

GLENDALE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

ALUMNI NEWS

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Glendale College Foundation **STEPS UP FOR STUDENTS**

Stable. Charitable. Adaptable. Founded in 1983, Glendale College Foundation has a strong history of adapting to changes within the community and world with support of charitable community members and alumni.



alumni
association

Glendale Community College STAYS CONNECTED AND ACTIVE

Using her passion for fitness training and her commitment to Glendale Community College, Erin Calderone, assistant professor of kinesiology, creates opportunities for students, faculty and staff to remain engaged and physically active during a time of uncertainty and social distancing.

As co-coordinator of the Glendale Community College employee wellness program, Erin supports health and wellness by moving in-person fitness workshops to live and pre-recorded Zoom sessions, also made available to alumni and the public.

"It is a privilege to teach such an energized bunch of diverse students - I really feel like I'm a part of something special when I go to work," said Erin. Working to bring engaging kinesiology courses to students remotely, Erin records videos, designs written workouts, and creates live, interactive exercise demonstrations via Zoom in lieu of hands-on learning. Her students, ranging in age from teens to over 60 of all different backgrounds and fitness experiences have one commonality; the goal to help others improve their health and fitness.

Reflecting on her time at GCC and temporary time away from campus, Erin stresses the importance of connecting with others and remaining hopeful during this time of isolation. "As I have gotten to know GCC over the years, I have realized just how lucky I am to be a part of the family," Erin states. "I miss being on campus and hearing about all of the wonderful things staff and faculty are doing both on campus and in the community. My colleagues are some of my best friends; their passion for their craft and their students is inspir-

ing and the heart of GCC will always be about helping our students discover who they are and how much potential they truly have."

"As I have gotten to know GCC over the years, I have realized just how lucky I am to be a part of the family,"



Erin Calderone
Assistant Professor of Kinesiology

Glendale College Foundation

STEPS UP FOR STUDENTS

At Glendale Community College, the campus is empty and all is quiet, but Glendale College Foundation's primary goal remains the same - focus on GCC students and assist them in being successful.

The Foundation is close to their \$100,000 goal to raise funds to provide emergency support to GCC students, much of which came directly from GCC Alumni. "Glendale College Foundation initiated the GCC Student Emergency Fund to ensure our students have the ability to cover necessities and be successful as they transition from campus to remote online instruction," said Kris Hons, president of the foundation. Donations go directly to students facing urgent basic needs in the form of gift cards for food and emergency grants to help pay for rent, utilities, internet, health insurance, etc.

"I feel very fortunate that the foundation has been able to raise the amount of money we have in a short amount of time to assist the students who really need it," said Hons. "We, as a foundation, are extremely lucky to have a large group of very loyal donors who trust what we do and allow us to help the students when we are in a time like this and after we get out of this."

The foundation board is confident that our generous and loyal donors will continue to keep our mission strong over the decades to come, as evidenced by the amount of donations already received through the GCC emergency fund. With key fundraising activities cancelled, "including moving our golf tournament to a stay-at-home

event and cancellation of our President's Circle celebration in May, the need for donations is stronger now than ever before. The foundation, through its many donors, is ready to assist students and GCC professors today and during the transition back to life on campus. Thank you to all who stepped up and continue to step up for our students.



Kris Hons
 President, Glendale College Foundation

Building Heroes and Leaders

STUDENT FEATURES

ELISE DULAY

With no real separation between home, work, and school life, first year Glendale Community College student Elise Dulay finds she's busier than ever since the stay-at-home order began, and her biggest challenge is taking a break. With no commute, Elise adds two hours back into her day to accomplish her growing to-do list, which includes advocating for inclusion and representation at GCC. Her hard work and dedication are paying off; scheduling those extra meetings and putting in the additional hours has led to the planning of successful Associated Students of Glendale Community College events even during these challenging times.

