

FEBRUARY
2023

CARING CAMPUS



Caring Campus

LOS MEDANOS
COLLEGE

Welcome to the February 2023 issue of the LMC Caring Campus Newsletter! We are excited to share Caring Campus news and information with our readers twice a semester. Our newsletter will recognize Classified Professionals "Who Got Caught Caring" and we will also spotlight different departments and their staff.

What is Caring Campus?



Caring Campus was designed by the Institute for Evidence-Based Change (IEBC). IEBC is a nationally-recognized nonprofit organization that implements data-driven models to increase student success. The Caring Campus process provides new support for Classified Professional involvement in student success efforts. Caring Campus work recognizes and leverages the value of connectedness to dramatically increase the likelihood students will succeed in attaining their educational goals. If students don't feel connected to the college they attend, they are far less likely to return next term, regardless of the academic interventions and support services the college has provided. Caring Campus is designed to improve student success at colleges by coaching Classified Professionals to identify and commit to behaviors that increase students' sense of connectedness and belonging.

Behavioral Commitments

Caring Campus is happy to announce the addition of 2 new behavioral commitments.

Our current commitments are:

- 10-Foot Rule and Warm Referrals
- Name Tags & "Ask Me" Badges
- Welcome Week

Our 2 new commitments are:

- **Getting to know other departments**– learning about other departments by visiting their offices, visiting their webpages, and inviting departments to host presentations
- **Actively helping students**– actively reaching out to students and going the extra step



Who Got Caught Caring?

Irene Sukhu

Did you know that LMC is a good gardener? We plant good seeds every day! Case in point, have you met Irene Sukhu?

Irene began attending LMC in 2008 and graduated in 2012 with an AA in Liberal Arts, Arts & Humanities. While she was a student, she held a student worker position beginning in 2009 and became a Classified Employee in 2019. Fast forward 14 years, Irene is now an Administrative Assistant II and works in the Office of Instruction: Workforce and Economic Development Department (WED) and Career Technical Education (CTE).

Irene's daily duties include but are not limited to preparing invoices, timecards, procurement card statements, expense claims, pre-requisition checklists, and other clerical duties. A majority of her work consists of collaborating with CTE faculty pertaining to their departmental Strong Workforce Program (SWP) and Perkins grant purchases.



When asked what she liked about her job, Irene responded, “What I like most about my job is that the work I do related to grant funds, helps fund the larger picture of student success. WED and CTE purchase items and equipment that the students need to learn their trade and skill; I assist with the fiscal logistics and requests for purchase orders. For example, we used funds to purchase a Tesla so students can learn hands-on how to work with electric vehicles. Additionally, we have used funds for a mentorship program in the Early Childhood Education department. Nonetheless, it is a purposeful and rewarding feeling to know that the work I do is critical to students and their educational journeys at LMC.”

Who Got Caught Caring?

Irene Sukhu

Irene exemplifies the very essence of Caring Campus. She states, “A memorable moment when I helped a student occurred when I was walking to Parking Lot B and I noticed a student sitting on a bench. As I walked by, I said hi and noticed that he looked sad. I asked if everything was ok and he said that he was feeling down and had been sitting on the bench until he could regain the energy to drive home. I asked if there was anything I could do to help him feel better. He said no, so I told him about Timely Care. He hadn’t heard of Timely Care and I told him that he could get personal counseling assistance by creating an account and making an



appointment through the LMC website. He made an appointment and he told me that he felt better just doing that. He felt better enough to walk to his car so I walked with him and gave him my information. I told him to contact me for anything and that I would do my best to connect him to the resources he needed.”

Irene is an active council member of the LMC Classified Senate and she participates in Caring Campus. She is also a classified professional representative for the Shared Governance Council (SGC) and Planning Committee. She also participates in and takes the minutes for the monthly CTE Committee meetings.

Personally, Irene enjoys reading self-help books and lifting weights. She has competed in powerlifting competitions stating, “Being strong is my goal!”

Caring Campus is honored to highlight Irene Sukhu! Her attitude and compassion for our students is a beaming light. Irene sums it up perfectly, “Caring Campus is a culture that makes students feel wanted and welcomed. I hope that Caring Campus at LMC can be the catalyst for a caring future.”

Department Spotlights

Early Childhood Education (ECE)



From left to right: Katie Marcel, Jennifer Wilson, Ashley Fissore, Peg O'Malley, Danielle Scott, Le'Victoria Thomas, Leticia Webb

Caring Campus is proud to highlight the Early Childhood Education Department at the Child Study Center!

