



EOP&S CARE

September 2015



EOP&S/CARE 2015 graduates who earned AA/AS Degrees at the EOP&S/CARE Recognition Awards Luncheon held in the LAMC Campus Center. Most of the graduates are transferring to universities. Counselor Jose Luis Ramirez standing on the far left, Dean of Student Services/Director Ludi Villegas-Vidal in the center, and Counselor Linda Marie Avalos-Njie standing second from the right. Photo by Rafael Rodriguez III.

A message from the Director to all EOP&S/CARE Students

Dear EOP&S/CARE Students:

Welcome back to the fall semester at Los Angeles Mission College and the start of an exciting new school year!

I hope you had a productive and restful summer and that you found some quiet time to reflect on your educational and careers goals. The main message of this newsletter is that you are encouraged by the information presented and inspired by it to aim high academically!

The start of the new semester is a busy and stressful time as you get to know your class schedule, meet your professors and classmates, and realize what is expected of you. There will be challenges and obstacles as you proceed into the semester, but with proper planning, positive motivation, staying calm, and keeping your objectives on target, you will move forward and excel.

Whether you are a new or returning student, please keep in mind the following important information for your success with the EOP&S/CARE Program as you embark on the new semester:

- You may make counseling appointments for any reason.
- Book vouchers will be available next semester after you have attended three counseling appointments this semester.
- Tutoring is available.

Please remember that we are here to assist you at the EOP&S/CARE Department.

Best wishes in your studies as you begin your journey this year!

Sincerely,

Ludi Villegas-Vidal

EOP&S/CARE Director

EOP&S/CARE Website
www.lamission.edu/eops/

Telephone - 818.364.7645



LAMC Valedictorian Socorro Elizondo Class of 2015

Our heartfelt and warmest congratulations to EOP&S/CARE student Socorro Elizondo for her academic achievement as the Valedictorian for the Class of 2015!

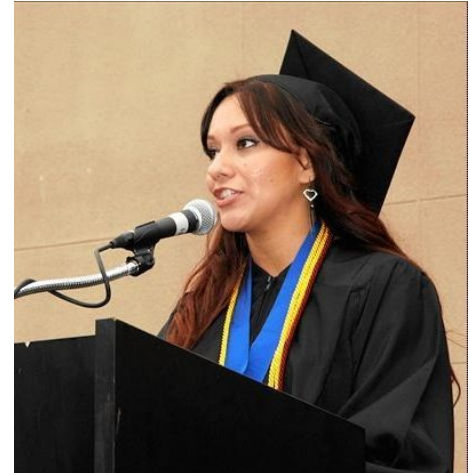
This is the second consecutive year at the LAMC annual commencement ceremony where a valedictorian has emerged from the EOP&S/CARE Program.

As the valedictorian, Ms. Elizondo delivered the Student Address at the Los Angeles Mission College 40th Annual Commencement Ceremony. In a highly charged and passionate speech that was well received by the audience, Ms. Elizondo spoke about her challenges as a student, which included her becoming a new mother and just in time for her to complete her final exams for the spring semester. She also spoke about her deep appreciation for her family and her professors. She gratefully acknowledged her counselors from EOP&S/CARE. At the podium, and in front of an audience of about 2,000 people, Ms. Elizondo became teary-eyed with great emotion in her voice, as she above all, thanked her mother for her love and enduring support.

Ms. Elizondo was seated on stage with the following distinguished guests: Congressman Tony Cardenas, LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, and LACCD Board of Trustee Member Mona Field.

To read more about commencement and to view the video slideshow, please visit this link and look for the News & Events article *LAMC 40th Annual Commencement*:

www.lamission.edu/news/default.aspx#202



Socorro Elizondo
Photo by Gradimages.com

Ms. Elizondo was bestowed the privilege of leading one side of the graduates to the stage. This was one of the most exciting parts of commencement where the graduate names were announced and where the graduates walked across the stage to receive congratulations and have photos taken with the president of Los Angeles Mission College, Dr. Monte Perez.

