

NEWSLETTER



Destigmatize * Educate * Empower

Summer 2026

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IN THIS ISSUE

Celebrations! We are celebrating not only our students' academic achievements, but also their personal ones!

WE CELEBRATE OUR STUDENTS!

Our students have worked hard and we are so proud of them!

This edition is all about our amazing students!!



Meet Ethan Salazar

I am leaving GCC with A.A Liberal Arts with Math/Science Emphasis, A.S in Civil Engineering, A.S in Mechanical Engineering transferring to California State University, Northridge (CSUN).

At GCC, I was awarded and earned:

- * Elsie Bishop Student of the Year
- * ASGCC Student of Distinction (Top 10 Finalist),
- * Kiwanis Club Scholarship
- * Glendale Latino Association Scholarship and
- * GCC Latino Math Success Scholarship!

My advice for everyone: Never let anyone minimize your dreams, fill you with doubts, or tell you your worth. Always aim high! Don't ever hesitate to try new things or take on a new opportunity. Always be curious wherever you go. I always thought of community college as a place with a lack of social life or opportunities. But the truth is, I found

more opportunity and inspiration here than if I were to go to a four year right away. You will find your people when you join and embrace community.

Best wishes to all!

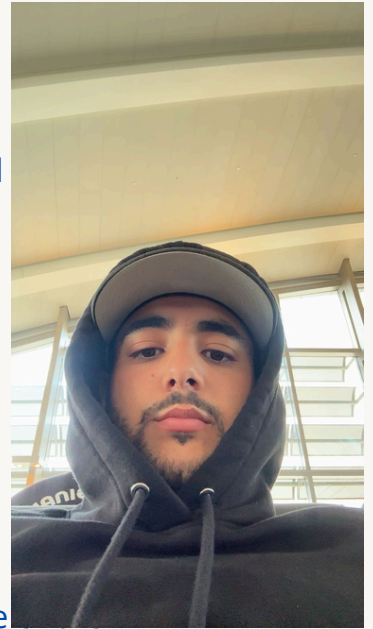
STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

Meet Ronnie Elyasi, DSPS Tram Driver

I earned an Associate in Arts for Transfer Political Science, Associate of Arts Social Science, and Associate of Arts Liberal Arts: Social and Behavioral Sciences Emphasis. I'll be transferring to California State University Long Beach (CSULB) and plan to eventually attend law school.

Coming to GCC as an international student from Sweden was not easy. Everything was new to me, from the system to the language to how everything else worked. There were times where I felt overwhelmed and lonely. However, through time I learned that growth comes from discomfort. I learned to ask for help and to push myself forward.

If I had to give advice to other students coming to the GCC, I would tell them not to let the difficult times get to you and make you doubt yourself in your studies. Everyone is figuring it out at their own rate. Take advantage opportunities and the people you can meet here. One day you will look back and see how far you have traveled from where you started.



Meet Janet Ralston

One of my favorite GCC memories is realizing that the smallest moments, a quick chat before class, a professor and a counselor who believe in you, the classmates you meet, a study session where everything suddenly clicks, stumbling into a class you took "just to get the credit," and realizing you have fallen in love with the subject. Let yourself be surprised; the course that changes you is often the one you never saw coming. These are the moments that end up shaping you the most.

My advice: don't rush through this place. Take advantage of all the support around you, ask questions, and let yourself grow. You're capable of so much more than you think, and GCC is a great place to discover that." Most of all, believe in yourself, never give up, keep going, and if you fall, get back up when you're ready, and just keep going!

I have earned an:

- Associate of Arts for Transfer English
- Associate of Arts in English
- Associate of Arts in Creative Writing
- Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts and Humanities
- Associate of Arts Business Administration
- Associate of Science Real Estate Broker
- Associate of Arts and Science Photography
- Associate of Science Digital Photography

Acceptances:

UC Berkeley

UC Irvine

UC Santa Barbara

UCLA (waitlisted)

CELEBRATIONS!!



DSPS celebrated our students who transferred and those who earned Associates degrees and certificates in



Accounting

Administrative Medical Assistant

Armenian

Art 2D

Business Administration

Child Development

Civil Engineering

Communication Studies

Computer Science

Early Childhood Education

Engineering Technology

CAD & Design Drafting

English

English: Creative Writing

Fire Technology

Graphic Design

Health Science

Healthcare Administration

Information Technology

Liberal Arts

Mathematics

Medical Office Administration

Music

Photography

Political Science

Psychology

Real Estate

Social Science

Social Work & Human Services

Sociology

Spanish

Studio Arts

Theatre Arts

Visual Arts

Welding

and more!



Congratulations Class of 2026!
We are so proud of our Vaqueros!

Our students were accepted to

California State University

East Bay
Fullerton
Long Beach
Los Angeles
Northridge
San Jose
Sonoma



University of California

Berkeley
Davis
Irvine
Los Angeles
Riverside
San Diego
Santa Barbara



Loyola Marymount University
New York University
North Park University, Chicago
University of Southern California
and more!



Natasha Thip was chosen to attend the APIDC Conference!

I heard about a Youth Leadership Institute (YLI) organized by Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California (APIDC) through our DSPS program, and I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of eight from the state for this year's cohort!