While drafting and working on this month's newsletter, it is evident that the classified professionals in ECE have a passion for helping students and the children in the child study center. The center and staff radiate positive, contagious energy. Caring Campus would like to thank them for all of the work they do to keep the center running and for their support for the children, families, and teachers at LMC. Not pictured in the group photo is Emmalee Muserelli who is currently on maternity leave, pictured to the right.



Emmalee Muserelli

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Katie Marcel is the lead teacher in the toddler room. She has worked at LMC for three years. Katie states, “First, there is nothing I simply ‘like’ about my job, there is absolutely everything I love about it, and I can’t express that enough! I’m surrounded by people with the biggest of hearts and passion for what they do. I’m grateful to grow along the side of each teacher and be able to support the children, families, and teachers. Being able to build relationships with everyone is truly something I hold close to my heart and incredibly rewarding. Being able to be part of a family’s journey with their child, create those memories, build those close relationships, and to be able to make a positive impact is incredible. Seeing those moments when the children support and care for each other is incredible. Watching empathy applied at such a young age truly shows the impact of what we do. These teachings, methods, and skills are powerful. I can personally say they’ve changed my life. I can’t say enough about what I love about my job and I know this is an opportunity that I’m beyond grateful to have.”



Jennifer Wilson started as an intern and currently works for the Federal Food Program. She is the Instructional Assistant Lead Cook. Jennifer shares, “I love that we are a school family and genuinely care about everyone at our center. I also love working with a diverse group of children and I am able to get to know each one of their individual personalities and watch them learn and grow.” Additionally, she enjoys working with the LMC Food Pantry.



Ashley Fissore started as an intern and started working as a part-time Instructional Assistant in August 2022. She loves that her role allows her to impact the lives of families, children, and students in the center. She assists students via mentorship and modeling best practices and ways to interact with children. Ashley exclaims, “Last semester, one student I mentored grew in her ability to create relationships with other children other than her focus child and she mentioned that she used a lot of the strategies she saw me use in the classroom. I feel so happy when I am able to support anyone’s growth in a particular skill or topic!”

Early Childhood Education (ECE)

Peg O'Malley has worked at LMC for 17 years as an Early Childhood Education Specialist. Peg loves working with children and building bonds with their families. She is amazed at how quickly the children develop and how much love pours out of them. Peg shares an instance when she assisted a student intern: "Student interns are responsible for participating in assessing children using something called the DRDP. One of my student interns was overwhelmed by the process. I coached her on some clever strategies to get the assessment completed quickly. She was greatly relieved."

Danielle Scott has persevered and worked her way up the ladder in the Early Childhood Education department. She began working in the center in 2010 as a student intern, then became a senior intern, hourly employee, and recently was hired as a permanent classified professional as an Early Childhood Education Specialist. Her love for working with children grew when she enrolled in CHDEV-083 working in the center's lab. She works in the preschool classroom and loves every aspect of her job. She is elated to work with a dedicated team who is willing to support and build up each other.

Did You Know?

Early Childhood Education majors can apply for a paid internship at the Child Study Center.

The children grow, harvest, and cook part of their meals and their favorite fruit from the orchard is grenadines.

The LMC Child Study Center has been open and offering childcare services since 1978.

Le'Victoria (Le') Thomas started her journey in the center as a student intern. She then became a senior intern and currently works as a substitute lead teacher. Le' enjoys being part of a child's development, learning more about herself in the process, and receiving support while creating lifelong bonds. Le' describes a time when she helped a DSPS student. She walked the student to the DSPS office and got the student connected. Being able to relate to the student made Le' feel accomplished. Le' shared, "it was a simple task for me but it meant so much more to them."

Leticia Webb has worked at LMC for 25 years as an Early Childhood Education Specialist. She loves the unity in the center and describes the center as a school family. Leticia shares her appreciation by stating, "I love my school family, and coming to LMC has changed my life. It has helped me be a better mother and role model to my family. I am grateful for all the knowledge I have learned here. Working at the Child Study Center has changed my life I am blessed to work here. I love my school family."



Join us at Classified Senate!

LMC Classified Senate represents the diverse voices of our Classified Professionals and Caring Campus would like to invite you to attend the Classified Senate meetings.

The meetings are twice a month and are held in a hybrid format from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Join us in person at CC3-361 and via Zoom ID: 585 278 8369.

