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semesters***

## Immigration Teach-In

With the Supreme Court decision on DACA looming, the AB 540 Committee and the DREAM Resource Center felt that this was a good time to provide some context for historical immigration practices in the US as well as an opportunity for a Call to Action.

Opening speaker Bill Sparks shared information about how refugees, asylum seekers, and immigrants have been impacted by various legislation throughout history. He also reminded us that the United States has historically been a country of inclusion rather than exclusion. Additionally, Bill expressed his concern that "We need to guide the change that is upon us." He advocated for the following: "Supporting requiring ethnic studies; holding teach-ins that combine feelings, ideas, and avenues to promote social change; building and training diverse leadership teams; and VOTING on November 3rd."

Jessica Viramontes, from CARECEN's Community College Project, updated participants with information about immigration and legally related issues such as REAL ID, Public Charge, and also DACA. "As we anxiously await a decision from the Supreme Court on the fate of DACA, we will continue to provide resources and information to our undocumented communities. Thank you to all the staff at DRC for all you do!"

*(continue on page 11)*

# Meet the Staff & Students at the MCEC

*Anthony Garcia sat down with our newest employee, David, at the MCEC to find out a little bit more about him.*

## Tell us a little bit about yourself?

My name is David Crawford, and I am originally from San Antonio, Texas. I'm a first-generation college student with a Bachelor's Degree in Art with a minor in Photography and a concentration in Media Production. I returned to school several years ago and earned a Master of Fine Arts in Writing for Screen + Stage from Northwestern University. Go Cats!!! I have worked in higher ed for over eight years, and I enjoy working with students.

## Why did you decide to pursue a career in higher education?

I decided to pursue a career in higher education, having experienced firsthand the impact of having a positive role model. For me, those mentors were Stan Pearson II, Associate Director of Student Activities, Dr. Kristen Standage, Director of Advising & Mentoring, and Professor Marcela Moran, who taught Photography.

Stan mentored me in student programming and activities. Dr. Standage hired me as a peer mentor and provided leadership and guidance. Professor Moran



encouraged me to pursue a graduate degree in writing. I am grateful for their guidance and mentorship.

## What is the most rewarding aspect of your job?

There are several aspects of my current position at the Multicultural & Community Engagement Center that I find rewarding. I enjoy witnessing the growth of our students and connecting them to fantastic community engagement and volunteer opportunities. Watching our students grow as leaders as a result of volunteering is extremely rewarding.

## What motivates you?

For me, it's working with our student ambassadors and the students who pass through our

doors every day, which is why I signed on to be a co-advisor for the Black Student Union.

The work I do today reminds me of the work of my three mentors, which also motivates me. Though I am not teaching right now, I hope to one day as an adjunct, which would provide an opportunity to be a mentor to students.

## What are you passionate about outside of Higher Education?

I am passionate about being a great husband and impacting my community as a leader and as a volunteer. Another area I am passionate about is mentoring young men and creating positive change through my writing. Most of my writing deals with race relations, uncomfortable conversations, and the pursuit of the American dream. Outside of work, I am passionate about enacting change and building leaders.

## If you could have a superpower in the world, what would it be? And why?

The ability to teleport anywhere in the world. While I have traveled extensively with my wife, being able to teleport, would make things easier. Having coffee in Cuba, Belgium Waffles for brunch, and Kobe beef for dinner in Tokyo would be amazing.



**GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE'S  
5TH ANNUAL  
MLK BREAKFAST  
STUDENT CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2020  
9:00-11:00 AM**

One of the tenets of Dr. King's philosophy was justice for everyone, regardless of any status. In his Letter From a Birmingham Jail, he wrote: "Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds." He often argued that we are all in this journey of our country together and we must constantly lift each other up. Norma Ramirez lives these ideals through her actions. She chose to become a Plaintiff in the DACA case heard by the Supreme Court in early November 2019. She will join us to discuss her school, work, and life experiences as well her motivations for testifying as a plaintiff in the historic case.



Norma Ramirez is a graduate student pursuing her doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Fuller Graduate School of Psychology. As a doctoral student and Research Fellow, Norma has been involved in research focused on the impact of immigration on Latino families. Her Masters project examined the relationships between parental legal status and parent and child academic aspirations among Latino/a U.S.-citizen children. Her dissertation research focuses on identifying the processes associated with precarious parental legal status and psychological distress in Latino/a U.S citizen children. Additionally, Norma is an advocate for the immigrant community, most clearly seen in her role as a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the Trump Administration for rescinding DACA.

