

NEWS FROM THE CENTER

S.P.A.R.K. Peer Mentoring Program

Fall 2015 Mentors



Become A Mentor!

As the Fall 2015 semester comes to an end, so does the SPARK Mentoring project. SPARK Mentoring started in the summer with the Summer Bridge program at GCC. The Summer Bridge program was designed to ease the transition to college for high school students. As part of the summer bridge, students received extra support services, additional resources, and a mentor to help them find their way on campus.

We will be recruiting new mentors for 2016 starting in January. Mentors must commit to the training and follow up activities in the program. For more information, please request an application packet by emailing CSI@glendale.edu or by calling 818.240.1000, ext. 5580.

IMPORTANT DATES

★ STAR training

Saturday, March 3, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

★ SPARK application

Accepting applications
2/16/2016- 5/13/2016

★ Volunteer Fair

Thursday, March 3, 2016
11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Plaza Vaquero

HERE IS WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING ABOUT SPARK...

Mentee

- This is such an amazing program. Glad that I had a good experience. Makes me more excited to be a mentor next year.
- Each mentor I spoke to impacted me in a positive way. For example, they explained how college life

Mentor

- SPARK creates intimacy and solidarity between mentors and mentees. Those who organized this program should be certainly appreciated.
- SPARK is a way to be successful at GCC and help others to be successful.

Latino Leadership Academy

APPLICATIONS ARE DUE JANUARY 19TH



The mission of the Latino Leadership Academy is to inspire, engage, and empower Latina/Latino students to become agents of change and advocates for all students at GCC.

Training/Orientation for Spring 2016

The training for the Spring Latino Leadership Academy will take place on Friday, February 5, 2016 on campus and is required of all participants.

INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD GO TO SIERRA MADRE 267 (Center for Student Involvement) FOR A SHORT APPLICATION. They can also call 818.240.1000, ext. 5789 or email hzariani@glendale.edu or nanek@glendale.edu

How LLA Works

This program is designed as a dialogue between GCC leaders, administrators, managers and the students in the program.

Each week, participants will have an opportunity to learn about different areas of the campus and begin to look at the gaps in services they feel students need.

Once participants have identified these needs, the group works to advocate and implement a project to achieve the desired goals and outcome.

The purpose is to have students who are empowered to come up with solutions to help their fellow students.



Program Commitment

- All participants must commit to the following:**
- 5 hour Training (Feb. 5, 2016)**
- 8 one-hour weekly sessions (see below)**
- 10-15 hours for project (to be decided)**

Once an action plan has been developed, the group will work to implement the solution or advocate for addressing the issue on campus.

Please note: These are paid positions! Pay will vary and is based on level of participation.

The following campus leaders will be speaking with students at each week's session.

All sessions meet from 12:30 to 1:30.

Friday, February 5, 2016 – Orientation/Training – 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

(LUNCH WILL BE SERVED)

Thursday, February 18 – Instructional Services Part 1

Thursday, February 25 – Instructional Services Part 2

Thursday, March 3 – Administrative Services Part 1

Thursday, March 10 – Administrative Services Part 2

Thursday, March 17 – Student Services Part 1

Thursday, March 24 – Student Services Part 2

Special Panel

Brainstorming Session Thursday, March 31 and Thursday, April

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Leaders will brainstorm and select one or two projects that they would like to implement on campus during the spring (or possibly fall) semester.

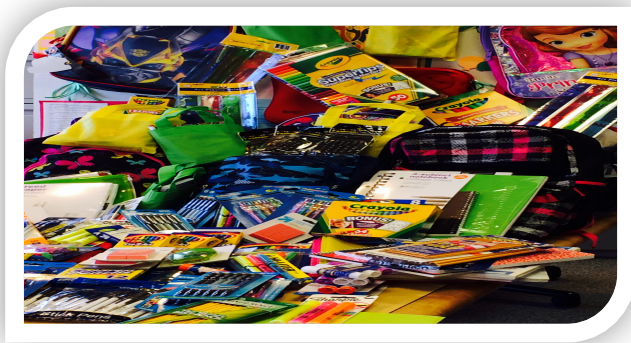
The remaining meetings will be based on student schedules and work groups.

