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Welcome to our Spring 2019
issue of
Instep with Student Success

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information regarding:

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If you would like to receive
more information please email
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New Faces In DSPS

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Lawrence Punsalang, new DSP&S Program Assistant at Brentwood, began his new role in November, 2018. Lawrence graduated from Los Medanos College with an AA in Liberal Arts in 2004 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Health Science from CSU East Bay in 2011. Lawrence began his career with LMC as a student worker and has held hourly positions in student service and support programs including Career & Transfer Center, Counseling, EOP&S, Learning Resource Center and the Bookstore. After Lawrence earned his Bachelor's Degree in Health Science, he worked as an Assistant Program Manager at a non-profit agency for disabled adults. In 2015, he was hired as a DSPS Program Assistant at CCC where he was able to apply his skills in higher education while working with students with disabilities. In 2016, later he transferred to DVC DSS. Now he brings his expertise in supporting students with disabilities back to LMC. Lawrence is the first full-time staff member for DSP&S at the Brentwood Center.



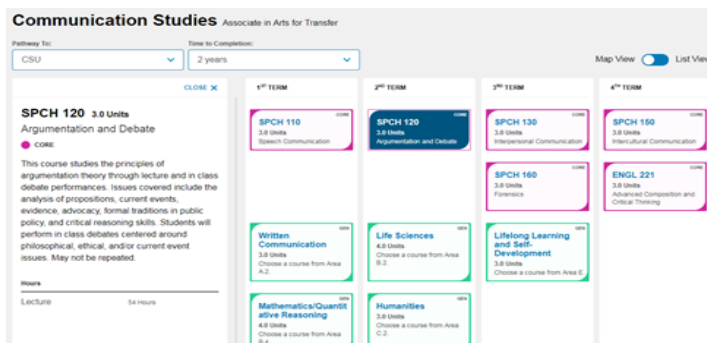
Frankie Chavez, new DSP&S Alternative Media Specialist. Frankie Chavez was recently selected as our new Alternative Media Specialist after an exhaustive recruitment. Frankie has served as a student employee and an hourly employee in DSP&S providing students with assistive technology training, audio versions of texts, enlarged print materials, and equipment loans for technology to students with disabilities. Previously, Frankie also served as a student ambassador with the Information Center. Frankie graduated with his Associate Degrees in Liberal Arts: Math & Science and Liberal Arts: Arts & Humanities from Los Medanos College in 2018 and is continuing his educational journey at CSU East Bay working towards a Bachelor's Degree in Health Sciences. Frankie brings his enthusiasm and passionate support of students with disabilities and commitment to student success to DSP&S in his new role beginning in April 2019. Please welcome Frankie to our DSP&S team!

DSPS Updates

DSP&S has also recently partnered with our FT3 program and the campus Dean's list awards to accommodate students with disabilities. DSP&S eligible students who receive a unit waiver accommodations can now sign up for FT3 and earn Dean's list honors. DSP&S will be hosting our second Access star awards and student success shout out celebration on April 30. Students are nominating instructors and campus staff as Access Stars assisting their progress towards educational goals and support of students with disabilities. We're also having students report their individual successes such as completing a difficult class, earning their degree, getting through the first year of college, or other educational successes. This year we're having separate ceremonies to celebrate the contributions from the LMC campus and celebrating our student's successes.

The Guided Pathways Advisory Committee at Los Medanos College is a group of classified professionals, faculty, managers, and students working to research and implement guided pathways' best practices in a manner that will be student-centered and focus on reducing disproportionate impact. The state chancellor's office Guided Pathways Award Program provided LMC with 5 years of funding for rethinking, updating, and redesigning programs and services into a more cohesive, campus-wide system to help students achieve their educational goals.

This semester, we are creating new, interactive, online program maps for potential students to explore the certificates and degrees offered at LMC. The program maps will be available to anyone visiting the college website. At right is a sample of the Communication Studies AA-T major map for CSU.



Detailed course descriptions are available when you click on an individual course. Two and three year maps and transfer options for CSU, IGETC, and local universities will be included. Department chairs are helping us to update the course maps with the most recent course descriptions and program information.



The program webpages will also include program learning outcomes, salary and career information, and there is space for a video about each program. We hope to develop program videos next year. **At left is a sample of the Communication Studies page.** The LMC Guided Pathways team is part of a 10 college pilot working with the Chancellor's Office to develop these new program maps.