*The event was organized by the MCEC, Student Equity, and Academic Counseling with funding provided by the Glendale College Foundation.*

**SPARK Alumni Mentor  
Student Panel**

In 2020, the SPARK Peer Mentoring program celebrated its tenth year, it was only fitting that we commemorated this milestone with a trip down memory lane with former mentors.

For those unfamiliar with the SPARK program, SPARK's objective is to assist first-year students with their transition into college.

Nane Kakosian and David Crawford facilitated the event, which took place on Thursday, May 14, 2020, to a captivated audience.

Among the former SPARK mentors in attendance was Student Equity counselor Kevin Dimatulac, who spoke about his experience as a SPARK mentor and how the skills learned have helped him in his career goals.

# MLK 2020

Once again, we celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. day with our 5th Annual MLK Breakfast. The event took place on January 14 and over 125 participants took part in the event.

This year's theme was centered around justice for DACA recipients. Our guest speaker was Norma Ramirez who is a DACA recipient and was one of the plaintiffs in lawsuit against President Trump, heard by the Supreme Court in November 2019.

Norma shared her experiences of being a student as well as the daily struggles experienced by her and many other DACA and undocumented students. Before Norma's presentation, GCC Professor James Lott shared a beautiful memory of meeting Dr. King when he was a young man. Both speakers reminded us of the urgency for equity and social justice, now, more than ever.



**Mentoring is a powerful thing.**

Join us to learn how to become a mentor for the Summer Bridge SPARK Peer Mentoring Program.

Hear from current and past mentors about their experiences, their personal growth, and their professional development.

*(Please note that these are paid mentoring positions)*

**Thursday, May 14, 2020  
2:30 to 3:30 p.m.**

Zoom ID: <https://zoom.us/j/7373542750>

# Meet Maria Robelo

Maria has been an intern at the Dream Resource Center since February 2019. Though she started her internship for one semester, she has continued assisting us at the DRC ever since. She graduated from USC in May 2020 with her Master's in Educational Counseling. In fall 2019, Maria began an internship at Los Angeles Valley College's Career Center.



When asked what is the most rewarding aspect of her job, Maria says: "By far, it is

being able to see how students grow and achieve their goals. You may help give them a push along the way, but watching them realize their potential is why I love working in education."

She decided to pursue a career in higher education because she had always been passionate about education: "But when I began a job as a college access coordinator, I was truly confronted by how large the gaps in educational attainment are for some students. I realized too many minority students are discouraged from pursuing a higher education because they are told by their counselors and teachers that people like them cannot be academically successful. I wanted to be that person who believed in their potential to succeed and break the cycle of educational inequity."

Her motivation to accomplish her goals come from her mom: "My mom is an amazing woman who has done everything and anything she puts her mind to. Also, when a student expresses to me how grateful they are for my help and guidance, I really cannot put into words how that makes me feel - it's what keeps me going."

Outside of education she loves to travel and learn about different cultures and try all sorts of different cuisines along the way. Her superpower would definitely be teleportation. "The worst part of traveling is the long flights!"



*During her time at the Dream Resource Center, Maria has been an amazing advocate for our undocumented students. She has assisted the DRC with doing presentations for high school students and counselors. She has also assisted the DRC with the annual conference and has worked with VOICES student club. We are excited for Maria's graduation and her next steps.*

# 13th Annual AB 540 Conference

On Friday, February 7th, the DREAM Resource Center and the V.O.I.C.E.S. student club hosted their 13th annual AB 540 Student Conference. The student club V.O.I.C.E.S. stands for Voices Organizing Immigrant Communities for Educational Success. The club consist of undocumented students and allies who advocate for equitable education. This year's conference was a huge success with three high schools and over 120 students in attendance.



The main high schools that joined the event were North Hollywood, Roosevelt, and Lincoln High Schools. The goal of the annual conference is to bridge the gap from high school graduation to college enrollment, specifically for undocumented students. They hosted a variety of workshops consisting of the California Dream Act, Know Your Rights, and College Basics 101.