"A Lasting Legacy"



As part of a continuing tradition, The Center for Student Involvement, with the help of its students and staff, sponsored the Sixth Annual "Pack a Backpack" activity to benefit homeless children in the greater Los Angeles area.

This event is CSI's way of providing a positive and helpful approach to forever remember and pay tribute to the 9/11



victims, to honor those who rose in service in response to the attack, and to remind people of the importance of working together in peace for a better world.

You can find more information at: <https://911day.org>

The generosity of the Glendale Community College staff, students, and the community have helped us raise an estimated \$2,000 worth of school supplies. This year, we collected 64 backpacks and over 1,000 school supplies (binders, calculators, pencils, pens, crayons, dividers, erasers, glue, notebooks, etc.). All donations were delivered to School on Wheels Inc. on October 9, 2015.

School on Wheels is a non-profit organization that provides academic tutoring to children living in shelters, motels, cars, foster homes and the streets of Los Angeles. Their mission is to provide children with "one-on-one educational assistance that can equip them with the hope and ability to end the horrific cycle of homelessness."

You can find more information at: www.schoolonwheels.org

The annual "Pack a Backpack" event has created a lasting legacy at Glendale Community College. It has rekindled the spirit of service, tolerance, and compassion that unifies us all.



Thank you to the GCC Family for the generous donations of backpacks and school supplies. You have helped the most forgotten and vulnerable children in our community.

Center for Children

BY CHRISTINE OVASAPYAN

Volunteering through the Center for Student Involvement is on a to-do list for many students at Glendale College. Whether you're doing hours for a class, or just doing it for yourself, volunteering is a great way to stay in touch with your community and lend a helping hand. The CSI office has a database of over 180 organizations where you can start volunteering today! On October 21, 2015, I was able to sit down with Pat Chambers, the Director of the Center for Children for the past 18 years, who had some things to share with me.

As a ministry of La Crescenta Presbyterian Church, the Center for Children is an after-school, preschool, and childcare program available to the Crescenta Valley community. With 38 people on staff, 11 classrooms, and over 180 children to attend too, the Center for Children is a staple in the community for childcare. When I got to the Center for Children, friendly faces and warm hellos greeted me. Shortly, I was sitting in Pat Chambers' office. Chambers had a lot to share about the facilities and program she runs:



CO: Why don't you tell me a little about what your role is here at the Center for Children?

PC: As the Director of the program, I set the vision for the staff and act as the official liaison between the Center and the Congregation that hosts the church.

CO: What do you provide for these children?

PC: We attend to children from the age of 6 weeks to being in the 8th grade. Our facilities are open 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. We have three programs consisting of our infant and toddler program, preschool program, and our afterschool program. We assist children with homework, have arts and crafts, and even get into music. We also provide day campus during breaks.

CO: What does a day for a volunteer look like here?

PC: It really depends on the volunteer, because we have some who don't want to work directly with the children so they prefer to do maintenance work. Some responsibilities include painting furniture, weeding and gardening, assisting teachers and encouraging students to get involved, and various housekeeping duties.

CO: What makes this job so interesting for you?

PC: It's those aha moments. Seeing those kids learn and discover something new is just incredible for me. Building a partnership between parents and us really does go a long way. I want to feel like a family for these families. We see kids grow from the age of 6 weeks to 12 years old right in front of our eyes. This is childcare, not daycare. We take care of the

The Center for Children is a great place to get started on volunteering. From working with children and assisting teachers, to leading activities, and cleaning up, getting involved in your community is a great opportunity. When touring the facilities I was able to meet 5-year-old Wyatt. When asked about what he likes about the Center for Children, Wyatt said he likes going outside, playing with the cars, and coloring. To get more information on the Center for Children go to www.center4children.com.

Volunteer Faire

BY JACQUELINE DUARTE

As a CSI student ambassador I've had plenty of opportunities to serve my community and most importantly having the knowledge to join and assist the Volunteer Faire we organize every semester.

So far we have been here for approximately 2 years full with joy and we can tell you guys its been great! The Volunteer Faire is when different agencies come to campus and they post up their information in each booth. As students pass by and ask for further information, they find out how they can volunteer off-campus.



Many students focus on finding somewhere that is related to their major so they can use the volunteer experience and the fact that they donated their time on a job application and their resume. It also shows that they are involved in doing better things.