We are creating research subcommittees associated with the four pillars of Guided Pathways. Each committee will have a tri-chair structure

of three leads representing classified professionals, faculty and managers. Committee members will be a balance of classified professionals, faculty, managers and student representatives.

Pathways subcommittees will research best practices, and models currently in practice at colleges in CA and around the country. We are recruiting applications for the Enter the Path: Onboarding and Stay on the Path: Student Support chairs. TLC (Teaching and Learning Committee) will be the subcommittee for Ensure Learning, and our team working on the program maps will be the subcommittee for Clarify the Path.

Pathways Activities: Last October we held a focus group with current LMC students, and we are planning additional focus groups with incoming LMC students in dual-enrollment **counseling** courses at our local high schools. We held a retreat in March with guest speakers Luis Chavez from Career Ladders Project and Bruce Clemetsen, DVC Interim Vice President of Student Services, who recently retired from Linn-Benton Community College in Oregon which successfully implemented pathways. We are planning additional presentations on future Fridays at LMC, with opportunities to provide feedback on the year 2 action plan.

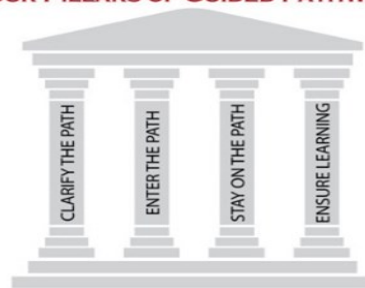
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FOUR PILLARS OF GUIDED PATHWAYS



Student Learning Outcomes: Extended Opportunities & Services

Introduction: Extended Opportunity Programs & Services (EOPS) is a state-funded, student support service program established to promote the enrollment, retention, persistence, and success (i.e., transfer, degrees, certificates) of students from lower-income, underrepresented backgrounds in higher education by offering services that are *above, beyond, and in addition* to services available to all Los Medanos College students.

Overview: Each Fall and Spring semester EOPS students are required to sign a Mutual Responsibility Contract (MRC) in order to participate in the program. In Spring 2017 the MRC required students to meet with their instructor during office hours to have their Academic Progress Report (APR) completed. This provided an opportunity to meet a contractual obligation and improve student instructor relationships.

Student Services Theme: Students will demonstrate proficiency in self-advocacy. Demonstrate proficiency in using a range of college support services in the achievement of academic goals.

EOPS Learning Outcome (SLO) Assessed: Students that meet with their instructors during office hours to have their Academic Progress Report (APR) completed will establish student-instructor relationships that promote intellectual development.

What we did: During orientation students were provided a paper Academic Progress Report (APR) along with

deadline for submission. Students were advised to provide their instructors with sufficient notification to allow enough time to conduct each meeting. As students submitted their completed APR's all that received a D, F, or concern from an instructor were scheduled to meet with a counselor or staff member. All students that submitted an APR were also asked to complete a Spring 2017 survey to measure the effectiveness of student-instructor meetings.

What we learned? In Spring 2017 80% (425/529) students submitted an APR. 84% of those that submitted an APR also completed a survey. The survey was designed to not only capture data for the EOPS department, but also to allow students to discover the importance of connecting with their instructors. According to the survey a majority (76%) of students indicated that meeting with their instructor to have the APR completed helped to establish a student-instructor relationship. 69% of the students indicated that if it were not for the APR requirement, they would not have initiated a meeting with their instructor. 71% indicated that meeting with their instructor had a positive impact on the success of one or more courses. Students listed the following obstacles about the APR process: Working long hours, finding childcare, and/or no transportation made it difficult to meet with instructors during their office hours.

*Adjunct instructor office hour availability.

*"No grade yet" comment on APR's.

*Challenges with having an APR completed if taking an online class.

Overall, the requirement to have students meet with their instructors proved to be a positive experience for the students. This will hopefully lead to students taking the initiative to connect with their instructors at LMC and for those that transfer, at their 4-year university.

Next Steps: During Fall 2017 we began using LMC Connect in place of paper APRs. LMC Connect (powered by Starfish) is an "early alert" technology and communication tool that will help the LMC community identify students who need additional support in real time and connect students with critical resources. Faculty and staff are able to raise concerns (flags) and send positive reinforcement (kudos) related to students' performance that will activate the LMC Connect support network.