After the conference Raul Mata the College and Career Advisor of Roosevelt High School said, "we hope this event can become a yearly tradition as we try to provide improved college-readiness support for our AB 540 students." The students who attended the event left with a better understanding on how to enroll in college and the financial resources that are available to help them in their academic journey. Veronica Gonzales, the college counselor at North Hollywood High, shared that "we have attended the conference two years in a row, and we look forward to next year."



# GCC Shows

## Its Pride

The 2nd Annual GCC Pride Week was an amazing array of activities designed to educate and inform our campus on LGBTQ+ issues our students face on a regular and ongoing basis. This year, Pride Week took place from May 11 to 15 with approximately 150 individuals participating in the week's activities.

Monday's kick-off event focused on how to make the campus more welcoming for our LGBTQ+ students, in conversation with faculty and staff. Tuesday, we examined minority groups within the LGBTQ+ community, such as Black and Brown narratives and transgender minority experiences through two short films.

Wednesday, we released some stress with Harout (from *Dance with Harout* group) and learned about body image messages we are told throughout our lives.

Michael Davis (Math professor) led a faculty workshop on Creating an LGBTQ+ Friendly Classroom. Participants discussed hot moments in class and how to respond to classroom incidents related to gender identity, gender expression, and sexual orientation.

Friday concluded the week of activities with a Safe Zone Training open to everyone.

*Pride Week activities were organized by the MCEC, Student Equity, Math Division, the Pride Center, and the Cultural Diversity.*

**MONDAY, MAY 11**  
**PRIDEFUL CONVERSATIONS:**  
**CREATING AN LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY CAMPUS**  
(LET'S CHAT WITH FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENTS)  
12:30-1:30pm • Zoom ID: 950 2140 6696

**TUESDAY, MAY 12**  
**LGBTQ+ IDENTITIES & UNDERSTANDING**  
**BLACK AND BROWN NARRATIVES**  
WITH GUEST SPEAKER:  
MARTEL CHRISTOPHER DAJUAN OKONJI  
12:30-1:30pm • Zoom ID: 966 7475 7573

**FILM SCREENINGS**  
JOIN US FOR FILM SCREENINGS AND DISCUSSION  
MARQUISE DIRECTED BY MATTHEW PUCCINI  
WAKING HOUR DIRECTED BY NAVA MAU  
5:00-7:00pm • <https://zoom.us/j/7373542750>

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13**  
**DANCE PARTY WITH HAROUT**  
**JOIN OUR VIRTUAL DANCE CLASS**  
12:30-1:30pm • <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/6290461058>

**THURSDAY, MAY 14**  
**FACULTY WORKSHOP:**  
**CREATING AN LGBTQ+ FRIENDLY CLASSROOM**  
PART II: HOT MOMENTS  
12:30-1:30pm • <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/4520231345>

**FRIDAY, MAY 15**  
**SAFE ZONE TRAINING**  
12:30-2:30pm  
Zoom ID: 986 4289 6847  
CPGU is available



## Pride Center Activities in 2020

While the Pride Center had very limited staffing and mainly relied on Arakel Aristakessian (as a contractor) and several student workers, a lot was accomplished during the Winter and Spring semesters.

Partnering with ASGCC, the Pride Center helped with Sex Week 2020 which included educational workshops and activities such as how to be an upstander, affirmative consent, and secondary survivorship.

The weekly "Let's Chat" sessions which are designed exclusively for students to come together and talk about issues that impact their daily lives continued with 10 to 12 meetings from January to June.

The center continued to offer Safe Zone Trainings, including a Level 2 training for those who have already completed Level 1. Level 3 will be forthcoming.

# GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE CLASS OF 2020

*Each year, the students we work with on a daily basis transfer and move on to the next step in their educational journey. We want to acknowledge their hard work and the challenges they overcame by sharing a little about them. Here are four of our student assistants we will say farewell (but not goodbye) to this year.*

## Irvin Rendon



In June, Irvin graduated with an AA-T in Psychology and another one in Sociology. He will be transferring to California State University, Northridge in the fall as a Sociology major. Ultimately, Irvin would like to become an academic college counselor "so that I can help students find their passion and help in their educational journey."

Irvin is too modest so the staff thought we would share a little bit of our own thoughts on Irvin. When we first met Irvin about 2 years ago, he was extremely shy and somewhat quiet. It is amazing to watch him grow personally and as a student leader. In the fall of 2019, Irvin was co-President of VOICES, our student club for undocumented students and their allies. This is just one example of his amazing growth during his time at GCC.

