

SEPTEMBER
2023

CARING CAMPUS



Caring Campus

LOS MEDANOS
COLLEGE

Welcome to the September 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?

Classified Employees were asked to nominate a fellow Classified Employee who stood out as someone who demonstrates the Caring Campus principles.

Votes were split between two Classified, Bridgette Garcia Alvarado and Jennifer Garcia. Read on to find out more about these exceptional ladies!

**Bridgette Garcia
Alvarado**



Jennifer Garcia



Who Got Caught Caring?



LMC Caring Campus is pleased to spotlight **Bridgette Garcia Alvarado**! Bridgette has been employed by LMC since 2019 when she started as a student worker for DSPS.

Currently, Bridgette is a Program Assistant for DSPS which is located on the 1st floor of the Student Services building.

Her job duties include assisting students with the application process of DSPS, providing support to colleagues in their workload and serving as a liaison between students and staff at LMC.

Bridgette states, *"I really enjoy working with and helping students. I love seeing students succeed and blossom. I genuinely enjoy all my colleagues!"*

You can find Bridgette at the DSPS front desk interacting with students daily. She provides guidance and support to students who have recently graduated from high school and are transitioning into College. She states, *"I had the opportunity to assist a young man, providing him with guidance through our application process. I not only shared information about our services but the numerous resources on campus such as tutoring, information about the Marketplace, different learning communities, etc."* Bridgette feels it is important to not only share the services of DSPS but those on campus so that students can take full advantage of their time here.

Bridgette shared that, *"It was through DSPS that I discovered my career path! I am now in my Master's Program at Saint Mary's and I'm pursuing a degree in Higher Education and Student Affairs and Clinical Mental Health Counseling."*

Caring Campus thanks Bridgette for her service to LMC and wishes her continued success in her educational endeavors.

Bridgette's contact info is as follows:
Bgarcia395@insite.4cd.edu

Who Got Caught Caring?



LMC Caring Campus is pleased to spotlight **Jennifer Garcia**! Jennifer has been employed by LMC for 17 years.

Jennifer serves as an Instructional Assistant in the DSPS department which is located on the 1st floor of the Student Services building.

Her job duties include setting up testing accommodations for students in the DSPS program. She schedules testing appointments and proctors exams. She confers with instructors regarding their students and any exam questions. She also assists students with completing DSPS forms.

Jennifer states, *"I love coming to work and seeing our students. No day is ever the same as there are always new challenges. I love helping our students and it's so nice to see all their accomplishments when they graduate."*

Jennifer recalls a time when a student came to the office and was upset about not having enough money to buy one of her textbooks. Jennifer states, *"I reached out to the LMC Foundation to see if they could help her out. The Foundation contacted the student and 2 days later the student came in with a form that needed to be completed. I assisted her with the form and next day she had the funds needed for the textbook! The student was so grateful that the Foundation had a program that could assist her."* Clearly it was through Jennifer's guidance and compassion to introduce the student to resources that allowed her the ability to be successful in her class.

Jennifer is a member of the TAG Committee. She also enjoys camping, taking long walks on the beach and spending time with her family.

Caring Campus thanks Jennifer for her efforts in "taking that extra step" for our students at LMC.

Jennifer's contact info is as follows:
jgarcia@losmedanos.edu (925) 473-7472

Department Spotlights

Caring Campus is proud to spotlight

Admissions & Records- Brentwood



Annica Soto has worked at LMC for 17 marvelous years and she is the Senior Admissions & Records Assistant at the Brentwood Center. Annica likes sharing her knowledge on how to navigate LMC and she enjoys connecting students with colleagues from other departments to assist them with the tools they need to be successful in college. Each moment that Annica helps a student is special and unique in its own way. Annica is part of the Graduation Committee and has been attending the Classified Senate meetings every so often. When Annica is not working, she loves to travel with her family and close friends. She enjoys karaoke, dancing, trying different kinds of foods, reading about conspiracy theories, watching movies, and she treats herself once a month.

