

## STUDENT AMBASSADORS IN OUR COMMUNITY



**TESSA GARLAND, A STUDENT AMBASSADOR IN THE WELCOME/INFORMATION CENTER, IS A SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY MAJOR AND PLANS TO TRANSFER TO CSU EAST BAY IN SPRING 2015.**

Hello, my name is Tessa Garland. I'm nineteen years old. From elementary to community college I have been in the Pittsburg Unified School District. When I graduated from high school, I wasn't quite sure what I wanted to do, but I knew I wanted to attend college and LMC seemed to be the best opportunity for me. When entering college I heard about the Transfer Academy – I knew it was the program for me! The program helps students get the classes they need to prepare to transfer to a four-year college. The Transfer Academy really helped me become aware of the resources on this campus. I utilized the Career Center by testing my interests; in the Library I researched possible majors; and the Student Life Office held events that taught me the skills to be a leader. Starting my college career I took some general education classes. Within my first semester I picked a major: Speech Language Pathology.

Besides registering for some general education classes, picking a major was what started my progress at LMC. I met with a counselor to create an education plan that ordered what classes I needed to take each semester to transfer within two years. After I met with a representative to a college with my major to make sure I complete all my lower division classes before the time of transfer. Once all that was done, I just went to class and studied to achieve good grades. I went to events LMC held and made connections with LMC staff. Doing this helped me find out about the Student Ambassador program on campus, in which I now work as an Ambassador in the Information and Welcome centers. I'm currently in my second year and final semester at LMC. I applied to transfer last fall and received my acceptance letter to attend Cal State East Bay to major In Speech Language Pathology and Audiology Spring 2015. Attending Los Medanos College has been a great experience that I would recommend to anyone who plans to further their education and I would advise you to take advantage of the resources here at LMC because it's all to help you succeed.

## SUMMER BRIDGE: JUNE 23 – JULY 17, 2014

*Spread the word with graduating seniors!*

This summer, LMC will launch its third cohort of Summer Bridge! A partnership with our local high schools, Career Technical Education (CTE), and the STEM *Velocidad* Grant, the four-week summer program targets incoming high school students to provide them a boost for their first year at LMC.

The application deadline is **May 29, 2014**. For program details, go to:  
<http://www.losmedanos.edu/highschool/bridge.asp>

## LMC Tertulias: Brown Bag Lunch Series

Sponsored by the ÉXITO Grant and the Looking In – Looking Out Committee

*Stay Tuned for the Fall 2014 Schedule*



## High School Counselor Conference 2014

LMC hosted the event on February 19, 2014 with 28 participants representing 11 schools in our service area.

At the request of our Educational Partners Collaborative, the annual Counselor Conference was reestablished in 2013 in partnership with the Counseling Department to strengthen relationships with our high schools.

## The ÉXITO Grant Team:

Nicole Almassey - Grant Administrative Assistant  
Rosa Armendáriz - Project Director  
Phoebe Balangan - Transfer Center Intern  
Dave Belman - Dean of Student Success  
Jorge Cea - Student Outreach Manager  
Michael Cross - Transfer Academy Faculty Liaison  
Luis Morales - Transfer Counselor  
Adé Origunwa – Interim Transfer Center Coordinator  
Carole Rogers - Interim Welcome Center Coordinator  
Carla Rosas - Interim Director of Student Life and Transfer Programs  
Annica Soto - Interim Counseling Assistant, Information Center

## DEVELOPING PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Through our HSI *ÉXITO* Grant, LMC has been able to expand its reach to families through a partnership with the Parent Institute for Quality Education (PIQE), a statewide non-profit that offers a nine-week parent engagement education program, in English and Spanish. The program supports families to understand the educational system, foster a positive educational environment for their children both at home and at school, and plan for college. Each semester, we have partnered with two LMC feeder schools. This semester on April 10, 2014, we were proud to participate in the graduation at Rancho Medanos Junior High School with 86 graduating parents (7 in English and 79 in Spanish).



Our very own **Imelda Lares**, Interim Cashier, was one of the parent graduates. As a parent of a 7<sup>th</sup> grader, she found the program to be empowering, "I did not know till that day that LMC was sponsoring the program – that's great! Educating and informing parents on what our students are expected and required is a great way to help them achieve success. If I had known this information back when I was going through high school my education would have been different." Imelda has three children and plans to use the information she learned from the program to support their success – from planning for the A-G curriculum early, to communicating effectively to support academic success.

***Congratulations Imelda for making this investment in your children's education!***

## EDUCATIONAL PARTNERS COLLABORATIVE

In February of 2012, the college hosted the first Educational Partners Breakfast with the goal of strengthening the pipeline between high school and postsecondary across East County and ultimately nurturing a stronger college-going culture in the region. The group includes LMC representatives, superintendents of our three local school systems, and the principals, vice-principals and other leaders from our area feeder high schools – six traditional high schools, one magnet school and most of the alternative schools. Since then the group has continued to meet once per semester, co-led by LMC President Bob Kratochvil and Antioch Unified Superintendent Don Gill.

In the last year, the group narrowed in on four priority areas:

1. Conduct early outreach prior to senior year
2. Improve efforts to support the success of African-American students
3. Provide orientation for high school seniors
4. Data alignment across our systems

During the April 2014 meeting Randy Tillery, Senior Dean of Workforce and Economic Development at CCCCD, presented on the recently awarded Career Pathways Trust Grant that will support a regional approach to developing pathways from K-12 to post-secondary degree or certificate completion in alignment with high wage, high skill, and high growth careers in our region.

The group will meet again in November of 2014.

## Message from the Director

Congratulations on another successful academic year at LMC! While we often don't see the fruits of our labor until years later, I am privileged to keep a bird's eye view on the work of our campus community and am in awe of our progress. The last two years have marked the highest number of transfers in our campus' history and I hear firsthand from students about how LMC has transformed their lives - *thank you for your focus on student success!* As many of you know, I will be on maternity leave during the fall semester, but look forward to picking back up with you in Spring 2015, babies in tow.

*- Rosa L. Armendariz*

## SPRING 2014 SEMESTER HIGHLIGHTS

The HSI *ÉXITO* Grant team and Student Success Unit Team have been hard at work this semester. As most of us are counting down to summer break, Student Success has been ramping up to get our new students and programs ready for the Fall 2014 semester. Some of the highlights of these activities:

### ***4<sup>th</sup> Annual AB540 Spring Conference – More than a Dream Conference***

The conference for Dreamers was hosted at DVC on Saturday, April 5, 2014, reaching 207 participants.

Since 2011, LMC has collaborated with the United Latino Voices (ULV) of Contra Costa County, Contra Costa College and Diablo Valley College on this event. The conference targets first-generation and immigrant youth and families from across our county to inform them about higher education opportunities, including community colleges in their region; to educate them on the California Dream Act and financial aid options; and to connect them to local resources and non-profit organizations offering a variety of services and scholarships. This year's conference also recognized Congressman George Miller for his dedication to Dreamers.

### ***"Super Saturday" New Student Orientations***

The events on April 19 and 26, 2014 served more than 600 students and offered an enhanced Parent/Family Orientation for 288 parents in the English track and 51 in the Spanish track.

Thanks to all involved! This was a true LMC collaboration, including Counseling, Facilities, Learning Communities, Information Technology and Services, Student Clubs, Student Life, Student Services and cross-campus Programs.

The Real Stars of the Show: More than 50 LMC Student Leaders who lead tours, student panels, performed skits, hosted information tables, co-hosted information sessions, guided students and parents throughout the day, served lunch, and shared their experience and passions with everyone who attended. Looking forward to welcoming our new students for 2014-15!