When we asked him if he had anyone he would like to acknowledge in his time at GCC, he responded, "I would like to thank everyone at the MCEC for giving me a chance to help the immigrant community and for making it feel like a family. I want to especially give thanks to Hoover for teaching me about being a leader, Nane for showing me the importance of group solidarity, David for showing me to always look at my creative side, Arakel for showing me the importance of supporting each other, and I want to give special thanks to Anthony for teaching me that I can accomplish any goal I set and to have more faith in my skills.

And finally, the question we ask all our students: Reflecting on your GCC experience, what advice would you give to incoming students?

"I would advise them to join as many programs and clubs that challenge them to get out of their comfort zone and to look for a community that will nurture their growth."



### Favorite Quote:

"Beauty in the struggle, ugliness in the success." Rapper J. Cole

Irvin says: "This line has always pushed me to reach my goals. Although it is hard to experience struggle, there is beauty in achieving success."

# Desiree Laguna

Desiree earned an AA in Psychology and an AA in Sociology. She will be attending California State University, Northridge in the fall semester as a Sociology major.

Are there people you would like to thank (special acknowledgements)? "I would like to thank Hoover and Nane for all the amazing support they have provided for me not only academically but also personally. "

They've become family to me and have motivated me to succeed in school. They've watched me grow from a new incoming student to now blossoming to a transfer student. I also want to thank the lovely counselors at Student Equity, especially Jamie Sanchez who has witnessed me at my lowest and pushed me to reach my greatest potential. But mainly a big shoutout to the MCEC family because without them I would've been lost in school and most likely wouldn't have been as involved if it wasn't for them.

As for her career goal, "I was indecisive between a therapist and a counselor but seeing how much the counselors in Student Equity have impacted my life, it's inspired me to become a counselor for GCC as well."

And our classic question for all our transferring students: Reflecting on your GCC experience,

what is a bit of advice you would give incoming students? "Always ask questions! Even if you think it's a dumb question. Always ask! And don't be afraid to get involved because the more you get involved, the more connections you gain."

*Desiree started off as a mentee in our Summer Bridge Program in 2017. Soon afterwards, she became a mentor for the SPARK Peer Mentoring Program and was hired as a student ambassador for the MCEC in 2018. In addition, she joined Estudiantes Unidos (a leadership program for Latinx students). MCEC staff has had the pleasure of witnessing Desiree's accomplishments and transformation during her time at GCC.*



## Favorite Quote:

"Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value."

Albert Einstein

This quote has very huge meaning in my life because I believe that my purpose in life is to inspire people and create an impact in their lives but with impact, comes value. You can succeed in life and be filthy rich but not have a care for humanity.

# Janet Antonio

Janet began working at the Dream Resource Center in the Fall 2018 semester. She recently (in February) was accepted into the LA Valley College Nursing Program. Her career goal is to become a Nurse Practitioner. "I am passionate about becoming a nurse practitioner to help the immigrant community. I have lived and witnessed myself how the healthcare system does not work to the advantage of immigrants. It is very difficult for immigrants, especially undocumented people, to obtain access to medical care. My dream is to help make that better."



In her time at the DRC, She worked on many projects with diligence and passion. "I think my favorite part of work has been helping other students, passing on the knowledge I've shared with others is very rewarding. I like to think that I was able to help others get closer to their goals."

She continues, "Being a first-generation college student has been a challenge. I have had to learn the whole college pathway on my own. My parents did not attend college so, therefore I had to figure every step. It has been tough and full of obstacles but with the help of great mentors, it has become less scary."

She enjoys reading books and going on hikes. She says: "My kids have a lot of energy so, doing something outside always comes in handy because they get to use all of that energy."

As with all our student profiles and interviews, we ask students about what advice they would give to new/incoming students: "I would tell incoming students to always follow their dreams. To not give up no matter how hard it gets because down the road it will get hard and they will feel like giving up, but it is going to be worth it. GCC helped me become the person I am today. I remember starting GCC as a person who would just attend classes

***Favorite Quote:***

*"Deep down you know exactly what you are capable of. There are even moments where you get a glimpse of all the potential you have. You can get there. You just have to be willing to sacrifice the habits, things, and situations that are standing in the way of your success."*

and go home and in my last year, I worked in the DRC and was co-president of VOICES. GCC helped me develop so many skills that have helped me so much in where I am today. GCC became my second home and I miss it but I know I have to move on to greater things."