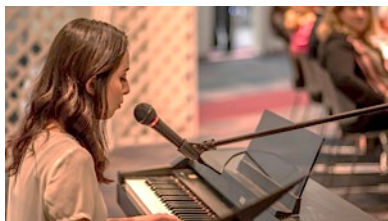
In addition to earning the honor of Valedictorian, Ms. Elizondo's prestigious academic achievements included the Chancellor's Distinguished Honor Award and the Summa Cum Laude Award (highest honors) that will be imprinted on her Associates of Arts Degree. Prior to commencement, the EOP&S/CARE Program gave another academic honor to Ms. Elizondo. She was awarded the top scholarship of \$3,000 that will assist her this fall as she continues her education at CSUN where she will major in accountancy.



LAMC 40th Annual Commencement Ceremony
Valedictorian Socorro Elizondo exiting the stage with Congressman Tony Cardenas (Keynote Speaker) on June 9, 2015. Photo by Gradimages.com



EOP&S/CARE Recognition Awards Luncheon



LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez

At the EOP&S/CARE Recognition Awards Luncheon that was held on May 21, 2015, we were greatly honored and inspired to have LACCD Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez as our keynote speaker. Dr. Rodriguez congratulated and praised the graduates for their outstanding academic achievements and asked them to stand and be recognized. This was a defining moment for the graduates when they arose and received warm applause from family and friends, faculty, staff, and guests.

We were also pleased to have Viken Kazarian, LAMC Alumnus, who spoke to the students about the support he received as a former EOP&S student at Mission College. It was especially touching when Mr. Kazarian, who is a pre-school principal, lovingly acknowledged his sister, Osanna, for her wisdom, love, and support.



LAMC Outstanding Alumnus Viken Kazarian

Everyone enjoyed the refreshments provided by the Culinary Arts Program. The food was served on fine china and striking flower arrangements adorned the tables. The audience enjoyed the musical group, Yslas, and seeing the performance of the elegant flamenco dancer in her ornamental dress. LAMC Student Abby Perez mesmerized the audience with her riveting performance of Adele's *Rolling in the Deep*.

During the ceremonial part of the luncheon, each graduate's name was announced and blue ribbon medallions and certificates were presented. A total of \$24,500 in scholarships was awarded to the students who earned high cumulative grade point averages and obtained their AA/AS Degrees and transfer status. The graduates were thrilled to receive the scholarships:

- \$3,000 to Socorro Elizondo
- \$2,000 each to Jasmine Gosen and Shiva Shafagh.
- \$500 scholarships each awarded to 35 students.

Congratulations to the graduates!



Shiva Shafagh presented certificate by Field Representative Ricardo Benitez on behalf of Assembly Member Patty Lopez, 39th District with the California State Assembly. Ms. Shafagh is a transfer student to CSUN.



EOP&S/CARE High Graduate and Transfer Rate

- The EOP&S/CARE 2015 graduation data indicated that 96 graduates were assisted of whom 76 are eligible to transfer to universities and four-year colleges.
- Universities that our students were accepted to include Stanford, UCLA, CSUN, Cal Poly Pomona, CSULA, UCSB, and CSULB.
- The EOP&S/CARE graduates represent a high number of our transfer students at Mission College.

It is our fondest desire that the students who have graduated and or transferred through our program have bright futures. We are pleased to have had them as part of our EOP&S/CARE family and look forward in the years to come when they contact us with their academic and career achievements.

Featured on this page, we are proud to showcase some of our graduate/transfer students at the EOP&S/CARE Recognition Awards Luncheon that was held on May 15, 2015 in the Campus Center.



Jasmine Gosen received congratulations. Ms. Gosen is a transfer student to UCLA and pre-neurology medicine major.



