



# NEWS FROM THE CENTER

A publication of the Multicultural & Community Engagement Center

Fall 2020 - Issue 17

## Estudiantes Unidos Hosts First Annual Family Event

by Hoover Zariani

Estudiantes Unidos is a leadership program for GCC's Latinx students. After brainstorming project ideas, students narrow down their choices and pick one project they would like to implement on campus. Last year, the students chose to do a Family Day for Latinx students and their families. The event was originally planned for Saturday, April 25 with a full schedule of workshops, speakers, and a festive lunch.

Planning had already started when the COVID-19 pandemic struck and everything had to be moved to an online/remote format, including student services. Due to the need to quickly shift services and rework programs to fit an online mode, the Family Day event was postponed.

Even though many students who participated in the program in 2019-2020 either transferred or had other commitments and could not work on developing an online version of the day, two students, Maria Jose Arnaiz and Jessica Jimenez agreed to help organize and host the event.

The online event was a shorter version of the day planned originally and took place on August 26th from 4:00 to 6:45 p.m. Workshops included academic planning, financial aid, health & wellness, GCC student clubs, and strategies for success.

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# Working Toward Social Justice

by Jessica Alvarez and Diana Carrillo

**Mission Statement: The Social Justice Unity Coalition (S.J.U.C.) is a vibrant coalition of student organizations, faculty, and staff. The coalition was formed in response to deepening concerns over violence and socio-economic oppression in our community caused by systemic injustice.**

In the summer and fall of 2020, a group of students, campus student groups and faculty and staff came together to form the Social Justice Unity Coalition.

In that brief time, SJUC's activities have included the following:

\*\*S.J.U.C. created a street vendor video to document diversity among street vendors, how COVID-19 impacted their business, police/public harassment, and to normalize street vending.

\*\*S.J.U.C. supports and collaborates with different campus clubs, such as V.O.I.C.E.S., History Student Association, Black Student Union, and the Associated Students of Glendale Community College.

\*\*S.J.U.C. co-hosted "In the Student Voice," an Armenian student panel, highlighting the conflict in Armenia and Artsakh.

\*\*S.J.U.C. collaborated with the Glendale Tenants Union to host "Renter's Rights During the Pandemic Workshop" on Wednesday, November 18th.



To learn more about the Social Justice Unity Coalition's upcoming events and workshops, follow them on Instagram at SJUC\_GCC.

Several members of the coalition shared their thoughts on why they created/joined the group and the importance of speaking out on issues of social justice.

Jessica Alvarez, an EOPS Counselor, shared the following:

"I joined the SJUC because I want to bring awareness to issues in our community and make an impact. I want to use my voice to provide a space for others to use their voice to fight injustices in our community. It also helps me continue to grow, learn, and be an active participant in positive change within GCC and the surrounding areas." - Jessica Alvarez, EOPS Counselor

"Growing up in a low-income area and being Latinx, I was discriminated against at a young age. I came to realize that oppression is not a pill that should be swallowed lightly. Resistance is what stems from being treated and classified as a second-class citizen. That is why I hold Assata Shakur's quote so dear to my heart." - Diana Carrillo, DSPS Counselor

***"Where there is oppression, there will be resistance."***  
-Assata Shakur

# Additional Assistance for Undocumented Students

*by Anthony Garcia*

During this difficult year with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The DREAM Resource Center was awarded a \$200,000 grant for Fall 2020/Spring 2021 to better support undocumented students. The DREAM Resource Center has created three new support services.

**Undocu-Success Scholarship:** All undocumented students will be awarded \$500 dollars if they have a CADAA on file with Financial Aid and are classified as an AB 540 student with Admissions and Records.

**DACA Renewal Scholarship:** DACAmented students who need assistance renewing their DACA are able to apply for the DACA Renewal Scholarship. In order to receive the scholarship students need to contact Anthony Garcia at AnthonyG@Glendale.edu.

**Basic Needs Program:** Students who need assistance paying their internet bills, textbooks costs, are experiencing food insecurity, and have other needs deemed essential for academic success.

Please contact Anthony Garcia at the Dream Resource Center for support and assistance. You can reach him at [anthonyg@glendale.edu](mailto:anthonyg@glendale.edu)

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## Multicultural & Community Engagement Center Staff

This newsletter is created with the contributions of staff and students at the MCEC. It is also our pleasure to be able to work with some amazing students in our program.

