

MAY 2023

# CARING CAMPUS



**Caring Campus**

LOS MEDANOS  
COLLEGE

Welcome to the May 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.

# Who Got Caught Caring?

## Erika Messenger



**LMC Caring Campus is pleased to spotlight Erika Messenger, Administrative Assistant III in the Nursing Department. Erika received the most “You Got Caught Caring” nominations!**

Erika has been employed by LMC for over 3 years, and she is responsible for supporting the LMC Nursing Department. She states, “I provide detailed information to prospective nursing students over the phone and by email, answering inquiries about the program, prerequisites, and the application process. I support and assist students currently enrolled in the nursing program on a variety of tasks daily to ensure they are compliant with all program requirements. I also work to support our Associate Dean and nursing faculty.”

Erika is charged with coordinating with clinical sites for our student placements, coordinating the application and acceptance process, working to onboard new students, maintaining student compliance, managing the department and grant budgets, coordinating and note-taking for department meetings, and completing all admin-related tasks for the department.

When asked what she liked about her job, Erika replied, “I am privileged to work with some of the best students at LMC, Nursing and prospective Nursing students have made the decision to enter a field that is focused on caring for others, and I admire them for that. I am inspired by how extremely hard they work despite the many personal challenges they face. I am also fortunate to have the most amazing colleagues to work alongside in the Nursing Department. Nurses and teachers are professions that are objectively viewed as honorable and filled by extraordinary people, my colleagues are both. Supporting the LMC Nursing Department is a rewarding job that I enjoy very much.” Erika also interacts with students every day face-to-face, by phone, and by email.



# Who Got Caught Caring?

## Erika Messenger

Erika is proud to share of a time that she helped a student during the Fall 2022 semester, “We had an incoming RN student who felt comfortable enough to share with me that she was facing financial hardship. I was able to put her in connection with Financial Aid that could offer her solutions to some of the issues she was facing receiving funds. I also requested an emergency grant from the LMC Foundation on her behalf which was issued promptly so she could have spending money for her nursing school supplies.”

Erika serves as a Coordinator for the faculty and student DAISY Award Committees. She considers herself to be very fortunate to have 2 extremely cute kids and a loving husband. They spend their free time together cooking, playing and taking trips to the beach.

Her co-workers have commented:

*“Not [missing] a single event, she is constantly there to support our students and the teaching staff. She's doing way over the call of duty and not even compensated for the level of work and classification of work she is providing. But she's always there, supporting the nursing department day in and day out. Our department will collapse without her.”*

*“Erika sits at the counter by the college entrance, and she is there to reach out to students through email, by phone, or in person to make sure the students are able to go to their clinicals by assisting in meeting the hospital requirements. She also reaches out to faculty members for meeting schedules (or if there's no meeting). She coordinates so well in our department.”*

*“She helps all students, and staff/faculty, and is consistently working hard for our Nursing Department.”*

*“Providing phone numbers, emails, or links to other college services and departments. Going the extra step to actively help students”*

**Clearly, Erika is an asset to LMC and the Nursing Department! Caring Campus and her colleagues acknowledge her devotion and we also wish to congratulate her on her recent graduation with honors from LMC with a Degree in Liberal Arts: Behavioral Science and Social Science!**

Her future plans include taking two courses in the fall so she can earn her Associate of Arts for Transfer. She intends to transfer to CSU Chico to complete their online Sociology degree.



# Department Spotlights

## Buildings & Grounds

**Caring Campus is proud to Spotlight LMC's Grounds Team!**



**These amazing individuals are the reason why we have two clean and beautiful campuses where students and employees can enjoy learning and working.**

**Yvette Simmons** is a Grounds Worker II and has been with LMC for 15 years. She likes her job because she gets to be outside every day instead of working in an office setting. Yvette works mostly in the front of the campus, and many times she has stopped what she was doing to walk students where they need to go. In her free time, Yvette loves to draw.

