

JUNE 2025

# CARING CAMPUS



Welcome to the June 2025 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.

# Who Got Caught Caring?

## Sarah Ryan

A round of applause for our Brentwood Center Admissions & Records Classified professional, Sarah Ryan. Caring Campus is happy to recognize Sarah for their dedication and engagement with students.



Sarah has been a part of the LMC family for almost seven years. First, as a Brentwood Center student ambassador, then as an hourly employee in Admissions and Records until joining as a permanent employee a couple of years later. She shared that as an Admissions and Records Assistant I, her daily tasks consist of processing A&R forms, assisting students in-person, email, and via phone. It is the one-on-one, in person assistance that Sarah enjoys most working at Admissions & Records. Student success starts with the first inquiry about college, the application process, and helping them navigate the steps of class registration. Troubleshooting during registration periods is a skill Sarah also has, and students appreciate her knowledge and aid when needed. When asked about an example of a memorable time she helped a student, Sarah stated, *"I had a new student come to my counter that needed assistance with getting started at LMC, I navigated them in submitting their application and providing additional instructions after receiving their welcome email with their registration date, InSite Portal log in, and student identification number; for example, the next steps included completing an education plan with an academic counselor, completing the Guided Self-Placement, and the Orientation."*



# Who Got Caught Caring?

Caring Campus is also thrilled that Sarah is a part of the Caring Campus Committee as well as the Brentwood Advisory Committee. She shows exemplary initiative and has a collaborative spirit that truly helps the Brentwood Center shine. These skills and attributes are not only helpful at LMC, but at the Antioch Kaiser Medical Center, where Sarah has been volunteering for the last seven years.

## Here's what colleagues said about Sarah:

*"Sarah did an amazing job supporting students in the check-in process for graduation!"*

*"She does a great job in helping students over the phone and troubleshooting any issues they have with the help of the A&R Team and other departments."*

*"Sarah was incredibly helpful with incoming high school students who came to Brentwood to get assistance with registering for classes. She took the time to walk each student through the process, helped with troubleshooting, and provided workarounds for the students. She approached each student with a smile and was warm and friendly."*



**Thank you, Sarah!**  
**Caring Campus and LMC appreciate all you do!**

# Who Got Caught Caring?

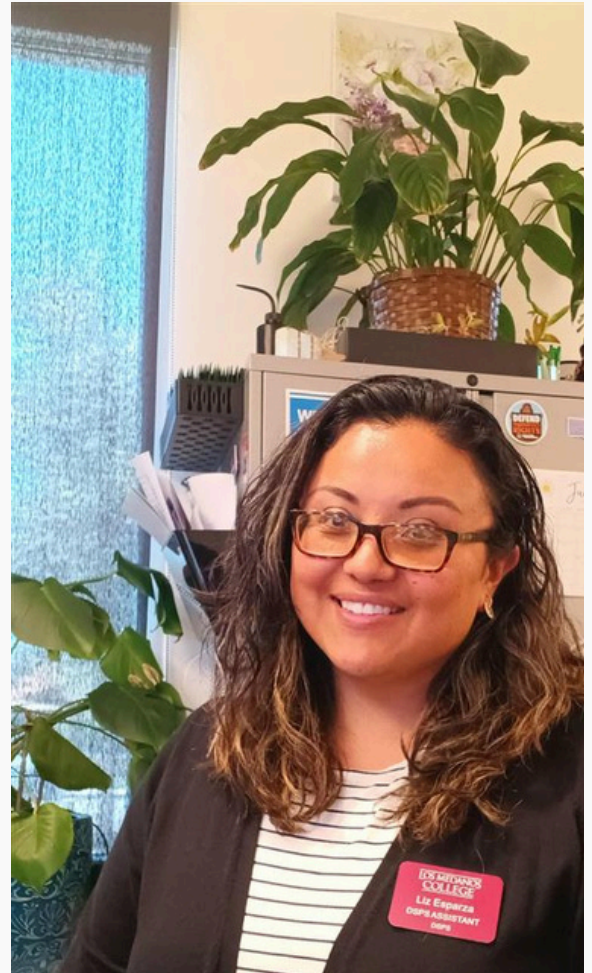
## Liz Esparza

LMC Caring Campus is thrilled to highlight Liz Esparza, the Brentwood DSP&S Program Assistant.

Caring Campus is proud to feature Liz Esparza in this issue of our newsletter. Liz is the Disabled Students Programs & Services Assistant at our Brentwood Center, and she began working at LMC in 2018 as a Student Worker, progressing to a permanent Classified Professional position.

