

OCTOBER  
2024

# CARING CAMPUS



**Caring Campus**  
LOS MEDANOS  
COLLEGE

Welcome to the October 2024 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?

**Julie Lucca**



**LMC Caring Campus is thrilled to highlight our  
Biology Lab Coordinator, Julie Lucca!**

# Who Got Caught Caring?

## Julie Lucca

She has been a part of the Mustang family since August 1, 2016. You can find her working hard on the main floor of the science building at our Pittsburg Campus.

The world of science is an exciting place, so when we asked Julie to tell us a little bit about her job duties, she stated, "I induce fertility in sea urchins, alter e. coli DNA to glow in the dark, participate in cadaver dissect-a-thons, collaborate with regional parks for biotic and abiotic undergraduate research." We had to know more, and dug a little deeper into her typical workday, which consists of purchasing and handling eyeballs, hearts, brains, and blood; creating an array of potions, chemicals, and solutions; and sending the invoices to the Office of Instruction.



Curious to know what the best part of being a biology lab coordinator is?

Julie states, "Working in academia allows me to be and think like a student. I seek mentorship from my wiser academic elders. LMC encourages and promotes me to continue to learn and grow; just like our students." We believe this is why so many of our Classified Employees nominated Julie an exemplary employee who stood out and showed her commitment and passion to give our students the feeling of being valued and connecting with them so easily. Her daily engagement with LMC students during lab activities allows her to increase the students' success and growth.



# Who Got Caught Caring?



With Julie's ongoing commitment to student success, she recalled a time when she assisted a young parent and previous foster youth enroll in the EMT academy here at LMC! Her hands-on in the field also allowed her to facilitate STEM students to transfer to a 4 year. She also mentors undergraduate biology research and participates in Pedagogy Innovation (PIP), safety committee, and PDAC. Julie continues to grow as a professional by participating in all the learning and professional development opportunities.

Beyond the lab doors, we learned Julie adores the sunshine and warm weather. During this weather you can find her sunbathing, strolling on an outdoor trail, or her trampoline. She also writes poetry and children's books, citing "I am an avid reader and international traveler. I just do my best every day." Caring Campus thanks Julie Lucca for her dedication and compassion to LMC and our students.

## Here are what colleagues said about Julie:

*"Julie, a bright spirit, made a big sign, and walked around the campus with it when not volunteering at a specific station. Julie's sign garnered attention of students who were struggling, or simply had specialized questions. Julie's positive attitude was contagious, and I watched many students walk away confidently knowing where their classes are. It was a heartwarming sight. Julie's contribution made a huge difference to students who needed help within College Complex, as some areas were very packed with students entering and leaving classes, so many had questions."*

*"Julie welcomed our students on campus with her big sign that read "Glad You're Here!" While carrying her big sign, she walked around campus and talked to students, helped them find classes online, and helped them navigate the campus. Julie truly cares about our students. Thank you Julie!"*

*"While everyone else who volunteered to work stationed themselves near or at the table provided, Julie made a sign that read We're so GLAD You're HERE! and then waved it back and forth while criss-crossing the area. When she wasn't doing that, she was personally escorting students to their destination."*

# Department Spotlights

## LMC Bookstore

**Caring Campus wishes to acknowledge and thank our Bookstore personnel for all their hard work in assisting the students of LMC!**



*Pictured in photo above: (left to right) Arvella Tutt, Michele Long, Gabrielle Santos, Kimberly Salangsang, & David Lehman*



*Pictured in photo above: David Lehman, Arvella Tutt, Michele Long, Kimberly Salangsang, & Gabrielle Santos*

### ARVELLA TUTT

Arvella has been a Classified Professional for 23 years at LMC. She actually began working in the bookstore in 1992 as a Student Worker and then became an hourly employee for nearly 9 years prior to becoming hired as permanent. In that time, she also worked at CCC and DVC's bookstores. Her current title is Book Buyer at the LMC Bookstore. Arvella states, "I am a proud Alumni of Los Medanos College".

Arvella likes that her position allows her to interact with Faculty, Staff and Administration to ensure that students get their required materials for their classes. She enjoys helping students get the right information regarding their courses while establishing friendships and encourage them to succeed in their goals and achieve success at LMC. As a Book Buyer, Arvella is aware of the fees for materials. "I tell students to apply for EOPS for book vouchers and Financial Aid for other needs. I helped an EOPS student regarding a textbook they purchased. The textbook bundle had a code which the student accidentally lost. The student could not afford to purchase the textbook. I was able to free access for the student to continue with the course from the publisher. The student was very grateful and happy." Arvella is one of the Co-Authors of the Anti-Racism Resolution for Classified Senate. Her hobbies include traveling, shopping, cooking and listening to music. She likes to hang out with friends and considers herself a Foodie!

