

*Class
of*

2023



Dear EOPS graduating and transfer students,

On behalf of the EOPS family, we would like to congratulate you on your achievements at Glendale Community College. This year, we have 153 EOPS students who will be graduating with a Certificate and/or Associate Degree. We are extremely proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Your dedication, resilience and strong work ethic helped you reach your academic and career goals. As you embark on the next chapter of your life, we wish you great success.

We are delighted to celebrate the class of 2023 during our in-person commencement ceremony. If you are earning a Certificate and/or Associate Degree we encourage you to participate in the graduation ceremony on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 10:00 AM. To attend the ceremony, you must RSVP by May 30, 2023. Please complete the following [RSVP form](#) by May 30th.

We are also excited to share that EOPS will be providing complimentary Caps and Gowns and EOPS sashes, to our graduates! If you have completed the graduation petition with EOPS, check the [EOPS graduation website](#) for information on how to obtain your EOPS Spring 2023 Graduation Package Voucher.

To our graduates, we hope your educational experience at GCC will help you as you continue onto the next chapter of your life. To our transfer students, we wish you continued success at your chosen university.

As the academic year comes to an end, we'd like to highlight some of our EOPS students and share their inspirational experiences.

ZULEIKA JARAMILLO

Zuleika is a goal driven, 1st generation college student who came to college after leaving her full-time job. She recalls that one of the main reasons she entered the workforce after high school was because she didn't know what she wanted to do, nor did she know how to navigate the higher education system. Soon she discovered that a job was not enough to support her and her child. As a single parent, she made a hard decision to quit her job to attend college.

She began her college experience at GCC in winter 2020. She works hard and continues to excel in all her classes. While studying full-time, she was able to find a part-time job that prioritized her education.

Zuleika shares that at the peak of the pandemic, she was very close to quitting college. She said it became very difficult to navigate remote learning, while managing all the other responsibilities. Yet, she did not give up; her son was the driving force that helped her gain the strength she needed to push through those difficult experiences. She goes on to say, "no matter how hard life can be, never give up on your dreams and goals."

We are pleased to share that Zuleika has been admitted to all the UC and CSU campuses she applied to. She is proudly committing to UC Berkeley, where she will also receive the Chancellor's scholarship that will cover her full tuition. She will be double majoring in Social Welfare and Ethnic Studies. She has earned two degrees from GCC; AA-T Sociology and AA Social Sciences. She hopes to one day work in field of Social Work to help her community when they are most in need.

EOPS is very proud of all that Zuleika has achieved while studying at GCC. We are excited for her as she embarks on the chapter in her life at UC Berkley. We are confident that she will continue to thrive and accomplish her goals.

HYKE TOROSYAN

Hyke can be described as a motivated and focused student. He began GCC in fall 2021 as a history major. Each semester he challenged himself and took a full load of courses, which he always excelled in. He currently maintains a 4.0 GPA and he will be graduating GCC in spring 2023 with an Associate of Arts for Transfer degree in History. He has been accepted to many UC and CSU campuses and is proudly committing to UCLA. After he completes his Bachelor's degree, he will attend law school. He enjoys law because of the logical thinking and analytical skills it requires.

Hyke shared all the positive experiences he has had at GCC these past two years. He states that GCC was an amazing place to begin his college experience; he made many new friends, and his professors and counselors helped prepare him for transfer. He was involved on campus by participating in the Politics Club and History Student Association. He said joining the clubs helped build leadership skills and he met many peers who had the same interests as him. He continues to describe some of the challenges he had while attending college during the pandemic. At times he felt unmotivated and found himself losing focus, but he challenged himself each day to prioritize school and concentrate on his academics. He also shared that his EOPS counseling meetings helped keep him on track and he always knew what steps he had to take to reach his transfer goal.

Hyke hopes current GCC students can take advantage of all the opportunities available at GCC. He says, "it is significant to think of the future, but time goes by so fast, that it's important to be present and in the moment."



OLENA MOLLA

Olena came to the United States in 2017 and began her GCC journey by taking ESL courses at our Garfield campus. She worked hard to improve her English skills and was eager to learn more about the US educational system. In fall 2020 she made the hard decision to quit her job and began taking classes as a full-time student at the Verdugo campus.

Olena is a Computer Science major who hopes to enter the field of Software Engineering, AI or Cybersecurity. She shares that she is very excited for the next chapter in her life because ever since she was a child, she has always been fascinated with computers. Growing up in a small town in Ukraine, having a computer was a luxury. At the age of 10, her father gifted her a computer and she was immediately hooked on all the possibilities technology has to offer. Her hard work and determination helped her achieve her goals at GCC. She has been accepted to many UC and CSU campuses; she will begin the next journey in her life at Cal Poly Pomona (CPP) in fall 2023.

Along side being a full-time student, Olena is involved in GCC's College Corps program. She is part of the food insecurity cohort and volunteers at the LA Regional Food Bank. She is close to completing her 450-hour commitment. She shares that achieving her goals was not easy and there were many challenges along the way. However, she persevered through these difficult challenges by being more disciplined and focused on the tasks at hand.

Olena goes on to say that she hopes her peers can take advantage of all the opportunities that GCC has to offer. She says EOPS counseling and benefits were very critical throughout her educational journey, along with attending various workshops related to financial literacy and library resources. We wish Olena all the best at CPP and beyond!



2023 EOPS Dinh T. Luu Memorial Scholarship Recipient Jasmine Delgado

On behalf of the EOPS program and Dinh Luu's family, we congratulate Jasmine Delgado for being selected as this year's Dinh Luu Scholarship recipient. This scholarship honors EOPS students who earn a minimum 3.0 GPA and are majoring within the field of Human Services.

Jasmine is a single parent to twin 5-year-old boys. She started college at the age of 19, but made the hard decision to leave college because she had to work to support herself. When her boys turned 2 years old, she began taking a class at her local community college. Soon after she decided that school is very important to her and her family's future. After moving to Glendale, she enrolled at GCC. She continues to take a full load of classes each term, works to support her and her children and hopes to transfer out by fall 2024.



She is an Administration of Justice major and plans to transfer to CSU, Los Angeles and participate in their pre-law program. After law school she hopes to either practice criminal or family law. She wants to become a lawyer because she enjoys true crime shows, but more importantly as a Latina, she hopes to help her community fight for justice.

She goes on to say that her experience at GCC has been very positive. Taking online classes has helped her manage her academic requirements, while taking care of all her other responsibilities. She shares that she never thought she could get through college and transfer, yet she is a prime example that baby steps can lead to bigger accomplishments.

Jasmine, we would like to wish you continued success in reaching your educational, career and personal goals.

To our continuing EOPS students...

We hope that reading the success stories of your peers will help motivate you as you continue to achieve your academic, career and personal goals. EOPS and the GCC community are here to support you throughout your journey.

Here are some final important reminders for you, as we near the end of the spring 2023 semester:

- Summer and fall 2023 registration has begun. Make sure you are enrolled in your classes for the upcoming term. If you need course recommendations, please see an EOPS counselor.
- Be sure you complete your three (3) required EOPS counseling contacts by Friday, June 16, 2023.
 - To schedule an appointment, complete the [EOPS counseling appointment request form](#).
 - Visit an EOPS counselor during [drop-in counseling](#). Weekly drop-in hours can be found on the [EOPS home page](#).
- Most importantly, believe in yourself, focus on your ability to be successful and good luck on your final exams! YOU GOT THIS!

Stay connected with the EOPS department through our social media and our website for the most important and current information.

Find us online www.glendale.edu/eops and [@gcceops](#) on Instagram, Twitter & Facebook