Some of the many things Liz does in her role include welcoming students to DSPS and assisting with the application process, working on marketing materials for upcoming events, coordinating events, and setting up testing accommodations and proctoring exams in the DSPS testing center. Liz is a champion of making connections. She ensures that students are walked over to any department they may need, and she provides them with a point of contact for future needs. Liz expressed, *"It helps create that connection that makes students feel comfortable in coming back and feeling connected to LMC."*

When we asked what she likes about her job, she replied, *"I absolutely love collaborating with fellow team members and being able to help our students succeed. The Brentwood Campus has a wonderful sense of community, and I love that I can count on everyone to build a foundation for our students to feel welcomed and supported."* Liz's office is a welcoming space for students, faculty, and her fellow colleagues. She loves it when students tell her that her office gives them a sense of peace and relaxation on days when they feel stressed or anxious. She adds, *"The personal connections are so meaningful and make my job something I look forward to coming to."*





# Who Got Caught Caring?



Liz recalled a time she helped a student who was struggling with their grades while working full-time and doing volunteer work. *"It was close to Finals, and they expressed how they felt they weren't going to be able to study or retain any information that day. So, instead of commenting on the importance of studying, I offered them an appointment with our counselor later in the day to help them with their academic struggles. As for the stress, I had them join me at a tabling event that day, I listened to them talk about whatever they wanted, and offered an open ear. They had fun and expressed that just hanging out allowed them to feel better, and having me listen helped them get things out and laugh at some jokes. They appreciated the connection and not being rushed out of a department. It's important to me to make sure all students can be heard. Academics are important, but I value mental health and feeling "seen" as important too."* Liz is very committed to the success of our students.

In her free time, she enjoys browsing through bookstores, antique stores, and old record shops. Liz participates in the Brentwood Advisory Committee, JobLinks Planning Committee, Pride360, and Caring Campus Committee, and she is the incoming Classified Senate Vice President.

## Here's what colleagues said about Liz:

*"She was passing out water and programs with her team. She made sure our guests did not sit on top of the water cases and kept the area neat and organized. Liz and her team greeted our guests and directed graduates where to go for check-in."*

*"Elizabeth was motivating every student to pass their finals and wishing them the best and not to give up."*

*"Liz gives students pep talks and encouragement daily and often walks students to other campus offices."*

# LMC President's Classified Professional Exemplary Leadership & Service Award

## LAWRENCE PUNSALANG

**Let's congratulate Lawrence on a well-deserved recognition and for being selected for this prestigious award!**



*Pictured left to right: Dr. Pamela Ralston (LMC President), Lawrence Punsalang, Lauren Punsalang (daughter)*

Caring Campus wishes to acknowledge and congratulate our own Lawrence Punsalang for being selected for LMC's 1st Annual LMC President's Classified Professional Exemplary Leadership & Service Award! Lawrence was also awarded the 4CD Classified Professional of the Year!

For the last 2 years, Lawrence has served as LMC's Program Coordinator in Outreach & Welcome Services. He is also the Caring Campus Co-Chair and a contributing editor of this newsletter, in addition to serving as a member of the Safety Committee. He also served as a Council Member of the Classified Senate. Lawrence has worked at LMC for ten years. In his current position, he provides outreach to our local high schools and assists potential new students with submitting applications. He also visits middle schools, as well as events in our surrounding cities, to reach out to our community members and tell them about LMC. Lawrence states, "I need to have a good understanding of all departments at LMC so that I can answer questions appropriately."



# LMC President's Classified Professional Exemplary Leadership & Service Award

When asked, “How does it feel to be named the 4CD Professional of the Year?” Lawrence commented that he was not expecting the award, and it feels amazing! He went on to say that *“Classified Professionals aim for excellence; we help empower and transform our students in our community, and it shows through this award.”*

His advice to new students is to start by asking questions and get to know the college. There are many services available. Attend events in the quad, meetings, clubs, and learning communities for information. When Lawrence was asked to highlight a memorable experience, without hesitation, he stated, *“Graduation and seeing our students succeed and receive their awards!”*

Caring Campus is incredibly proud of Lawrence Punsalang not only for his earned awards, but also for his character, willingness to assist our community, and compassion for others. Lawrence truly epitomizes the values of Caring Campus!