Caring Campus wishes to thank Arvella for her constant support of LMC and our students!

# Department Spotlights

## LMC Bookstore

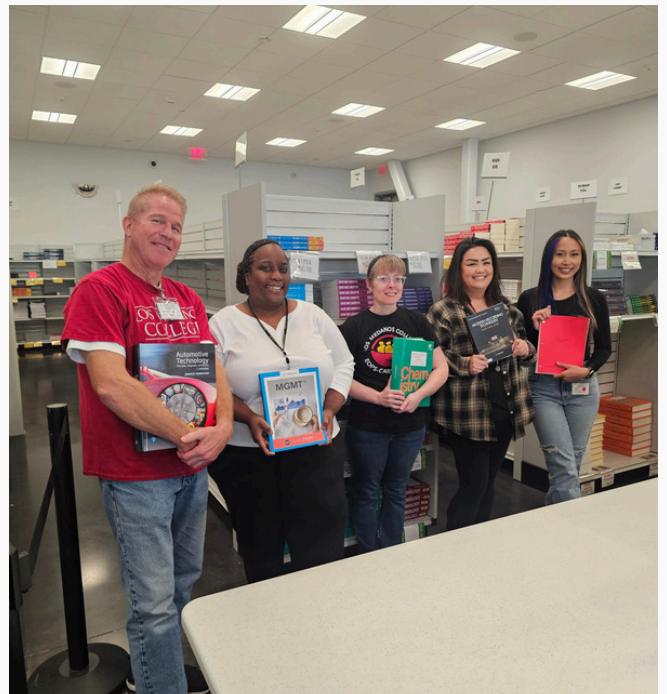
### **MICHELE LONG**

Michele has been employed by LMC for 3 years as a Service Clerk. She likes her co-workers and enjoys helping customers get what they need. She is always willing to assist students and explained, “An older student came into the bookstore looking for help because he didn’t understand how to access his online textbook. I helped him log into the bookstore website to access the e-book he had purchased and I showed him how to read it.” In her spare time, Michele likes to read and play video games.

Caring Campus thanks Michele for her expertise in assisting students!

### **GABRIELLE SANTOS**

Gabrielle has been working at LMC since 2019 as an Hourly Service Clerk in the Bookstore. She states, “I absolutely love that I gain opportunities to put a smile on multiple faces all while being able to create a positive impact, even if for just a split second of a person’s entire day.” Gabrielle comments that, “Regarding my encounters with new and incoming college students that just graduated high school, I know that starting college is not only very new but also very scary. I’ve taken the time to walk students through what resources they have on campus and that they should feel comfortable with reaching out when it comes to any questions that may arise. Creating a caring campus is not only vital but an important aspect of a welcoming environment.”



Gabriella is also an SFSU alumni and is currently continuing her education at an academy studying Esthetics. In her spare time, she loves being in the kitchen and exploring how to cook all kinds of dishes. Caring Campus is grateful for Gabrielle and her commitment to our students at LMC!





# Department Spotlights

## LMC Bookstore

### **KIMBERLY SALANSANG**

Kimberly has been employed by LMC since June 2022, transferring from DVC. She started at DVC as an hourly in 2007 and became a Classified Professional in 2014. Kimberly is the Bookstore Operations Coordinator.

Kimberly states, “The thing I like most about my job is help students, especially when it’s their first semester and they have no clue about what they are doing. I love to help them find their way around campus, as well as let them know about other departments that would be able to help them throughout their time at LMC.” Kimberly remembers a time when, “I helped a first-time student who had no idea how to go about finding information about their textbooks. I simply walked them through the process by letting them know to pull up their schedule and bookstore staff would be happy to help find out what books were needed. Also, I informed them that they have the option to purchase online and told them step-by-step how to do so. The student was relieved to hear that finding their textbooks was not as difficult as they had originally thought.”

Kimberly loves to cook! She’s been experimenting with recipes she’s seen on TikTok. Her latest attempt at Chile Verde turned out spectacular. She states, “I’m always open to trying new recipes, so send them my way if you have any!”

Caring Campus thanks Kimberly for going that extra mile in assisting our students

### **DAVID LEHMAN**

David has worked with the LMC Bookstore for a little over a year as a Bookstore Service Clerk. David likes interacting with the many personalities of our students. David enjoys working admissions during the baseball and football season.

