

*Class
of*

2025

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 over 260 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. We wish you great success as you embark on the next chapter in your life. Congratulations Class of 2025!

As we near the end of the academic year, we're taking a moment to share some important information regarding upcoming events and celebrate the journeys of a few of our remarkable EOPS students by sharing their stories.

EOPS Celebration

If you have completed your graduation petition with EOPS, check your email for information on how to obtain your complimentary graduation package. On Wednesday, May 28th from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM, EOPS will have a graduation celebration in your honor and we encourage you to attend.

GCC Commencement Ceremony

Saturday , June 7, 2025
at 7:00 PM. For more information regarding the Commencement ceremony and to RSVP, [visit the website.](#)

Alberto Huerta

Alberto's journey to Glendale Community College (GCC) wasn't part of his original plan. After high school, he had a scholarship to attend San José State University (SJSU), but the COVID-19 pandemic shifted his priorities. He worked two jobs to support his family, which led to a gap year in his educational journey. After deep self-reflection and a profound appreciation for the sacrifices his parents made in immigrating to the United States in pursuit of a better life, Alberto chose to return to school and enrolled in GCC's Aviation and Pilot Training program.



His passion for aviation began in high school, through Minds Matter of Los Angeles, where mentors connected him with the Sling Pilot Academy. A flight lesson, where he maneuvered an aircraft with the support of the pilot, confirmed his dream of becoming a pilot.

During his first semester at GCC, Alberto shared that he felt lost and didn't seek the help he needed. Soon after he found support through Student Equity and EOPS. Being part of these programs gave him structure, academic support, and a sense of community. Getting involved with AS GCC and working in Student Outreach helped him grow personally and academically. Through those experiences, he was also able to find a deep connection with his peers. He developed strong advocacy and networking skills that will continue to influence his professional and personal growth.

Alberto believes in asking for help, staying open-minded, and being engaged. He encourages all students to be involved on campus to help build connections with the greater campus community. He will be graduating GCC with three degrees in Aviation Administration, Social Sciences, and Pilot Training. He will continue his academic journey at SJSU to earn a bachelor's degree, among other pilot certifications. His story is one of resilience, gratitude, and taking flight toward a better future.



Lidiia Khanheldian



When Lidiia arrived in the U.S. with her family in March 2023, she carried both hope and uncertainty. Unfamiliar with the higher education system, she enrolled at Glendale Community College (GCC) that fall—her first step toward a new beginning. Thanks to the advocacy of Dr. Ryan Corner and GCC's sponsorship of Senate Bill 971, which waives nonresident tuition for students impacted by war or other regional conflict, Lidiia was able to pursue her education. That decision opened the door to her future, and she never looked back.

At GCC, she found a welcoming community where she felt seen and supported. The EOPS program guided her journey through counseling, financial assistance and helped her navigate the transfer process. From day one, counselors supported, motivated and educated her. Her professors encouraged student voices, and Lidiia thrived. Majoring in Political Science, she discovered her passion for history, government, and justice, with dreams of attending law school and practicing immigration law.

She served as a senator in Associated Students (ASGCC), leading initiatives like bringing healthier food options to campus. This experience proved that student voice is valuable and empowering. As president of Model United Nations, she represented her peers at conferences and developed her leadership skills. As a student worker in the Financial Aid Office, she helped students navigate complex systems.

Lidiia is set to graduate from GCC with an AS-T in Political Science and an AA in Liberal Arts. She has been accepted to multiple UC and CSU campuses and will attend the University of California, Irvine (UCI) in Fall 2025. Her message to other students is simple, yet powerful: "If I can do it, anyone can." She encourages students to talk to counselors, get involved, and build connections. "Everything is doable, don't be afraid to challenge yourself, take the risk. The outcome is always worth it." Lidiia's journey is a testament to the power of courage, community, and persistence. She turned a moment of uncertainty into a story of strength and hope and now, she's ready to take on the world.

Janzy Paraiso



Janzy began her educational journey at Glendale Community College in the summer of 2024, returning to higher education after a few years away. An avid runner, she often found herself on the GCC campus and eventually envisioned herself as a student there, leading her to enroll in classes. Now an English major, Janzy is passionate about reading and writing. She is actively involved on campus through the EOPS program and the Filipino American Student Association. Janzy values critical thinking and exploring how historical perspectives shape culture. She credits EOPS as a key support system in her college experience, describing it as a "lifesaver."

In fall 2025, Janzy will transfer to the University of California, Berkeley to continue her studies in English. Her advice to fellow students is to never hesitate to ask for help: connect with counselors, seek out supportive communities, and don't be afraid to apply to programs like EOPS, even if you're unsure. The resources and connections she gained through EOPS helped her achieve her academic goals.

Anthony Irby



Anthony began his journey at Glendale Community College in Fall 2022. Looking for a fresh start in a familiar area, he chose GCC on a whim—but it turned out to be a turning point. His academic path has been anything but linear, beginning with kinesiology, then shifting to math and business, before discovering his passion in political science, communication studies, and sociology. Now preparing to transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles as a sociology major, Anthony credits classes that addressed real-world social issues for pushing him to think critically about society and his role within it.