*Pictured left to right: Dr. Pamela Ralston (LMC President), Lawrence Punsalang, Beth Ann Stone (Classified Senate President), and Sheri Woltz (LMC Foundation Board Member and Award Selection Committee member)*

# Department Spotlights

## Outreach & Welcome Services

**Caring Campus is excited to highlight Outreach & Welcome Services for their daily engagement and interaction with students. Thank you for all that you do to support student success!**



*Pictured left to right: Chris Long, Erin Jimenez, Jazmin Morales, Richard Stanfield, Kelly Green, Jocelyn Morales, and Lawrence Punsalang*

### CHRIS LONG

Chris Long has worked at LMC for 5 years. He is currently the Senior Program Coordinator for the Adult Education Transition Program. He sees firsthand the experience of underrepresented students as they engage with LMC and its processes. Chris describes a time he assisted a student, *"I assisted a student in concurrently enrolling at LMC while working towards their high school diploma at the adult school. Concurrently enrolled adult school students can take LMC classes for free, which also provides increased revenue for the college in the form of apportionment boosts. They took ENGL-100E, which counts for triple credit towards the high school diploma and allowed the student to graduate sooner. They are now a high school graduate attending LMC."* Fun fact about Chris is that he has been a professional bagpiper for almost 30 years.





# Department Spotlights



## ERIN JIMENEZ

Erin Jimenez has worked at LMC for 6 months as an hourly Program Assistant. She enjoys interacting with students and being able to help them find solutions to their problems. Erin describes instances in which she assists students, *"Working the information desk, we are helping students every day. Sometimes it is just the little things that help make a student's day a little easier, like getting them a phone number, directing them to the correct department for the solution to their problem, or even just a quick, friendly chat. On other days, there are times when a student cannot register for classes, and we have to troubleshoot the issue. Every day we have an opportunity to make a student's day a little better."* In her spare time, Erin loves to read.



## JAZMIN MORALES

Jazmin Morales began at LMC in an Out-of-Class Assignment (OOCA), which ultimately led to a permanent transfer as a Program Coordinator, a role she has held since February 2025. Jazmin shares what she loves most about working as a Program Coordinator in the department: *"What I enjoy most about working as a Program Coordinator for Outreach and Welcome Services is the opportunity to make a direct impact on students' first experiences with higher education. As a first-generation student, I remembered feeling lost when applying to colleges and universities during my senior year of high school; thankfully, I had mentors and advisors that I could lean on for support. Many students do not, and this confusion could be the*

*reason why students never start at LMC. I also really enjoy connecting with the community during outreach events, such as showcasing the great programs and services that LMC offers."* Jazmin is an asset to LMC and the department as she describes a time she assisted Spanish-speaking siblings with registering for classes and navigating the REAL ID process. She was able to walk them through the steps, assist with scheduling counseling appointments, and inform them of the option to obtain foreign degrees evaluated for credit. The students were appreciative of Jazmin's support and excited for the first day of class. Jazmin went the extra step to help these students by demonstrating Caring Campus behavioral commitments. For fun, Jazmin enjoys barre classes, trying new restaurants, coffee shops, and wing spots!



# Department Spotlights



## **RICHARD STANFIELD**

Richard Stanfield has worked at LMC for 11 years. He currently works as a Program Assistant. His favorite part of his job is interacting with students. He routinely assists students with registration at the Welcome Center. Richard is a Classified Professional representative on the Planning Committee. He is a dog lover and traveler.

## **KELLY GREEN**

Kelly Green has been with LMC for 10 years. She works as the Senior Program Coordinator, supporting high school students earning early college credits through Dual and Concurrent Enrollment. Kelly frequently visits the nine feeder high schools in the East County. Kelly describes her role as dynamic and multifaceted, *"I like working with K12 students who want to earn early college credits because K12 students are vibrant, energetic, and exciting. I also love the variety of my job. I can be working with high school students on a high school campus one day and meeting with high school principals, high school counselors, or district administrators the next day."*

*There is a great balance of 'field work' and 'office work' in my job. I also collaborate with LMC Admin, Instructional Deans, Department Chairs, full-time and part-time faculty, and Admissions and Records to bring this work to fruition. As a first-generation college student myself, it brings me great joy to know that I am making a difference in students' lives."* Kelly also shared a moment when she assisted a high school student and their parent. *"I recently worked with a high school student and their parent to help them navigate the enrollment process, as high school students require parental or guardian permission to enroll in college classes. The student was in tears and told me they were going to give up because the process was too hard, and they were struggling with the parent permission piece. I was able to work with both the student and the parent together to walk them through the process and troubleshoot the issues they were having. They were incredibly grateful and relieved! This is not an uncommon situation, but the happiness it brings me to help students in these situations never gets old."* In her free time, Kelly enjoys reading, hiking in nature, gardening, and traveling. She is also a proud mom to LMC Alumni who are now Fresno State and UC Davis graduates!