Setting boundaries and staying connected to others has been critical to Elise's success during this



Elise Dulay

"I try my best to engage in the conversation. Not only does it help keep me focused, but it also mimics the feeling of being in a real classroom."

time of transition. "I've attempted to rearrange my room to create a space where I can focus to help shake off the feeling of working from home," said Elise. "I also try to participate in class. Whether it is through a chat or on video, I try my best to engage in the conversation. Not only does it help

keep me focused, but it also mimics the feeling of being in a real classroom."

When she does take some downtime, Elise spends it playing board games with her family or walks to the nearby park for a game of lacrosse. "I am privileged to be able to look at this situation and see opportunities instead of challenges. A lot of students are struggling during this time and they cannot focus on the future of the college, or even the end goal of their education. Instead, they are forced to focus on their lack of basic needs- basic needs that I too often take for granted."

RICHARD CANO

Richard Cano completed the nursing program at Glendale Community College in December 2018. Working as a critical care nurse in the ICU/CCU department at University of Southern California, Richard is always ready for new challenges. "I chose this career because I wanted to help others. I was born premature and while in the NICU my mother always talked about how the nurses helped my family during that hard and scary time. The NICU nurses were there day and night, making sure I was getting the best care possible," said Richard.

During his time at GCC, Richard valued the comfort in knowing he was never alone and always supported by a team of healthcare professionals. "I developed a ton of skills while at GCC. The nursing program set me up to be comfortable as a new nurse going out in the world. The skills I learned at GCC allowed me to develop competence in providing safe and outstanding care. The staff and faculty went above and beyond to ensure my success and transition into a full-fledged nurse."

**"I developed a ton of skills while at GCC.
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 goin out in the world."**

Although he is at the beginning of his nursing career, Richard is on the frontlines learning and developing his skills everyday during the COVID-19 pandemic, taking care of patients when they need it most. "Nursing is a great career with plenty of opportunities to offer care for people during a scary and dark time in their lives, and that

in itself is a reward. When you see a patient who is sick, and they recover and are discharged, this brings about a great sense of fulfillment, knowing that you assisted in their recovery." He is taking his studies further and is currently enrolled in an online Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at California State University San Marcos, where he has the flexibility to work full-time while completing his education to reach his personal and educational goals faster.



Richard Cano

ANGELU LESACA

Angelu Lesaca, Environmental Science and Music major at GCC has been adjusting, as her routine and normalcy have changed, seemingly overnight. "I aspire to use this time to become better in my respective fields, and as a student active in addressing environmental issues, which is why

"I'm thankful to be active not only in academics but also in enriching other GCC students' experiences as part of ASGCC, through virtual events and other engaging discussion on other social platforms."

I chose to attend GCC, created a sustainability club, and am a Senator in ASGCC."

Though Angelu is making good use of her new-found free time, reading all of the books she's

accumulated, listening to music from the classical era up to Talking Heads, and playing various musical instruments, she finds herself struggling in academics. Taking lab courses remotely through video instruction versus hands on learning is a challenge. "I am not fully engaged and can only muster little amounts of attention when listening to lectures, though Zoom meetings have eased this transition greatly. Our own internal drive to succeed is more conspicuous than ever."

Persevering through the challenges of remote learning, Angelu recognizes that being a part of a community, both educational and personal, is more important now than ever. "I adore the stronger connections I share with my dear friends in class. I'm thankful to be active not only in academics but also in enriching other GCC students' experiences as part of ASGCC, through virtual events and other engaging discussion on other social platforms."



Angelu Lesaca

MICHAEL BARCENA

A family history of diabetes drove Michael Barcena to work toward a career in nursing. "Half my family is diabetic, my aunts and uncles are type 2 and a handful of my cousins are type 1. Growing up I thought diabetes was a part of life and everyone was going to get it including myself. I became a nurse because I wanted to understand why my family would get sick and why they needed to be in the hospital," said Michael.

Michael attended Glendale Community College, completing the LVN to RN program in 2018. After his time at GCC, Michael transferred to Chamberlain College of Nursing and Public Health where he is currently completing his final few semesters.