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# Meet the Staff & Students at the MCEC

## Anthony Garcia, Dream Resource Center Counselor

*by David Crawford*

*David: Please tell us your name and share a little about yourself.*

*Anthony: My name is Anthony Garcia. I am the counselor in the Dream Resource Center, the co-advisor of the AB540 student club, V.O.I.C.E.S., and the co-chair of the AB540 committee, which supports undocumented students on campus.*

*David: What led you to pursue a higher education career, working with undocumented and AB540 students and their families?*

*Anthony: I am a first-generation college student who didn't graduate from high school. I was behind 120 credits when I should have graduated. So, I earned a*

*G.E.D. In high school, my mindset was my family couldn't afford college, so why even bother, but that was partly my fault. I never reached out to anyone and expressed that concern.*

*It was my partner who educated me on Financial Aid and different resources for Latinx students. She helped me register for classes and showed me how to apply for Financial Aid. She gave me the push I needed, and I never looked back. I've always been the type of person who enjoyed helping others and gravitated towards Psychology. However, I didn't know what I wanted to do. It wasn't until I transferred to CSUN that I decided to focus on a career in Student Services.*

*So many people influenced and impacted me along the way, and I wanted to pay that forward. That's why I decided to pursue a career in higher education.*

*Regarding working with undocumented students, my parents came to the United States as immigrants from Mexico, and I grew up in a mixed-status family. My parents were undocumented, and so was my sister. I was born in the U.S., but I saw that dynamic of growing up in a mixed-status family. My Dad had trouble getting good-paying jobs because he didn't have papers at the time.*

*So, when Trump became president, I asked myself, how can I support the undocumented community with the knowledge and experience I acquired.*

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# MCEC Student Ambassadors and Peer Educators

*by Nane Kakosian*

It would be impossible to do the work that we accomplish without the assistance of our student ambassadors and peer educators. They are amazing and they help us reach more students with the programs and activities that we offer.



**My name is René Zadoorian, I am a peer educator at the Glendale Community College pride center.**

**I'm studying film as my major and hope to work with people like Xavier Dolan to bring light to LGBTQ+ topics.**

**One of my career goals is to make a documentary about orcas since they are my favorite animal.**

**I've learned the art of filmmaking at GCC and I look forward to applying what I've learned." Favorite quote: "Everything's difficult before it's easy."**



**My name is Autumn Beckles, and I'm a psych major, with a career goal of becoming a clinical psychologist.**

**I am a part of Black Scholars, and Black Students Union (BSU); and I am always prioritizing advocacy within my community, as well as other marginalized communities.**

**I am proud of the work done in the MCEC and it has been a great pleasure contributing to this great union of people and work.**



**I'm Karla and am a second-year student at GCC. I am majoring in Sociology and minoring in Business once I transfer.**

**Aside from being a Student Ambassador at the Dream Resource Center, I am involved in the Scholars Program, the AGS Honors Society, and V.O.I.C.E.S.**

**My favorite season is fall because of the holiday drinks that Starbucks offers. If I am not studying, you can find me trying new recipes or watching a Netflix series.**



**My name is Marvin Perez, and I come from Guatemala. I live in Los Angeles, and my major is in biology. I am a sophomore at GCC.**

**The quote that represents me is: "Difficult roads often lead to be beautiful Destination."**

**I am a Student Ambassador at the Dream Resource Center (DRC) and I am really passionate about immigrant rights. I helped the DRC organize several events on campus such as Know Your Rights, and AB540 Transfer workshops.**

# Estudiantes Unidos Family Day

(continued from page 1)

The last part of the event was a Resource Fair with representatives from the following areas on campus: GCC Health Center, Financial Aid Office, Office of Students with Disabilities, Scholarship Office, GCC Cares Office, EOPS, the various campus resource centers, and VOICES and La Comunidad student organizations.

A unique part of the event was a Parent Panel, where two parents spoke at the event about how they experienced the higher education journey of their kids and in what ways they supported them as students. One student shared how his mom helped him clarify his career goal.