# Department Spotlights



## JOCELYN MORALES

Jocelyn Morales is new to LMC. She is a Program Coordinator who specializes in High School Articulation and CRM (Customer Relationship Management). So far, she has enjoyed the training phases and the way everyone has been so welcoming. Jocelyn shares an example of when she helped a student, *"The student had a registration date that was not common for high school students to have. I was able to connect with Nicole [Outreach and Welcome Services Director], and once the issue was fixed, I helped the student register for classes."* Outside of work, Jocelyn loves to read.



## LAWRENCE PUNSALANG

Lawrence Punsalang started at LMC as a student worker and hourly employee while attending LMC. Later, he became a permanent full-time employee as the DSP&S Program Assistant in 2018. Then in 2023, he became the Program Coordinator for Outreach and Welcome Services. In this capacity, Lawrence is out in the community at the K-12 schools. He enjoys educating potential LMC students, such as high school students or community members, about what Los Medanos College has to offer them. Lawrence shares an example of when he helped a student,

*"I recently helped a graduating high school senior successfully register for his Fall 2025 classes. Part of my job is to visit local high schools and help seniors complete an LMC application and the early registration process (i.e., Guided Self-Placement and Online Orientation). During the registration period, I return to the high school and assist students with registering for classes. There is one particular senior at Freedom High School who would always ask me for assistance to ensure he was doing everything right. He would even send me emails when he had questions. It makes me happy that I can help him and guide him through this process."* Lawrence is also a co-chair of Caring Campus and a Classified Professional representative on the Safety Committee, in addition to his former role as Classified Senate Council Member. In his free time, Lawrence likes listening to 90's music and attending car shows.



# What's new with Caring Campus?

## Spring 2025 Graduation



As the stands filled with family and friends, our hearts as Classified Employees were also filled with pride and happiness. We all clapped, cheered and celebrated our 1,358 graduates on Friday, May 23rd, 2025. Our Los Medanos College 51st Annual Commencement brought forth 2,266 awards earned by our spectacular graduates! This included 662 Associate of Art Degrees, 176 Associate of Science Degrees, 228 Associate in Arts Degrees for Transfer, 302 Associate in Science Degrees for Transfer, and 698 Certificates of Achievements. We joined students in exceptional hard work and practiced grit and teamwork to make this a memorable day. It was a true honor be a part of this celebration, noting that our youngest graduate this year was 17 years old, and our eldest graduate being 67 years old! Way to go, Mustangs! Let's continue to create the path for success not only for our students, but for each other as LMC Professionals.

## High School Senior Saturday

With over 600 high school seniors from over 25 different high schools, the LMC Community from our President, Management, Faculty, Classified Professionals, to our Student Ambassadors, we welcomed our future Mustangs at this year's High School Senior Saturday held on April 19 and 26 at the Pittsburg Campus.

Decorated with red Caring Campus t-shirts and "Ask Me" Badges, our Student Ambassadors showed our guests around campus during the campus tours, and they also brought our guests to their breakout sessions where they learned about our Transfer Academy, Umoja Scholars, HONORS, MESA, and our PUENTE Learning Communities.

High School Senior Saturday is an event for graduating high school seniors and their families to explore LMC and learn about the different programs and services we offer to our students. This is also a time where they can submit an LMC application and complete the early registration steps such as LMC Orientation and Guided Self-Placement. High School Senior Saturday is LMC's largest recruiting event.





# 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 SS4-412 and via Zoom.

## **Fall 2025 Meeting Dates:**

- September 8th
- September 22nd
- October 6th
- October 20th
- November 3rd
- November 17th
- December 1st



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

# Look Who Else "Got Caught Caring!"

**Alan Palmen**

**Alex Rosewood**

**Annica Soto**

**Bridgette Garcia Alvarado**

**Christa Leach**

**Christian Diaz-Galarza**

**Connie Konsavage**

**Elizabeth Esparza**

**Erika Messenger**

**Geneva Toliver**

**Imelda Lares**

**Irma Gregory**

**Jeanette Espinda**

**Jen Fay**

**Jennifer Garcia**

**Krishtian Snell**

**Leticia Webb**

**Linda Jackson**

**Lisa Avery**

**Liz Esparza**

**Lucia Garces**

**Malia Valencia**

**Melina Rodriguez**

**Melissa Jackson**

**Michael Simpson**

**Michele Laruta**

**Myles Crain**

**Nicole Gomes**

**Owen Casebeer**

**Raheema Islam**

**Rashaad McAlpin**

**Reggie Turner**

**Sandra Mills**

**Sarah Ryan**

**Sylvia Benzler**

**Vidal Garcia III**

**Wenchale Story**

**Yousef Gheit**





# Keep on Caring, LMC!



**Caring** Campus

LOS MEDANOS  
COLLEGE

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THANK YOU SO MUCH!