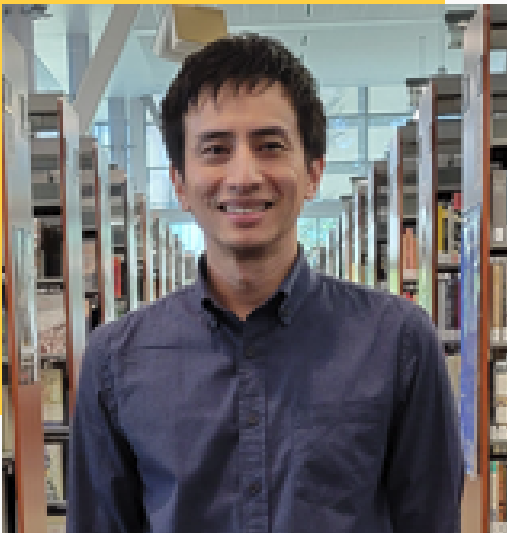
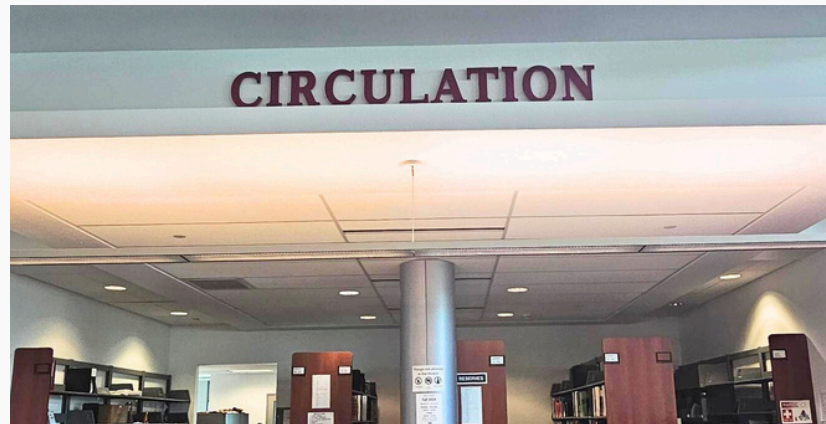
David shares that he likes motorcycle riding in his spare time.

Caring Campus wishes to acknowledge David’s valuable contribution to the Bookstore Staff!



# Department Spotlights

## Library



### **JARED ESCOLAR**

Jared has worked at LMC for one and a half years as a Library Assistant. He enjoys assisting students and feels fulfilled knowing that any small act or role can help students achieve their academic goals. Jared shares about a time he helped a student, “I helped a student get their final project formatted and printed the same day it was due.” He enjoys reading and playing video games.

Caring Campus thanks Jared for the small acts to help students that make a huge impact!

### **AKILA BRIGGS**

Akila is the Assistant Library Technician and has just celebrated ten years at LMC! She enjoys being around books and creating a safe learning environment. Akila describes a time when she helped a student, “Sometimes, older students come in and have difficulty with ebooks or understanding modules on Canvas. When we have time, I can sit with them and help them get the information they need.” Akila is a member of LMC Allies, IDEA Committee, and Pride 365. She enjoys music, writing, and anything that inspires creativity.

Caring Campus thanks Akila for creating a safe space for students!





# Department Spotlights

## Library



### **CATT WOOD**

Catt is the Senior Library Technician at the LMC Brentwood Campus. Catt celebrates 8 years at LMC! They enjoy helping students trouble-shoot and seeing them outside of class. Catt describes a time when they helped a student, “Earlier today, a student was having trouble printing their biology slides. I showed them how to print more than one slide per page and ensured the print job came out correctly.” Catt is also a co-chair for the IDEA Committee and a Classified Senate council member. Catt enjoys tabletop roleplaying games (like Dungeons & Dragons), watching gaming and crafting streams on Twitch, and is currently working their way through Baldur’s Gate 3.

Caring Campus thanks Catt for going above and beyond for our students in Brentwood!

### **HEAVENLY PRATER**

Heavenly has worked at LMC since 2015, doing various jobs on campus. Currently, she is a Library Assistant at the LMC Pittsburg Campus. Some things that she likes about her job are being able to help students be successful in their classes by providing them with reading materials for their courses, interacting with our patrons, and working with my amazing colleagues. Heavenly shared a time when she helped a student, “I helped a student when I showed them how to locate books in our stacks using the Library of Congress classification. The student was grateful that they left knowing how the books are organized so that they can easily find what they are looking for in the future.” She enjoys listening to music, dancing, acting in theatre, watching movies/extended TV series, playing video games, trying new foods, and going for long walks and drives by herself, and with friends.



Caring Campus thanks Heavenly for her enthusiasm and willingness to help students in their educational journeys!