Sarah Ryan is an LMC alumna. Five years ago, she started as a Student Ambassador at the Brentwood Center while she was completing her AA degrees. After graduating during the pandemic, she returned as an Hourly employee in Admissions & Records. This year Sarah was permanently hired as a full-time Admissions & Records Assistant I at the Brentwood Center. Sarah loves assisting students in achieving their academic goals through helping them with registration. She described a time she assisted a student on the phone who accidentally dropped the wrong course, the student panicked because they didn't know if they could get back into the class. Sarah shared with the student that they could get back to class by contacting the instructor and requesting they complete an Instructor Reinstatement Form. The student was relieved and grateful to Sarah as they were able to rejoin the course. In her spare time, you will find Sarah volunteering at Kaiser Antioch Medical Center. Sarah is also part of Caring Campus.

Department Spotlights

Caring Campus is proud to spotlight

Admissions & Records- Brentwood

Nadiya Korkuna is an Admissions & Records Assistant I at the Brentwood Center, where she has worked since 2022. She likes working with students on a daily basis. She described a moment when she helped a student on the phone get assistance with concurrent enrollment for a class they needed to take but was already full. Nadiya went over the concurrent enrollment process and let them know to contact the instructor. Several days later, the student called her back and expressed their gratitude as they were able to add the course. Nadiya added, *"Moments like these are the ones that make it all worth it!"* Nadiya enjoys conversations with her fellow colleagues as she loves working in teams because she gets to hear other people's views and opinions. She also enjoys working with transcripts and processing forms. Nadiya actively attends Classified Senate, Shared Governance Council, and Sustainability Committee meetings. Additionally, she is one of the Caring Campus Tri-Chairs! Outside her work life, she loves to cook and travel. Nadiya has a pet cat and a corgi that she loves taking naps with.

Recently, Nadiya has accepted an Out of Class Assignment (OOCA) at the DVC San Ramon campus as an Admissions & Records Assistant II. Caring Campus wishes Nadiya all the best!



Pictured left to right- Nadiya Korkuna, Sarah Ryan, and Annica Soto

Department Spotlights

Caring Campus is proud to spotlight Admissions & Records- Pittsburg



Pictured left to right- Linda Jackson, Imelda Lares, Lucia Garces, Michael Simpson, Lisa Avery, and Connie Konsavage



Newest member of A&R - Christa Leach

Linda Jackson is the Senior Admissions & Records Assistant. She has been employed by LMC for 10 years- 5 years as an hourly employee and 5 years as a permanent Classified Professional employee. She enjoys assisting students by answering their questions and helping them navigate their InSite accounts. She exclaims, *"To see the relief on their face when they are in person to hearing it in their voice when on the phone gives me great satisfaction!"* Linda is also active as a member and note-taker for the Admissions & Records PET team and a Caring Campus Committee member. She is behind the scenes of the eloquently written articles in our very own Caring Campus Newsletters. She enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren.

Imelda Lares is the Transcript and Degree Audit Specialist at LMC. She has worked at LMC for 15 years- 3 as an hourly employee and 12 as a permanent Classified Professional employee. Another aspect of her diligent work includes the roles of a School Certifying Official for Veterans Services and the Athletic Eligibility Specialist. Imelda shared an example when she helped a student, *"When processing graduation applications, there have been many times where I see students short on elective/general major units, and before denying the application, I would go an extra step and try reaching out to the student by phone or email to see if they can enroll in a late short-term course either at our campus or our sister college campus to meet the requirement and flip the application to pending-approval instead."* Imelda enjoys working out before work in the mornings, long afternoon walks, hikes with her dog, dancing, visiting museums, and outdoor activities with her family.

Department Spotlights

Caring Campus is proud to spotlight

Admissions & Records- Pittsburg

Lucia Garces is an Admissions and Records Assistant I and has worked at LMC for 6 years. She assists students with registration, late add petitions, official transcripts ordering, prerequisite clearing, and more. In addition, she serves high school students and their parents with information on filling out the Special Admit enrollment forms. Lucia shares, *"I am passionate about helping others and love assisting students, staff, and faculty. In addition, I commit to helping the students achieve their academic goals, showing them empathy to build rapport and treating them equally."* With LMC's diverse student population, Lucia is integral in assisting Spanish-speaking families who struggle with the language barrier. She also participates in the Planning Committee and enjoys spending time with family and traveling to beaches during the summer.