**Andre White** is a Grounds Worker II. He likes mowing the lawns and preparing the baseball field for games. His hobby is coaching baseball players. Additionally, he has helped students on the baseball team get jobs in the Grounds department as student workers. Andre has been with LMC for 15 years.

**John Snelling** started LMC in the Custodial Department, and now he is a Grounds Worker II. Overall, he has been with LMC for 22 years. John likes his early morning work schedule. He also takes pride in keeping our campus clean every day for our students. John is into cars, bowling, football, golf, and all kinds of sports.



# Department Spotlights

## Buildings & Grounds

**Raymond Kendall** is a Grounds Worker II and has worked at LMC for 7 years. Impressively, he has been with the 4CD for 33 years! Personally, he likes the outdoors and also enjoys working outdoors. Raymond likes to keep his area clean and presentable because he feels that first impressions matter, especially when students visit the campus for the first time. Raymond is a whitewater rafting guide and plays tennis, pickleball, and bowling. He loves glamping.

**Glen Biggs** has been with LMC for 31 years and is a Grounds Worker II. He likes his job because he is able to help people who come to campus. In addition, he likes the people he works with as they make it fun to come to work. Glen served in many committees in the past; he participated in the Accreditation Committee, Interview Committee, and Classified Senate and was a Shop Steward.

When Caring Campus asked Glen to give us an example of a time he helped a student, his response was, “I could write a book on that question and not even scratch the surface. One time I saw a student crying outside Admissions. I asked him if he was ok, and he said he sent his transcripts to the wrong address. The Admissions Department was closed on Friday, so I went inside to see if anyone could help him. They fixed the problem, and the student was happy.” Glen added that none of the things they do would be possible without the support of his co-workers as they work together to take care of the Pittsburg and Brentwood campuses. Glen loves gardening, fishing, kayaking, and bicycle riding.



# LMC's 48th Commencement Ceremony



<https://www.losmedanos.edu/graduation/ceremony.aspx#photos>

It was a lovely warm Friday afternoon, and the cheers and laughter from families and graduates could be heard across the LMC stadium. Over 400 graduates were ready to walk the stage and receive their hard-earned diplomas and certificates. The participating faculty lined up and entered the field with excitement to welcome the graduates. The graduates made their way down the field and into their seats.

Interim President Dr. Pamela Ralston shared a warm welcome in English and Spanish, which was a pleasant surprise. Dr. Ralston gave praise to the graduates for their “unwavering resilience during the pandemic” as she was humbled and inspired by their adaptability to virtual learning to maintain focus and strive for excellence. She also quoted the illustrious Lizzo by reassuring the graduates that they are all special, and that she is glad they are all here.

It was evident that the graduation planning committee made a thoughtful attempt (and succeeded) at being inclusive to our diverse student population. The program consisted of the Presentation of Colors, Pledge of Allegiance, Star-Spangled Banner, and Lift Every Voice and Sing (sung by Freedom High School's choir), greetings from District Leadership, and inspiring speeches by the student speakers. The recessional included musical selections played by Mariachi San Miguel.

Throughout this event, Classified Professionals were visible in red LMC t-shirts and gear. The staff made sure that the commencement ceremony ran smoothly according to plan and rehearsals. Additionally, the staff made sure that students' robes and caps were in place and cheered them on as they made their appearance. Most importantly, the stadium echoed and roared with cheer as the graduates lined up to receive their scrolls, a memory forever that will last in the hearts and minds of the graduates and their support systems.

# 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.

## Fall 2023 Meeting Dates:

- August 28
- September 11
- October 16
- October 30
- November 13
- November 27
- December 11 (tentative)



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!"

- Ashley Fissore
- Catherine Marcel
- Christian Diaz-Galarza
- Danielle Scott
- David Valencia
- Emmalee Muserelli
- Jennifer Wilson
- Leticia Webb
- Lisa Avery
- Peg O'Malley
- Rashaad McAlpin
- Lindsay Souza



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