We also ask our favorite "Taco Guy," Mr. Juan Perez, to serve his delicious tacos during the faire. All organizations that participate in the faire receive free lunch and generally enjoy their time on our campus.

The volunteer faire is a Glendale College tradition and is a "must attend" if you would like to find out about the different opportunities for you out there. It's a great experience for you to have in your free time and help you in getting to understand what society is like.

I talked with a few of the representatives from the organizations that came to our faire in the fall semester. Burbank Young Life volunteer coordinators, Justin Barrs and Scott Kruse, told me: "The students who volunteer here are mentors to young people. They impact those kids." When asked about whether it is beneficial for them to come to the faire, they stated that "it's a huge benefit because we are always in need of volunteers and we have a chance to recruit people we would normally not be able to."

Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center volunteer coordinator, Marine Aktsoyan told me that "volunteering makes a big difference in someone's life. GCC is a nice place to recruit young adults and spread the word around about Hollywood Presbyterian." She also said "volunteering with HPMC will make a difference in the life of a patient, their family, and the community."

OTHER PARTICIPANTS

- ✚ The California Science Center
- ✚ Coach Art
- ✚ Fremont Elementary School
- ✚ Kidspace Children's Museum
- ✚ Los Angeles LGBT Center
- ✚ Los Angeles Team Mentoring
- ✚ Los Angeles Youth Network
- ✚ Los Angeles Zoo
- ✚ Meeting Every Need with Dignity (MEND)

Fall 2015 Volunteer Faire Flyer

GLENDALE
COMMUNITY
COLLEGE

VOLUNTEER FAIRE

Fall 2015

Thursday, September 17, 2015
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.


Come and meet students face to face and recruit
volunteers and service learners for your organizations

* Lunch will be provided *

There are a limited number of spaces available.

Please RSVP by Submitting the attached Attendance Confirmation Form by Monday, September 14th.

E-Mail to: CSI@glendale.edu
Or Fax To: 818.551.5225



For more information call:
818.240.1000 ext. 5580

Map, directions, and parking instructions will be e-mailed/faxed one week prior to the event.
Organized by Center for Student Involvement

CSI Student Profile

BY EDDIE MOTTA



Issa Al Hadeed, Dedicated student, determined worker, inspirational STAR. Inspirational STAR? If you don't know what that is, STAR (Students Talking About Race), is a program sponsored by The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) which trains GCC students to be able to teach either a middle school or high school class about stereotypes, prejudice, racism, homophobia, xenophobia, and sexism. Issa, a prospective student in GCC who is majoring in Bio and intending to become an anesthesiologist, is currently in the midst of his 2nd year in the STAR program and is thrilled to be participating in it again because of the positive experience he had the first time around. While interviewing Issa Al Hadeed he had many things to say about the program and why anyone from an education major to an engineer major could benefit from the program.

"Issa, what first got you involved with the STAR program?" Issa then responded " I actually received the information from a friend of mine who was the Community Service Director, now the ex-director of the program, which I am currently the director of". After being informed about how the program works and what the process was he stopped by the Center for Student Involvement, signed up, went through a 6-hour training, and was ready to get an experience that would give him a new perspective. When Issa was asked about what he was expecting from the program he responded by saying that he "was not expecting that the students would be very open to the discussions and participate with deeper insight". In the beginning of the 8-week course, Issa believed that it would be a bit challenging, but in actuality the students facilitated the class and he felt rather confident about the process and success of the class.

Issa was joyous about the fact that everything he was teaching in the classroom filled with students, alongside the other STAR volunteers, was going to help not only them, but Issa as well in the long haul. STAR helped Issa further his social skills, build confidence in his leadership skills, and in addition inspired him to do more volunteer activities. Issa's volunteer activities are substantial, including working with Glendale Adventist Hospital Center, UCLA Clinical Care Extenders Program, and working as

Community Service Director for the GCC Scholars Program. Issa was asked how does volunteering affect you outside of the volunteer work itself? How does it affect you in the long-term? Issa responded by saying that " in the future you will have to interact with people and as an anesthesiologist I will have to interact with the patients, as well as think on my feet". Issa has acquired the understanding of the importance of interaction with people and that something as simple as that can drastically change your view on many things and give you an upper hand.