We met every week for four weeks over Zoom for a full day's worth of programming with presentations, discussions, and group facilitations to support Asian American and disability-related advocacy efforts. It also included one-to-one check-ins as well as networking opportunities.

One of the greatest highlights of YLI for me was getting to know my fellow cohort, YLI alum, and the board and staff of APIDC. It was a great experience to be able to meet advocates of different majors, professions, and even from different generations. I felt inspired hearing about all their accomplishments and how they got there.

It's been wonderful to still keep in touch with my cohort and APIDC. The cohort currently has plans to meet up soon for a night market outing and we're looking forward to the APIDC Annual Gala this November!

THE PRICE IS RIGHT VETERANS DAY SPECIAL

by Lauren Bosma



I was studying Business Administration at GCC when I found out through the Veterans Club that a casting company was looking for veterans to attend a recording of *The Price Is Right* Veterans Day Special. As a Navy veteran, I thought attending the taping would be a fun experience, but I never expected I would end up as one of the contestants!

There were about 135 people at the production site, and the production team slowly pulled people aside in groups of 10 for interviews. This is how they narrow down who to call up to the stage during the recording while also keeping who they pick a surprise. During my interview, I explained that I was a Navy veteran, my father was an Army veteran, and my grandfather served in the Air Force. The interview moved quickly on the next person, but I believe sharing my family's military background helped me stand out.

After the interviews were completed, we finally entered the studio. The set looked exactly like it does on television: bright, colorful walls, rows of plush seats, and a room buzzing with energy. When Drew Carey entered, the audience roared with applause. He was a very charming host, but I was surprised to hear him swear like a sailor when he missed a line or a technical difficulty occurred on his show. Drew is also a veteran and had the audience constantly laughing with his stories of his time as a Marine during our commercial break segments.

Once everyone was seated, the show began recording. Contestants were called to the stage, bids were placed, wheels were spun, prizes like sports cars and exotic vacations were won. I almost came to terms that my name wouldn't be called. But then, it happened. Near the end of the show, I suddenly heard, "Our next contestant is Lauren Bosma!" I jumped out of my seat, hugged the other veteran from GCC, and ran toward Contestants' Row. On the way down, I high-fived audience members while the crowd cheered. Everything happened so quickly that much of it feels like a blur when I think about it today. I was the ninth contestant out of ten picked. Getting the opportunity to shake Drew Carey's hand was one of the highlights of the entire experience.



Once I reached Contestants' Row, I quickly learned that guessing prices is much harder than it looks from a couch at home. My first bid was on a record player table package that included several vinyl records, including a Dolly Parton album. I guessed \$350. The actual retail price was \$788. I guessed \$1,299 for a pair of Tag Heuer designer watches, but the actual retail price was approximately \$4,100. Unfortunately, my pricing skills were not as good as I thought they were. But Drew didn't let me walk away empty handed. I was gifted a \$300 check for just participating in the show! And I was able to keep my contestant cue card with my name on it as a souvenir.



Even though the actual episode recording lasted only about an hour and a half, the entire process took nearly six hours. After the recording ended, I had one more challenge: keeping the experience a secret. All contestants were required to sign a nondisclosure agreement, meaning I could not tell people what happened until the episode aired. For more than two months, I had to keep quiet about being selected!

Looking back, my favorite part wasn't the prize money I won, but the entire experience itself. As a proud DSPS member and student veteran representing GCC, I am so lucky to be part of programs like these that give me opportunities to participate in things I've never done before. And this one is a memory I will never forget.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) located in SG 128

Dafna, Dani, Diana, Janelle, Jericho, Karmen, Rita, Sevada, Shauna, and Tracey

csd@glendale.edu, 818-240-1000 ext. 5905

Summer office hours: MON to THURS, 8:00AM to 4:30PM and FRI, 8:00AM to 3:00PM

Counselors' days and hours vary.

Accommodations Resource Center (ARC) located in SG 108/112

David, Laura, Maryam, Mauricio, Rogelio, Rozik, and Talin

ARC@glendale.edu, 818-240-1000 ext. 5530 and 5402

Summer office hours: MON to THURS 8:00AM to 4:30PM and FRI, 8:00AM to 3:00PM

Specialists' and tutor's days and hours vary.



Alternate Media

Scott, sziegler@glendale.edu, 818-240-1000 ext. 3366

MON to FRI 8:00AM to 4:30PM

Lead Interpreter and Coordinator for ASL and CC/RTC Services

Kim, kweissman@glendale.edu

MON to FRI 9:00AM to 3:00PM

Adapted Physical Education

Coach Laura Matsumoto: lauram@glendale.edu

Dr. Lee Parks: lparks@glendale.edu



Garfield DSPS

Jesse

Counselor days and hours vary.

Join the DSPS Canvas Shell

Receive official announcements, reminders, and more!

Students registered with DSPS can contact Rogelio

Ramirez at rramirez@glendale.edu to check if they

are on the list or if they wish to join.



Follow our IG

Check it out to learn about workshops, scholarships, employment opportunities, fundraisers, conferences, webinars, deadlines, and more.

Follow us at [dsps_gcc](#).