# Department Spotlights

## Library

### **TERESA FERGUSON**

Fun Fact- Teresa Ferguson was our first ever “Who Got Caught Caring” Spotlight winner!

She has worked at LMC since 2011. She is the Senior Library Technician at the LMC Pittsburg Campus. Teresa shares why she enjoys her job, “The interaction with the students. There is such a diverse complement of students—the first-timers, the ones returning for certificates or job enhancement, and the ‘mature’ students who are returning to try their hand at something new. All of them add color to my day.”

She also describes a time she helped a student and her motto, “My motto from the start has always been to have the student ‘grow and go.’ Some get too comfortable and don’t want to leave; fear and doubt stop them. So seeing them transfer and go, then stopping by and letting me know about their life and success is fantastic.” Teresa likes to spend time with her granddaughters, Emily and Joelle. She also enjoys RVing with her husband and her two dogs, Fozzie and Tilly.

Caring Campus thanks Teresa for her caring contributions over the years in assisting students!



### **O.C. HAYES**

O.C. has worked at the Circulation Desk at the LMC Pittsburg Campus for the past four to five years, on and off during the pandemic. O.C. likes the quiet environment of the library and helps students gain knowledge to succeed in their studies. O.C. states, “I’ve had so many positive interactions helping students find where to go on campus, books they need to study, and sometimes just being someone to talk to.” O.C. is a professional wrestler and a big fan of manga/anime and comic books.

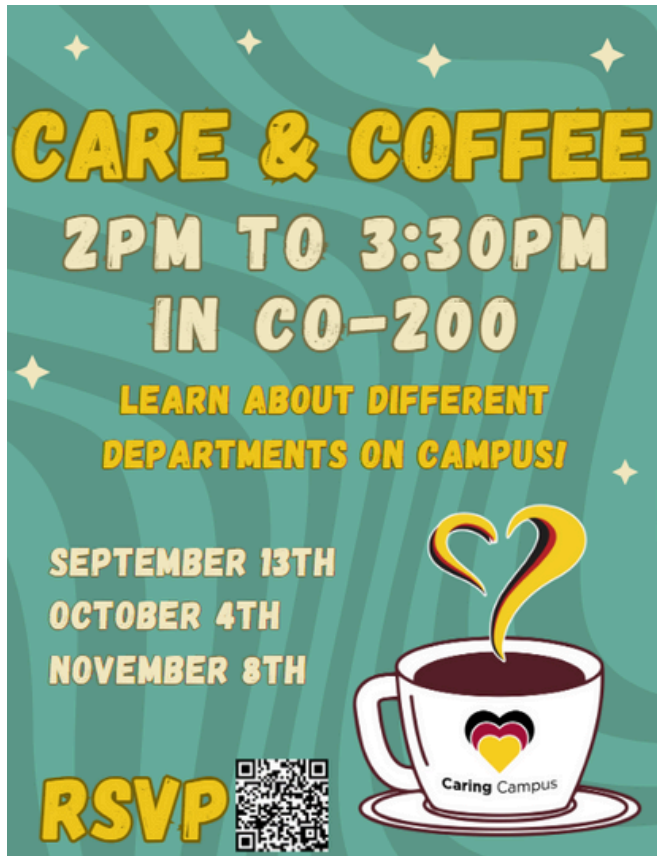
Caring Campus wishes to acknowledge O.C.’s valuable contribution to the LMC library!



**Photo Unavailable**



# What's new with Caring Campus?!



**NEWLY  
ADDED!**

Caring Campus launched a series of workshops called Care & Coffee to help with the implementation of our General Behavioral Commitments. Care & Coffee is offered on a Friday each month starting this Fall semester, and each semester will focus on one of our five commitments. “Get to Know Other Departments” is the highlighted commitment this semester. We have worked with several LMC departments and student resources to give presentations to our Classified Professionals about the different services available to our students.