During his volunteer work in the STAR program, Issa never once felt



that it was "work", but instead looked forward to the weekly meeting with his students. "I noticed that when I was going back to the classroom that I felt comfortable and excited to teach these students valuable lessons that would hopefully help them in the future". Involving himself in something that was truly important made him feel as if every word and action performed influenced the future generation in a positive way. Involving himself in STAR and teaching students that population and diversity is growing and aiding them in seeing those differences is what he thinks to be a "one of a kind thing".

Diversity, Skills Development, and Problem Solving

What Students Learn Through Service

Each semester, the Center for Student Involvement administers a survey to students who participated in service learning through various courses. The purpose of service learning is to connect classroom learning to hands on service in the community that addresses a particular need. The service is meant to enrich the classroom work and help students learn in an interactive environment.

This year, 499 surveys were completed by students. The surveys are anonymous in that students do not need to identify themselves.

The findings are always interesting. Here are some highlights from the 2014-2015 survey responses:

In measuring the **skills used during their service project**, 91% of students said they used speaking skills, 86% used their listening skills while 52% said they used reading skills and 42% used writing skills.

Almost 90% of students stated that they found themselves in situations

where they had to **deal with diversity**. Almost the same number (89%) felt they gained a greater appreciation of diversity as a result of participating in their service projects.

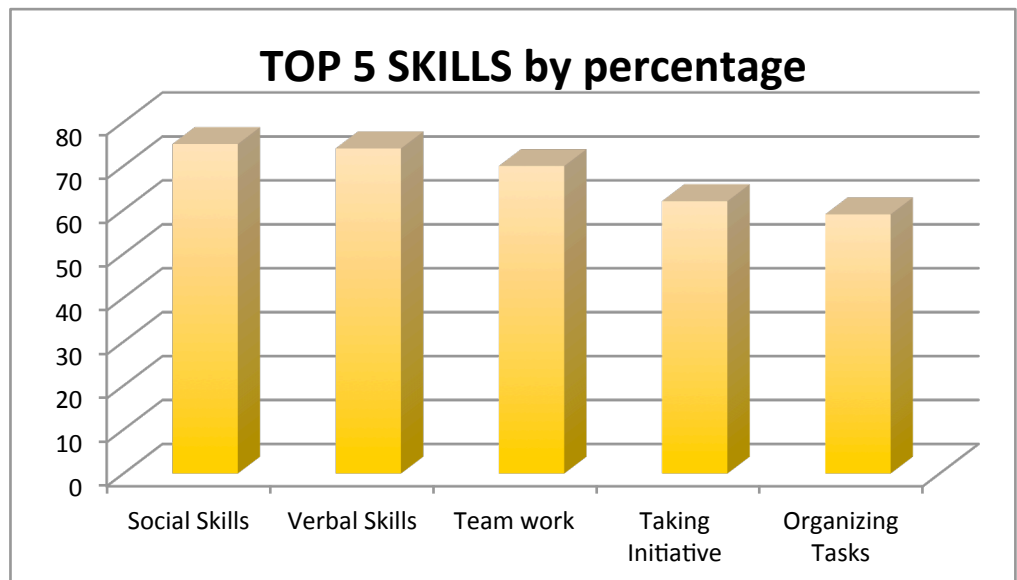
Students also stated that they were able to use their **problem solving skills** through recognizing and understanding a problem (84%), choosing an appropriate strategy to address the problem (85%), and correctly applying

that strategy to the problem (88%).

When asked if they felt that they **made a significant contribution to their community**, 97% of students said Very Much/Somewhat.

A complete summary of the survey results are available by emailing csi@glendale.edu.

And finally, the top 5 skills that students feel they gained were identified as:



A complete summary of the survey results are available by emailing csi@glendale.edu.

Center for Student Involvement

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Glendale Community College District is committed to providing an equal opportunity for admissions, student financing, student support programs and activities, and employment regardless of race, religious creed, color, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, marital status, medical condition, or disability in accordance with federal, state, and local regulations. This Nondiscrimination and Equal Opportunity Policy covers admissions, access, and treatment in District programs and activities, and application for and treatment in District employment.