Michael Simpson has worked throughout the 4CD and has worked at LMC for almost 2 years as the Lead Admissions & Records Assistant. He enjoys collaborating with colleagues across the district by working with his counterparts at the sister colleges, DVC and CCC, to make the residency process seamless for students. Michael illustrated an example when he assisted a student by taking the extra step, *"I recently assisted a student in merging two student records created on accident. Sometimes, students provide conflicting information in CCC Apply, which will result in the creation of two accounts. I strive to merge the accounts within 24 hours to ensure the student is not set back further with registering for classes or delaying their financial aid disbursement."* Michael is a Classified Professional representative on the Strategic Enrollment Committee and enjoys sewing, completing 1000+ jigsaw puzzles, and spending time with his cat named Hitchcock.

Lisa Avery is the Senior Admissions & Records Assistant and has worked at LMC since 2018, having started at the DVC- San Ramon campus in 2017. Lisa enjoys working with her colleagues and loves it when she is able to help students. She shares, *"Whether I answer only one quick question on the phone or I spend 30 minutes helping someone at the counter who requires additional assistance, it is all the same. That is why I go to work – to assist our students in achieving their goals. It may require guiding a student to fill out the correct form or guiding a student to one of the many wonderful services that LMC offers, such as tutoring or the Marketplace. It warms my heart after helping a student, and they smile and thank me. I can see the genuine gratitude in their face, or I can hear it in their voice. That is what inspires me."* She also participates in the Safety Committee and Classified Senate, specifically on the Elections Committee, and assists with hiring and interview committees. Lisa is devoted to attending church every day, which gives her the strength to meet and overcome life challenges. She also enjoys attending her son's football and track events.



Department Spotlights

Caring Campus is proud to spotlight Admissions & Records- Pittsburg

Connie Konsavage started working in the 4CD at DVC in 2012 and has been at LMC since 2022 as the Senior Admissions & Records Assistant and a School Certifying Official for Veterans Services. Connie enjoys helping students reach for and attain their educational goals. Connie states, *"It warms my heart to see them come in as a new student, unsure about things, and then see them as they grow in confidence and eventually graduate and move forward with their lives."* She also shares a moment when she went out of her way to help students who were siblings from a local high school- *"I worked with a brother & sister, both in high school and trying to register for a course. They were going on vacation, and I worked with them via email and over the phone while they were on vacation in Hawaii since that is when their priority registration occurred. They were successful in getting into their class. Their mother was so appreciative she stopped by the campus to thank me in person."* Connie is also a Classified Professional representative on the Strategic Enrollment Committee and participates in the Local 1 E-board. She enjoys traveling and visiting places near water.



Christa Leach is the newest member of the LMC Admissions & Records department. She started working in the Center for Academic Support as a tutor from 2013-2015 and is now an Admissions & Records Assistant I. Although she is new in her role, Christa makes herself available to assist students, from holding doors open to filling out important forms. Christa says, *"While I am still learning about my job and role, I enjoy being on campus surrounded by diverse groups of people who are actively engaged, learning, motivating, and dedicated to making a difference. I have always wanted to come back and work at LMC, and now here I am."* Once she gets situated in her new role, she plans to participate in LMC campus committees. Helping others is a passion of hers, and she also enjoys tending to her plants, going to concerts, completing art projects, fishing, and anything car-related. Let's welcome Christa to her new role!

The contact information for Admissions & Records is as follows:
admissions@losmedanos.edu (925) 473-7500

Department Spotlights

Caring Campus is proud
to spotlight

Math Department- Pittsburg & Brentwood



Joghinda (Jogi) Gangar is a Math Coordinator and a part-time faculty member in the Brentwood Center since 2013. He likes interacting with students and with his fellow staff. In the Math Lab, Jogi routinely helps students with math problems and occasionally with personal issues. Recently, he helped a student fill out a late add form in order to get in his class. Jogi finds it satisfying to see students learn and develop skills that will enable them to reach their academic and life goals.