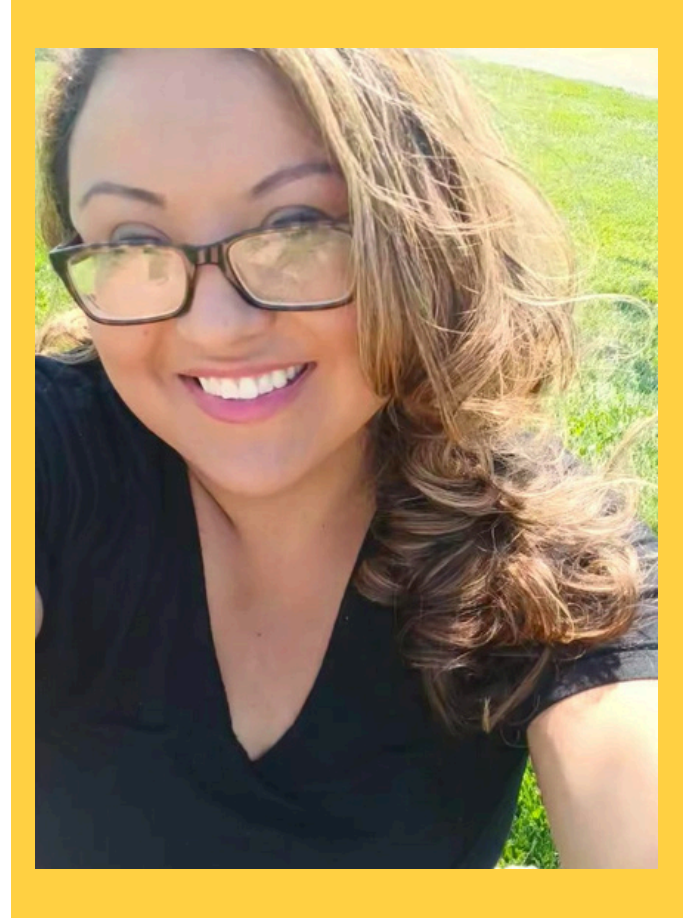
Our 1st Care & Coffee kicked off with presentations from Angela Fantuzzi of the Child Study Center, Nicole Almassey of the Outreach & Welcome Services, and Veronica Ortiz and Melina Rodriguez of the Student Success Center.

**Care & Coffee will be held on the following Fridays: Sept. 13, Oct. 4, & Nov. 8, from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Student Success Center (CO-200 Pittsburg Campus).**

# What's new with Caring Campus?!

## Caring Campus Newsletter Committee Welcomes Liz Esparza!

It truly was no question when it came to wanting to be a part of something bigger at Los Medanos College. The want and need to help has always been a part of Liz Esparza's DNA. Growing up, she had dreams of becoming a teacher or a nurse. Her family has always had a big impact as well throughout her life, pushing her to never give up and to always do and be your best. The urge to want to help others feel better called to her because of this environment and strength and she has finally found her home here at LMC. She began her pre-nursing studies at the Pittsburg Campus and got the amazing opportunity to meet with Sylvia Benzler from the Disabled Students Programs & Services office. After speaking with Sylvia and feeling her genuine care and excitement to meet students, Liz began her journey working for the DSPS Office in September 2018 as a student worker. By January 2019, she gained the position as a College Program Assistant II and continued to strive to create the best welcoming and inclusive environment for students. Her entire DSPS team was encouraging and showcased amazing student success partnerships. The feedback they received further helped create a sense of belonging for both the students and employees.



Being a part of such a successful program and team further emphasized the importance of helping students feel connected not only to their studies, but to the group of people that wanted nothing but success and positivity for everyone. Showing that we care beyond the grades was critical for Liz as a student, so her goal became to make sure every single person she interacted with felt the same. Creating a warm and welcoming space is crucial. Whether it was fellow peers, staff or faculty, it became a necessity to make that person feel welcomed and acknowledged so her Brentwood office is always a place you are welcome. Make sure to stop by and say hello if you are ever at the LMC Brentwood Campus!

“Success involves everyone, we all help build students and ourselves up to have leadership skills and the invaluable interpersonal relationships. Semester after semester, I love welcoming back returning students and hearing about their success and their future goals. Joining Caring Campus in June 2024 is exciting! I will continue to learn about how everyone is supporting our LMC students and colleagues.” Together we can continue to cultivate and celebrate the caring environment through intentional inclusion and guidance.



# 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 ID: 585 278 8369.

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## **Fall 2024 Meeting Dates:**

- September 16
- September 23
- October 7
- October 21
- November 4
- November 25



**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!"**

**Andrew Murphy**

**Brianna Thomas**

**Chris Long**

**Clark Muir**

**Liz Esparza**

**Eloine Chapman**

**Irene Sukhu**

**Kelly Green**

**Krishtian Snell**

**Lawrence Punsalang**

**Leticia Webb**

**Lyssa Shabusheva**

**Melissa Inzunza**

**Michele Laruta**

**Raymond Edwards**

**Richard Stanfield**

**Rosario Lujano**

**Sandhya Bhatnagar**

**Steven Valencia**

**Tanita Richardson**

**Tom Wall**

**Wenchale Story**





# Keep on Caring, LMC!



**Caring** Campus

LOS MEDANOS  
COLLEGE

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THANK YOU SO MUCH!