**, a learning community for students who are Asian American, Pacific Islander or Desi American. 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.

We started the academic year with our annual kick-off event, which took place at Verdugo Park. Students were greeted with food, great music, an ice cream truck, and different activities and games. As the semester progressed, we started with our learning community group meetings, where students had a dedicated space to meet with other students in their respective learning communities, and had the opportunity to share their experiences in a safe, empowering, and supportive environment.

There were also various opportunities for student engagement, such as a video game night, tickets to attend “Jelly’s Last Jam”, a musical at the Pasadena Playhouse, the Student Equity End of the Year Celebration, and much more! The Learning Communities also had their first talent show this year at Plaza Vaquero! Students and faculty demonstrated their talents through their singing, their abilities as pianists, baton twirling, and dance! Students came out to support their peers and encouraged one another to participate. Events such as this one build community, enhance engagement, and create lasting memories. Thank you to everyone that participated and showed up; your support does not go unnoticed.



Cultural Diversity

Our Cultural Diversity Coordinator, **Carla Ruiz**, has been working extremely hard this year to bring us amazing performances, celebrations, lectures, and events, to teach and inform the community, celebrate culture and diversity, and recognize and value one another for who we are.

We kicked off the year early with our annual MLK Breakfast and Black History Month events, followed by events for our Armenian Genocide Commemoration, APIDA Heritage Month, Pride Week, Latinx Heritage Month, Filipinx Heritage Month, Dia de los Muertos, and Native American Heritage Month.

Carla organized programming that aims to be responsive to current events and student needs. Check out the website to see all that Cultural Diversity has to offer, and to find recordings of previous events you might have missed.

We want to give a special Thank You to all of the wonderful committee members who helped Carla with organizing and planning events throughout the year. We could not do it without you!



Thank You to our Interns!

Thank you and a big congratulations to our academic counseling intern **Keichelle Lyons**! She recently earned her Masters in Counseling, Student Development in Higher Education, from California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). Keichelle 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 experiences within the community college setting. Keichelle started at Santa Monica College and transferred to CSULB for her Bachelor's degree. She is forever grateful for her journey, and how it has led to her being able to support students. She enjoys listening to music, being in nature, taking road trips, spending time with her furry friends (pets) and her family.



We also want to thank **Nathalie Kouyumjian**, our MSW intern! Nathalie recently earned her Masters in Social Work from CSUN! Nathalie participated in our MSW Internship Program, a partnership developed with CSUN in 2021, which provides opportunities to MSW graduate students to gain experience supporting college students through case management. Nathalie started at GCC and then transferred to CSULA. Upon graduation, she worked as a Social Worker Assistant, which solidified her career goals. She shares the following: "I am immensely grateful to the Student Equity Department, the faculty, staff, and my supervisor Orlando Roybal, for their support, for challenging me, and preparing me. The professional and personal growth I experienced during this time has prepared me to become the best social worker I can be."



Our interns have been incredibly genuine and we are thankful for their support and the guidance they have provided our students in their capacity. We know that you both will thrive in all your future endeavors and we are so proud.

A Quick Photo Dump !

We had an amazing year, and we look forward to what the future holds!

- Student Equity Department