La Sharae D. Williams, transfer student to San Jose State University and health administration major

The 2015 EOP&S/CARE Recognition Awards Luncheon video will be posted to the college website soon. The 2014 Luncheon was held in the Starview Room at the Sheraton Universal Hotel. To read about the 2014 event, please visit the following web address where you can also view the video, which includes graduates and counselors speaking about the program:

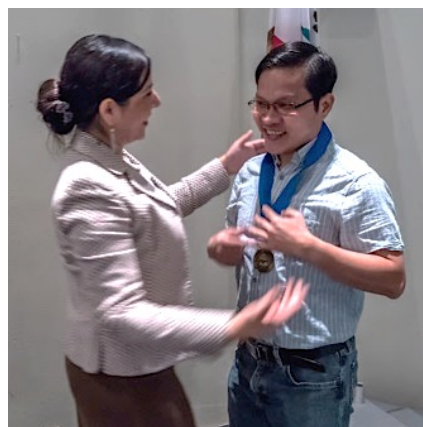
www.lamission.edu/eops/events.aspx



Paula A. De Flores, transfer student to CSUN and business administration major



Juan Carlos Banda, transfer student to U.C. Santa Barbara and business administration major



Dung L. Kim received his EOP&S/CARE Blue Ribbon Medallion. He is a transfer student to Cal Poly Pomona and mechanical engineering major.



Mireyda Munguia Mazon, transfer student to Cal Poly Pomona and pre-medicine major



Formula for Student Success

Make your study time serious business.

1

Claim your study space and lose the distractions... Find a quiet place away from friends, cell phone, TV, music, video games, and other distractions.

2

Create and maintain a regular study schedule. Consistent study times will reduce your stress and increase your academic success.

3

Study smart: Complete your reading and other class assignments ahead of time. Mark your calendar with assignment due dates and plan your time wisely to complete your work.

4

Make sleep your constant companion. Don't cram. Research shows that adequate sleep is important for learning and memory.

Our appreciation to the following volunteers for making this newsletter possible:

Deborah K. Manning for writing and producing the newsletter.

Rafael Rodriguez III for photography unless otherwise noted.



Student Worker Marcelo Rodriguez and Director Ludi Villegas-Vidal manning the EOP&S/CARE table at the 2015 Fall Kick Off. Photo by Lorena Aguilar.

Dedication to EOP&S/CARE Students

For each of our student's educational paths, we help prepare them with a solid foundation and the proper tools to progress and thrive for the next step in their lives. The EOP&S/CARE program assists students with counseling, tutoring, school supplies, books, workshops, and childcare. Above all, we are devoted to assisting each and every student to succeed in our program.

The EOP&S/CARE Director Ludi Villegas-Vidal and Counselors Jose Luis Ramirez and Linda Marie Avalos-Njie are committed to giving students the support and encouragement that is essential for student success and excellence in academics. In addition, the following EOP&S/CARE office personnel are dedicated to providing outstanding customer service: Senior Office Assistant Adriana Zakher, Instructional Assistant/Information Technology Jesus Ranon, Career Guidance Counselor Assistant Jacqueline Espinosa, Tutors Helin Pourmanafy, Mireyda Munguia Mazon, and Eva Navarro, and Student Workers Rebecca Numa, Carolin Alexander, Jesus Salas, Marco Araujo, Johana Melgar, and Marcelo Rodriguez.

Our thanks and appreciation to the EOP&S/CARE Advisory Board Committee Members for their commitment and support of the program:

- Linda Marie Avalos-Njie, EOP&S/CARE Academic Counselor
- Ricardo Benitez, Field Representative for Assembly Member Patty Lopez-District 39
- Maria Cano, Community Member
- Patty Cruz, College Representative Vaughn International Studies Academy
- Raj Dhillion, District Representative Senator Robert Hertzberg-District 18
- Michael Green, Business Sector/Financial Advisor
- Jacqueline Espinoza, EOP&S/CARE Career Guidance Counselor Assistant (CGCA)
- Ramon Muniz, Coordinator, EOP Admissions & Partnership Program at CSUN
- Rosemary Muniz, Admissions Evaluator CSU, Northridge
- Helin Pourmanafy, LAMC EOP&S Student
- Fidel Ramirez, Non-Profit Youth Policy Institute Director of Youth Services
- Jose Luis Ramirez, EOP&S/CARE Administrator Assistant Director/ Counselor
- Edward Raskin, LAMC Faculty Member
- Jesus Ranon, EOP&S/CARE, Instructional Assistant, Information Technology
- Ludi Villegas-Vidal, EOP&S/CARE Administrator Dean of Student Services/ Director
- Adriana Zakher, EOP&S/CARE, Senior Office Assistant