# Desiree Alvarado Vargas

Desiree began working at the Pride Center just over 1 year ago as a Peer Educator. Desiree is one of the most friendly student workers in our office and always had a welcoming and warm smile when interacting with staff and other students.

During the time at the MCEC and the Pride Center, Desiree helped with developing presentations and workshops and recruitment of students for the program.

Desiree will be transferring to the University of California, Santa Barbara in the fall semester. Their ultimate career goal is "to become a professor and teach college students!"

When asked if they would like to acknowledge anyone during her journey at GCC, Desiree said "I would very much like to thank the entire MCEC staff because they have been extremely supportive to me in my growth as a leader. The opportunity was one I will always be grateful for."

In addition, they wanted to acknowledge other areas: "The front desk staff at the library was always my favorite bunch of people! They always had friendly faces and helped me out when I needed it."

And finally, "The math department! I know that sounds weird but math was my biggest insecurity as a student and before GCC, I'd never encountered such a positive and encouraging learning environment. My journey through algebra and finally to Calculus 2 is one that developed the faith I have in myself."

We asked Desiree if they could have any superpower, what would it be: "Oh this is so easy for me! I would love to turn my tattoos into superpowers. Think about it, if you got the four elements tattooed, you could bend and control them or if you had wings on your back they would come to life!!"

# THANKYOU

## Favorite Quote:

"Can't nobody stop you but yourself."

*My Mom*

I like this quote because it's the one that I come back to when I'm feeling low on energy or belief in myself.



THE GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
DREAM RESOURCE CENTER  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
THE AB 540 COMMITTEE PRESENTS



## AN IMMIGRATION TEACH-IN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27  
12:30–2:30 P.M.

HOSTED BY ANTHONY GARCIA  
GCC DREAM RESOURCE CENTER COUNSELOR

12:30–12:40PM	<b>OPENING REMARKS AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>
12:40–1:10PM	 <b>HOW WE CREATED ASYLUM AND WHY WE NEED TO EXPAND ASYLUM</b> William Sparks GCC Instructor
1:10–1:30PM	 <b>IMMIGRATION RELATED LEGAL UPDATES WITH Q&amp;A</b> Jessica Viramontes CARECEN Community College Project
1:30–1:50PM	 <b>ENGAGING IN POLITICAL AND SOCIAL ACTION</b> Melody Klingenfuss Statewide Youth Organizer CHIRLA California Dream Network
1:50–2:20PM	<b>STUDENT VOICES</b> Several students will share their experiences and challenges
2:20–2:30PM	<b>REFLECTION, Q&amp;A, CLOSING</b>

ZOOM ID FOR THE CONFERENCE: [zoom.us/my/gccmcec](https://zoom.us/my/gccmcec)  
 Questions? Please email us at [DreamResourceCenter@glendale.edu](mailto:DreamResourceCenter@glendale.edu)

# Immigration Teach In

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Melody Klingenfuss, CHIRLA’s Statewide Youth Organizer, discussed how CHIRLA was preparing to respond to the DACA decision forthcoming at any moment and how every individual can participate in the response. CHIRLA has plans for a day of action on the day the decision is announced by the Supreme Court.

And finally, a student panel of Dreamers, DACA recipients, and undocumented students shared the challenges of their basic daily lives. The students expressed that, with a few exceptions, they do feel supported by most faculty and staff at GCC. However, they also expressed the need for more financial assistance since not all undocumented students can qualify for various types of assistance. Over 45 students and staff participants attended some part of the teach in and many commented on how much information they gained.

*At the time of this writing, the Supreme Court had not yet ruled in the DACA case. The recent ruling, while a temporary victory for DACA proponents, is far from a permanent solution. Impacts of this decision will be forthcoming.*

## Multicultural & Community Engagement Center Staff

This newsletter is created with the contributions of all staff at the MCEC. Everyone writes and contributes to the articles you read here. It is also our pleasure to be able to work with some amazing students in our office as well as in our various programs.

We hope to be able to offer two to three newsletters each year.

**Nane Kakosian**

*Student Services Program Coordinator*

**David Crawford**

*Student Services Technician*

**Anthony Garcia**

*DRC/Equity Counselor*

**Arakel Aristakessian**

*Pride Center Contract Consultant*

**Maria Robelo**

*DRC Intern*

**Hoover Zariani**

*Program Manager*