"My career has led me to meet so many wonderful patients and nurses that have impacted my growth as a person."

When deciding where to pursue his education, GCC was one of many schools Michael applied to. However, GCC stood out as there was no waitlist, and he was able to find out his admission status in a reasonable amount of time, helping him work toward completing his degree faster.

While completing his degree, Michael works as a Registered Nurse at Los Angeles County + University of Southern California Medical Center in the Department of Emergency Medicine. Prior, Michael worked as an LVN in home health, pri-

vate care, clinics, and convalescent homes. "My career has led me to meet so many wonderful patients and nurses that have impacted my growth as a person. A decade after starting a career in nursing I am where I have always wanted to be, in the emergency room as an RN. I feel my career is just getting started, I have so much to learn which is what I love about this career, there is always something to learn."



Michael Barcena

NEW ATHLETIC FACILITIES

Glendale Community College has quite a reputation and legacy in athletics.

Glendale Community College has quite a reputation and legacy in athletics. Adding to this legacy, GCC is renovating the Verdugo Gym into a state of the art athletic facility, complimenting the rest of the beautiful and growing campus and adding to the GCC experience, not only for over 300 student athletes, but the entire student body, faculty, staff, parents and community. Updates to the facility include new athletic offices, auxiliary gym, activity classroom, large lecture hall, men and women locker rooms, athletic training facility, weight room, and seismic upgrade to the interior of the existing gym.

Always taking a student-centered approach, Vaquero Athletics and this facility are all about student athlete development and experience. Since

the 1970s, Jim Sartoris, former GCC Head Football Coach and Athletic Director, and current commissioner of the Southern California Football Association and member of the GCC Foundation, has created the philosophy of developing student athletes academically, socially and athletically, which has been the foundation of success as Coaches and staff recruit and develop GCC athletes. The phrase "Once a VAQ, Always a VAQ" is constantly and consistently delivered with pride by our current and former students in passing and on social media due to their daily interactions with GCC Coaches, faculty, counselors and athletic support staff. Upgrading athletic facilities will allow future student athletes to not only be part of a rich tradition of success in competition and in the classroom, but give them a collegiate



experience in a state of the art facility to learn, socialize, train and compete.

“My father, John Cicuto, retired from GCC two years ago after 43 years of dedication as an Assistant Football Coach under Jim Sartoris, a Head Football Coach and Athletic Director,” said Chris Cicuto, Associate Dean of Athletics. “From a personal level, I have been on this campus my entire life, so I’m a little biased when I say GCC is the best



Chris Cicuto
Associate Dean of Athletics

community college in the state. When recruiting, I would hear my father tell prospects: ‘What we lack in facilities, we make up for with a personal commitment to our students.’ Add the renovations and upgrades of Verdugo Gym to Sartoris’ pillars and Cicuto’s philosophies, I could not see why any high school college athlete would not want to attend Glendale Community College to be a Vaquero.”

In light of current events, the timing of a grand opening is unknown. The opening date, originally scheduled for late spring or early summer 2021,

may be expedited since there are no students currently on campus. “We look forward to showing off the beautiful new facility to our wonderful alumni, community and future Vaqueros. We are so grateful that the Board of Trustees, Dr. Viar, and our vice presidents see tremendous value in athletics and the Vaquero experience by supporting this project. Most importantly, without the support of our community by approving Measure GC, none of this would be possible.”

**IN TODAY'S UNCERTAIN WORLD –
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YOUR FINANCIAL LEGACY**

**Thursday, June 25, 2020
2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
via Zoom webinar**

HOST: Lisa H. Brooks, Executive Director, Glendale College Foundation
FACILITATOR: Joseph April, Consultant, 25th Hour Communications, Inc.

Please register by contacting Lisa Brooks at lbrooks@glendale.edu
Your link to the webinar will be emailed to you 24 hours before the webinar begins.

PANELISTS



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Senior Vice President, CFP®, Financial Advisor
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