Students are still reminded on a continuous basis to not only meet with their instructors, but to maintain contact throughout the semester. They have also been informed that their instructors will provide feed-back via LMC Connect.

If you would like more information about LMC Connect and how you support our students' academic progress, please click the link below:

<https://www.losmedanos.edu/lmcconnect/>

To learn more about EOPS, please click the link below:

<https://www.losmedanos.edu/student-services/eops/>

BRAVO Scholars Program

In Fall 2018, the BRAVO Scholars Program was established at LMC with the goal to provide a sustainable network of academic and personal support services that promote degree attainment for current and former foster youth. With a little over 50 Chafee Grant verified foster youth, the program launched with 34 students enrolled and has since increased its enrollment to 38 in the spring.

BRAVO helps students navigate the many challenges related to attending and completing college. From a one on one intake appointment between the student and the coordinator, where students address their needs and concerns, develop a success plan and get oriented with the campus to distributing school supplies, including but not limited to a backpack, calculator and a memory flash drive; this program provides holistic advising and motivation for students to be successful.

While BRAVO is a program for students currently enrolled at LMC, we are striving to engage students as early as possible. At the start of this semester, we collaborated with Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE) to take high school students on a tour of 3 college campuses, including LMC, CSU East Bay and UC Berkeley. In addition to exposing students to more than what the classroom has to offer, we presented differ-

ent transfer options and introduced students to programs at other colleges that are similar to BRAVO.

Spring has been just as active as the fall semester was. BRAVO has hosted a Spring Orientation, two workshops specifically for our foster youth about Self-Love and scholarship essay writing and we have so much more to come.

On May 31st, CCCOE will be hosting the 1st Foster & Homeless Youth Symposium where students will be able to network, gain transferrable skills and voice their opinions and needs in a forum designed for them to be heard. BRAVO will also celebrate our students on Friday May 3rd with the end of the year celebration and the BLUE-OUT. In support of National Foster Youth Month, we are asking the LMC community to wear any light blue to show their support and raise awareness of foster youth success. Wearing light blue also issues a national call-to-action that motivates, inspires and facilitates many more Americans to come forward and help change a lifetime for a young person in foster care; and develop a positive framework for maintaining visibility and interest in the

foster care issue to support the year-round efforts of the BRAVO Scholars program, other partnering foster care organizations and child welfare agencies.

Many of our events are in collaboration with several community-based organizations that we partner with to reach out to students early and create smooth transitions. One organization we have worked with is Opportunity Junction. Opportunity Junction has a program called Road Map to College, where they offer youth career counseling, college counseling and financial assistance to students enrolled at LMC. They have just begun recruiting students for Fall 2019. Please forward any interested students to their new website: www.collegeroadmap.org In addition to the programmatic events, students had an opportunity to receive a refurbished laptop and a hotspot sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges at no charge to them.

While BRAVO is not an acronym for anything we are always encouraging and applauding the success of our students and we look forward to seeing the growth of the program in years to come.

For more information please contact
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New Math Course Numbers

Have you heard? The math department has recently changed the math course sequencing numbers!

What does this mean for students?

- The content in these courses is still the same content for students major and transfer path.
- Whether a student takes the course with the old or new number, the course will still give them the credit they need to complete their degree or transfer.
- If a student took a course with the old number, they **DO NOT** have to take the course again with the new number.

NEW MATH COURSE NUMBERS

>>> **Math course numbers that have changed** <<<

Course Name	Old Course Number	New Course Number
Math Skills for Success in Statistics	Math-028	Math-110S
Introduction to Statistics	Math-034	Math-110
Intermediate Algebra for Applied Calculus	New Course	Math-140S
Applied Calculus	Math-037	Math-140
Intermediate Algebra for Precalculus	New Course	Math-155S
Precalculus	Math-040	Math-155
Calculus and Analytic Geometry I	Math-050	Math-210
Calculus and Analytic Geometry II	Math-060	Math-220
Calculus and Analytic Geometry III	Math-070	Math-230
Differential Equations	Math-080	Math-240
Linear Algebra	Math-075	Math-250

For questions regarding the new changes or degree and transfer requirements, please refer students to the Counseling Department or visit www.losmedanos.edu/Math