He describes the EOPS program as *uplifting* and encourages others to apply. Anthony recommends joining student equity learning communities like Black Scholars, La Comunidad, and AIPIDA. Through Black Scholars, he joined the Mentoring Men of Color Program, an experience that played a major role in his personal and academic growth—and one that inspired him to help establish the Men of Color Action Network at GCC. If he could give his first-semester self any advice, it would be: never waver.

Robert Petersavage



Robert began attending GCC in Fall 2023 after receiving encouragement from friends who were already students here. His goal was to eventually transfer to a university. After receiving his AST in Psychology from GCC, he got admitted to UCLA. He chose to major in Psychology because it was the first subject he enjoyed in high school, and he developed a strong interest in it. He also recognized that psychology is in high demand today, especially in the field of psychiatry, which he hopes to pursue with a focus on mental health and substance abuse issues.

Robert is a dedicated student who balances a full-time job with his studies. He credits the EOPS program for helping him succeed, especially in managing his time, staying on track with his courses, and making informed decisions about his academic path. He encourages new GCC students not to stress too much and to ask for help when needed. In addition to being in EOPS, Robert also benefited from the Promise Plus program, which provided financial assistance that supported his academic progress.

Gohar Chobanyan

Gohar began attending GCC during her junior year of high school in Winter 2023. She selected GCC because it was one of the top choices among community colleges and, at the time, she wasn't financially prepared to move out and attend a university. Gohar is now accepted into the Political Science program at UCLA, aiming to pursue a career in law.



Through her experience working with children, she learned the importance of patience and taking small steps toward long-term goals. This mindset helped shape her decision to enroll in college early, allowing her to complete transfer requirements a year sooner. She participated in GCC's Jump Start program and, with guidance from EOPS counselors, enrolled in the right courses to transfer efficiently. Gohar views EOPS as a valuable resource that supports students by providing financial aid and waivers for transfer applications, which she used when applying to UC schools. Her advice to incoming GCC students is to stay calm and not be overwhelmed by classes, as GCC offers a strong support system with dedicated professors and staff focused on student success.

Alyssa Montanez



Alyssa's journey in higher education began at California State University, Los Angeles, but the overwhelming environment led her to transfer to Glendale Community College (GCC) after her first term—a decision that became a turning point.

At GCC, she found a supportive community, built lasting friendships, and got involved through Associated Students of GCC (ASGCC) events. She encourages students to embrace positive self-talk and utilize resources like EOPS and La Comunidad, which offered her vital academic and emotional support.

Attending tutoring, SI sessions and faculty office hours, along with connecting with counselors and peers played a key role in her growth. Inspired by growing up in a large family, Alyssa discovered a passion for working with children, leading her to major in Child Development. She aspires to become a teacher and make a meaningful impact on future generations.

In Fall 2025, Alyssa will transfer to California State University, Northridge (CSUN) to complete her bachelor's degree and will graduate from GCC with an Associate of Arts in Social Sciences. Her story highlights how the right environment can empower students to thrive and achieve their goals.



Milena Hanisyan



In July 2020, Milena and her family arrived in the U.S. from Armenia, hopeful for a better future. Starting high school in a new country, she faced a major challenge: the language barrier. With persistence, she read, practiced English, and stepped outside her comfort zone. By Spring 2022, she was taking college classes through dual enrollment, earning an "A" in English 101, while still in high school. This was a turning point that showed her the value of challenge and growth.

Milena is deeply committed to helping others. In her senior year, she mentored English learners and is now preparing to tutor English and Math at a Korean Learning Center. With a 4.0 GPA, she will graduate in Spring 2025 with an AA-T in Political Science as well as AA in Liberal Arts: Arts & Humanities and AA: Social Sciences. The counseling and financial support she received from EOPS gave Milena the confidence and stability to keep going.

As an immigrant, Milena aims to pursue a career in immigration law, using her experience to advocate for others. In Fall 2025, she will attend UC Irvine as a Political Science major. Milena's story is a testament to the power of perseverance, and the importance of having a growth mindset to turn obstacles into opportunities.



Jordan Achterman



Jordan began attending Glendale Community College in Fall 2023 and is proud to graduate this Fall with a degree in Business Administration. His path wasn't easy—after two years in a group home and without strong support, he found himself surrounded by other young men, each trying to overcome their own obstacles and rebuild their lives. This led him to reflect on his future, though he initially considered sociology, he found a passion for business, economics and accounting and decided to pursue a path where he could both succeed and help others do the same. He is happy to share that he will be transferring to San Diego State University as a business major!

College life brought many challenges for Jordan, and at times he considered taking a break. But the EOPS and NextUp programs at GCC became his lifeline. With support from his counselor, Mr. Bravo, and resources like book vouchers, priority registration, and emotional guidance, he stayed on track. Reflecting on his journey, Jordan says, "There will be times you doubt yourself, but be persistent and keep going." He describes EOPS as *compassionate* for the care shown by staff and encourages other students to join, calling it a major part of his success. After a ten-year path of resilience, he's proud to graduate and move forward with confidence.