Participants shared their experience of the event in their feedback:

**"It was very informative and I got to feel more confident as a freshman going into GCC."**

**"The pandemic has changed a lot of resources that were available on campus. This fair is helpful to anyone, since everything is new. The way we are using these resources has changed, so I did gain new knowledge that I plan on using."**

**"Before I was slightly aware of what was available but now I feel more informed."**

**"All of the presentations were great and knowledgeable! I would say I enjoyed learning about the student equity programs and La Comunidad the most. I enjoyed learning about the different things they offer to students and how they support them throughout their educational journey."**

**"I gained more than enough knowledge from today's fair and it allowed me to get a peace of mind."**

**"In the EOPS session I found out that I am eligible to apply. I also learned that they give extra tutoring and book vouchers."**

Due to the positive feedback, the MCEC is looking to make this an annual event for new incoming Latinx students and their parents.

**ESTUDIANTES UNIDOS PRESENTS**

**FAMILY DAY AT GCC**  
**WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26TH**  
**4:00-6:45PM**

ALL GCC LATINX STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND FAMILY MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US TO TALK ABOUT HOW TO SUPPORT NEW GCC STUDENTS SO THAT THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THEIR SCHOOL WORK.

**WE WILL ALSO HAVE A PANEL OF STUDENTS WITH THEIR PARENTS DISCUSSING THEIR EXPERIENCES.**

**TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:**

- ACADEMIC PLANNING
- FINANCIAL AID
- HEALTH & WELLNESS
- STUDENT CLUBS
- STRATEGIES FOR SUCCESS

**PARTICIPANTS HAVE A CHANCE TO EARN AN ENTRY INTO A DRAWING FOR \$25 OR \$100 GIFT CARDS.**

ALL SESSIONS WILL INCLUDE SPANISH/ENGLISH TRANSLATION, IF NEEDED

RSVP BY AUGUST 25, 2020  
[WWW.GLENDALE.EDU/ESTUDIANTESUNIDOSFAMILYDAY](http://WWW.GLENDALE.EDU/ESTUDIANTESUNIDOSFAMILYDAY)

**Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/my/gccmcec>**

**ESTUDIANTES UNIDOS IS SUPPORTED BY THE TITLE V "ABRIENDO CAMINOS" GRANT.**

Question or Accommodations contact Anthony Garcia at: [AnthonyG@glendale.edu](mailto:AnthonyG@glendale.edu) or 818-240-1000 ext. 5810

# GCC Celebrates Día de Los Muertos

by Anthony Garcia

For the second year, the DREAM Resource Center, Cultural Diversity, and V.O.I.C.E.S. Student Club collaborated to celebrate a very colorful Día de Los Muertos in remembrance of loved ones who made their journey to “Mictlán” (Land of the Dead).

Last year, the GCC celebrated Día de Los Muertos in a big way. There was two consecutive days of celebrations with Aztec dancers displayed interactive traditional dancing rituals, a beautifully decorated “ofrenda” display, Sugar Skull face painting and shared Mexican traditional foods like pan de muerto, tamales and champurrado.

This year’s celebration had to be modified because of the Covid-19 health precautions. However, GCC continued to celebrate this year’s Día de Los Muertos and the spirit of all participants was felt even in a virtual environment.

In this two-part event, Professor Wendy Fonarow, Ph.D., a Cultural Anthropologist shared insight regarding the Mexican practices of Día de Los Muertos (Day of the Dead). Dr. Fonarow provided a very informative lecture of the origin and relevance of this very well-known Mexican tradition. The second part of the event was a virtual ofrenda hosted by the DREAM Resource Center’s academic counselor Anthony Garcia.

Participants were able to reflect, share and celebrate the memory of loved ones who passed away by sharing personal artifacts and symbolic items of family members.

Also, several participants live streamed their vibrantly decorated ofrendas, which included photographs of family members and friends surrounded by plates of traditional foods like mole and drinks. Staple items in ofrendas are Cempasuchil flowers, copal incense, fresh fruit, pan de muerto.

We look forward to next year's Día de Los Muertos celebration.



**DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS**

**DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS AND THE WELCOMING CEMETERY**  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • 2:30-3:15 P.M.  
GUEST LECTURE

Professor Wendy Fonarow, PhD is a Cultural Anthropologist and will give insight into Mexican practices around Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead). Día de Los Muertos is often thought of as equivalent to Halloween, but the traditions are dramatically different. The talk will focus on the customs of Mexico where the relations between the living and the dead are viewed as something to cultivate. This will allow attendees to think and appreciate the welcoming spirit of reunion and the cultural critiques that are part of this joyous celebration. Día de los Muertos is increasingly part of the tapestry of autumn festivities in the US. This talk will be a chance to understand these meaningful observances being incorporated into our own larger American cultural mosaic.

**CELEBRATING OUR LOVED ONES**  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2 • 3:15-4:00 P.M.  
COMMUNITY SHARE OUT

Last year, the Multicultural and Community Engagement Center, VOICES student club, and Cultural Diversity created a home altar commonly known as an *ofrenda*. It is common to place favorite foods or beverages of the departed, or items of significance which represent the deceased. Due to the nature of remote learning, students will construct a space which will represent a virtual *ofrenda*, and share personal artifacts to the audience which will represent a loved one who has passed away. They will discuss the significance of the item(s) and share memories or stories in connection to them. If you are a student who is interested in participating for this portion of the event, please email [anthonyg@glendale.edu](mailto:anthonyg@glendale.edu) or [kdimatulac@glendale.edu](mailto:kdimatulac@glendale.edu).

ZOOM LINK FOR ALL EVENTS: <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/95075427929>

THESE EVENTS ARE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE CULTURAL DIVERSITY PROGRAM,  
MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY AND ENGAGEMENT CENTER, VOICES STUDENT CLUB,  
AND SPONSORED BY STUDENT EQUITY AND ACHIEVEMENT

# Meet the Staff & Students at the MCEC

*(continued from page 4)*

I emailed Hoover in 2018, asking if I could volunteer at the DRC. I let him know I graduated with my master's in counseling and that I was looking to support undocumented students, and he brought me on board. I started working with V.O.I.C.E.S and ran the Dream Resource Center as a volunteer/intern.

*David: What motivates you to do the work that you do at the Dream Resource Center?*

*Anthony:* It's my students. I enjoy connecting with them and seeing them overcome barriers and challenges. When I tell students, we may not get to your career goal the way you envisioned because you can't work legally in this country. But we can get creative, and there are ways to get around it to accomplish your goal. I see how hard they push towards their goals, and I want to support them along the way. That motivates me.

Seeing the work, V.O.I.C.E.S. put in organizing events and spreading awareness socially and politically also motivates me. I consider it a privilege and an honor to be able to support students in my capacity.

*David: What Dream Resource Center and, or AB540 accomplishment(s) make you most proud?*

*Anthony:* One accomplishment I am proud of is allocating funding for undocumented students through the AB19 grants. We secured \$200,000 for this academic year, and eighty percent went to student scholarships. These students don't qualify for Federal Pell Grants, so they struggle financially to pay for classes, books, and supplies.

It's great being able to create programs where we can support students in need. We also

created a D.A.C.A. renewal scholarship for students who need assistance paying for their D.A.C.A. and a Basic Needs scholarship for students needing help with their textbooks or basic supplies. The second being any time I work with V.O.I.C.E.S., the student club on campus, and witness their development and growth when they get to present.

*David: What are you passionate about outside of higher education? Do you have any hobbies?*

*Anthony:* I am the type of person who enjoys doing different things. I enjoy learning and challenging myself, but I don't like being at home. It's been challenging for me right now with COVID and all the social distancing. But before COVID, I was involved in so many different activities.

I was learning how to line dance, and I also decided to learn how to swing dance. So yeah, I'm just going to put it out there. I don't know how to dance, aside from salsa and cumbia. That was my goal last year, to take some classes and learn how to dance, and I did. I started learning, and I stuck with it, and I started getting better. So, dancing became a hobby.

I also started horseback riding. I am the type of person who enjoys the outdoors, so being outdoors and learning how to horseback ride was rewarding. I also box. I started boxing when I was in high school, and I did it for about four years. I went to competitions in Canada and Vegas, as well as Los Angeles. But I stopped and decided to start back up last year, and it was a lot of fun. I also love sports, so I am all for it anytime I get an opportunity to catch a Lakers or Dodgers game.