Abigail (Abbey) Duldulao started as a temporary employee in the Office of Instruction in 2012. In 2014, she became a permanent employee and she serves as an Administrative Assistant III for both the Math Department and the Math, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) Program. Abbey likes her job working with faculty and students. *"Connecting students to resources is one of my go to efforts. I enjoy conversing with students, finding out their major, and suggesting work opportunities on campus within their fields. I inquire if they are Federal Work Study and encourage them to see if they are qualified and refer them to the Department Chair of their major or Transfer and Career Services for employment."* Abbey described a time when she helped a PTEC student who was enrolled in Cooperative Work Experience Education (CWEE). Abbey trained the student in various day-to-day business procedures and presentations. The student assisted her in making the Diversity in Math Successes poster which is currently displayed on the 2nd floor of the Math building. Abbey participates in several committees such as, LMC's Equal Employment Opportunity, 4CD's APIDA Affinity Group, and 4CD's DEIB. In her spare time, Abbey likes to have fun with her children and grandchildren.

Department Spotlights

Caring Campus is proud
to spotlight

Math Department- Pittsburg & Brentwood



Myles Crain has been employed by Los Medanos College since 2014. With a B.S./M.S. in Mathematics, Myles serves as Pittsburg's Senior Math Lab Coordinator cohering the tutoring experience of LMC math learners across both the Pittsburg and Brentwood campuses. The Pittsburg Math Lab is located on the first floor of the math building, specifically rooms MA1-102 through MA1-115 and the Brentwood Math Lab is located in room 410.

Myles states that what he likes most about his job is the students. *"Every moment here is dedicated to generative help. Students achieve comfort and confidence where there was fearful self-doubt. Interacting with students who have hated math their entire lives, but come in day after day saying 'I like to be here; I've never seen things this way', you can't beat witnessing that kind of help."*

Myles is currently a committee member of the Steering Committee for the Facilities Master Plan and has previously served on various other committees. Myles claims he is "an old-school, sci-fi, and fantasy nerd." He enjoys video games as well as playing guitar and riding his bikes.

Caring Campus wishes to thank Myles for his dedication and compassion towards our LMC students. Myles can be reached at mathlab@losmedanos.edu (925) 473-7662.

Welcome Week Fall 2023

WELCOME

Our Custodians and the Grounds workers had cleaned the campus, and our Facilities Department had set up the outdoor quad for Welcome Week. LMC tents were up and the wayfinding stations were set in place. Wearing their LMC swag and “Ask Me” badges, Andrew Murphy and Bobby Quezon, along with the rest of the LMC employees, welcomed our students back on campus as the Fall 2023 semester started.

LMCAS and Student Life hosted several fun events for our students, such as a Meet and Greet with LMCAS, LMC Clubs, and learning communities. There was also a Mustang Roundup, Wild West Dance, campus tours, and other fun activities for the entire LMC community.

Student Services assisted hundreds of students from completing applications and class registrations, making appointments and setting up accommodations, handing out school supplies to walking students to their classrooms.

Welcoming students and making them feel connected to LMC is important, because it can improve students’ success. Welcome Week is 1 of the 5 Caring Campus Behavioral Commitments.



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 2
- 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!"

Aaron Nakaji
Ali Haddadi
Andrew Murphy
Bobby Quezon
Brittany Hendrix
Cesar Reyes
Courtney Diputado
Danielle Jorgensen
Edgardo Salas
Geneva Toliver
Ivan Urritia
Lindsay Litowitz
Lisa Avery
Melissa Inzunza
Mike Mobley
Ninnette Alfaro
Owen Casebeer
Pierce Young
Sylvia Benzler
Tatiana Pak



Authors & Editors:

Irene Sukhu
Linda Jackson
Lawrence Punsalang