Spring 2023 Meeting Dates:

- January 30
- February 13
- February 27
- March 13
- March 20
- April 10 (Brentwood Campus)
- April 24
- May 8



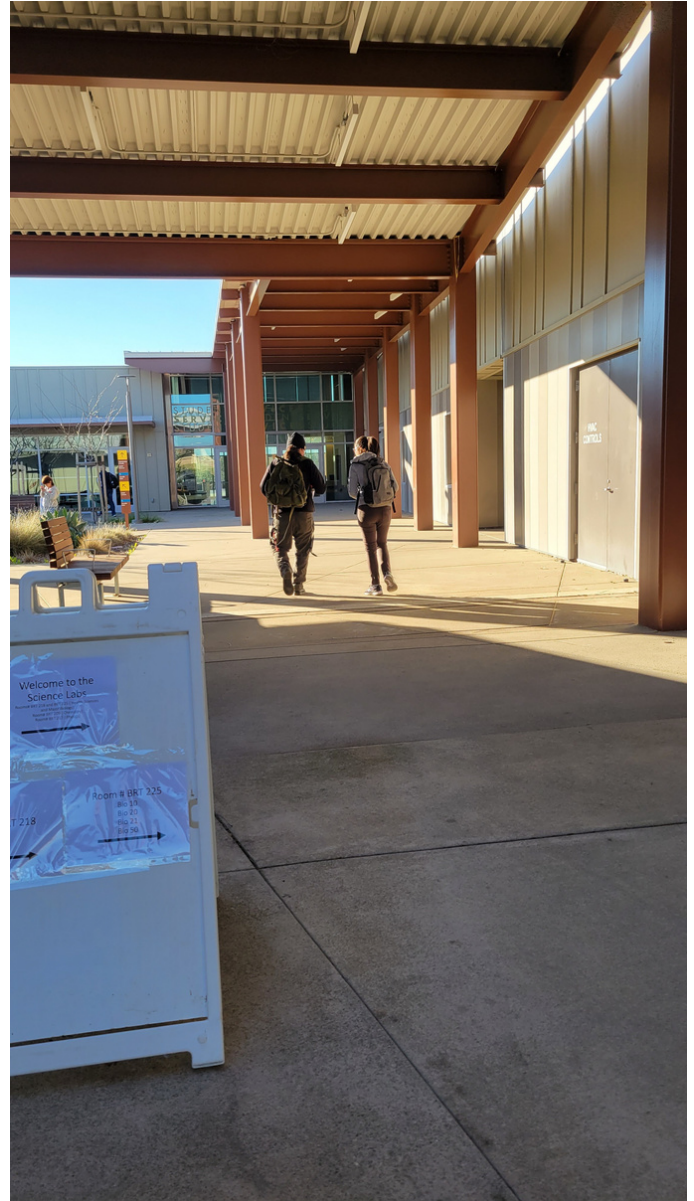
Learn more about our Classified Senate, meet your council members, join committees, get involved in campus activities, and get your voice heard.

LMC's Spring 2023 Welcome Week

It's the start of the Spring semester. The smell of freshly cut grass lingered in the air as students walked on campus. Power was restored to all parts of LMC and all the areas on campus were cleaned and sanitized. This is how Buildings and Grounds welcomed our students by making our campuses safe, clean, and a beautiful environment for our students to learn and employees to work.

LMC employees worked extra hard to assist our students as they start the new semester. From assisting with class registration to providing campus direction, signing up for student services, handing out free lunches, processing textbook orders to fixing network printers. Student Life and LMCAS hosted welcome events all week while our Police Services ensured students were safe on campus.

Wearing their "Ask Me" badges and Caring Campus pins, our Faculty, Administrators, Student Ambassadors, and Classified Professional volunteers welcomed and guided our students as they entered the campus and walked down the hallways. Welcome Week is one of the five Caring Campus Behavioral Commitments that is aimed to improve students' success by increasing students' sense of connectedness and belonging to LMC.



*Myles Crain walking a student to class
at the LMC Brentwood Center*

Look Who Else "Got Caught Caring!"

- Ali Haddadi
- Danielle Scott
- Glen Biggs
- Ashley Fissore
- Le'Victoria Thomas
- Leticia Webb
- LMC Grounds
Dept.
- Melina Rodriguez
- Michael Bransford
- Nadiya Korkuna
- Ninnette Alfaro
- Peg O'Malley
- Tatiana Pak
- Wenchale Story



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