

NEWSLETTER

Office of First Generation
&
Peer Mentoring Programs

I hope your Spring semester is off to a good start!

At the beginning of the academic year, the First Gen team agreed that we wanted to focus on wellbeing given the online environment. We also wanted to strengthen our overall departmental processes to make our students' experience easier during an overwhelmingly challenging semester.

I can say that our office is well underway in meeting those goals, while maintaining in alignment to the university's strategic themes. Cassie and Tiffany have done a great job developing intersectional programs addressing wellbeing from different perspectives. In addition, they have improved programming, restructured our student outreach, and added additional resources to support our students. At the same time, we have strengthened our departments' case management processes, updated program contracts and documents to utilize campus resources such as Campus Labs.

In the fall semester we provided a mixture of monthly themed meetings, one to one sessions, and workshops with campus partners which included focusing on Academic Advising and Learning Commons resources which resulted in over 350 participants.

These last few weeks, we have reflected on our successes and areas that need improvement so that we can continuously make positive changes that will strengthen our programming and further support our students. I feel grateful that we can remind our students that they matter, are valued, and are invested in their journey while at/and beyond La Verne.

I hope that you can take some time to reflect on what has worked for you, what are areas that may need improvement, and at the same time, feel comfortable letting go of things that don't work or are not needed.

In Community,

- Aracely Torres

Director; Title III Grant and First Generation & Peer Mentoring Programs

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Faculty/Staff Spotlight

Adrienne Montero-Camacho

WHAT SCHOOLS DID YOU ATTEND?

Azusa Pacific University (undergrad) USC (grad)

WHAT DEPARTMENT DO YOU WORK IN?

Student Outreach & Support - Case Manager



RANDOM FACT? I have an identical twin.

DO YOU IDENTIFY AS FIRST GEN? WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE FIRST GEN STUDENTS?

I am First Gen! My advice would be to take up space! As a female first gen student, I often made myself small on campus, but we deserve to be seen, heard and valued in higher ed (and every other space we walk into). So ask your question in class, join that student org, and bring your full self to ULV.

Student Spotlight

Joshua To

WHAT MAJOR AND YEAR ARE YOU?

Biology - Junior

EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENTS?

Research at the ULV on bacteriophage.



WHAT IS YOUR GOAL AFTER GRADUATION? Go to Medical School.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER FIRST GEN STUDENTS?

Have a goal and a plan for after University and look for people who have achieved what you want for mentorship. For academics each course has a different learning skills so research the best ways to study for each course for example, Anatomy: lots of flash cards, Math: practice, Chemistry: concepts (lecture + textbook) practice, etc.

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Resource Corner

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

LOCATION: Woody Hall

VIRTUAL CONNECTION:

- Financial aid office is available to answer questions and concerns at (800)649-0160
- Can be reached via email at finaid@laverne.edu

WHAT SERVICES DO THEY OFFER:

- Answers to questions about financial aid awards
- Questions about the FAFSA application
- Aid for all students including undergraduate, transfer, and graduate
- Estimate cost of tuition and fees

HOW CAN STUDENTS IN THE FIRST GEN PEER MENTORING PROGRAM UTILIZE THIS RESOURCE?

- Support with FAFSA process
- Understanding your award
- Questions on scholarships, loans, work study, etc
- Don't hesitate to contact them for any support
- FAFSA DEADLINE RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER! Don't forget to file if you haven't already

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February Calendar

To learn more or RSVP please visit [Campus Labs](#) located under Quick Links of your La Verne Portal

FEBRUARY 8TH

Mental Health Monday's
Love: Your friends and family
4:00 pm- 4:45pm

FEBRUARY 8-11TH

[Club Fair - 12:00pm-1:00pm](#)

FEBRUARY 15TH

[Meditation - 12:30pm](#)

FEBRUARY 9TH & 10TH

[Financial Aid Refresh: Filing your
FAFSA 2021-2021](#)
11am

FEBRUARY 16TH

[Wind Down Yoga](#)
8pm

FEBRUARY 10TH

[The Office of International Services &
Engagement Open House](#)
1pm

FEBRUARY 17TH

[CPA Meet & Greek](#)
11am

FEBRUARY 11TH

[#Getinvolved Week:
OCCE Open House](#)
1:30pm

FEBRUARY 18TH

[FGPM: Clubs & Orgs Panel](#)
Time: 5-6pm

FEBRUARY 12TH

[Resident Assistant/ Assistant Housing
Coordinator Selection Process Virtual
Information Session](#)
11:30am

FEBRUARY 19TH

[CPA Sorority Recruitment
Info Night](#)
9pm

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Office of First Generation & Peer Mentoring Programs

For general questions email us at firstgen@laverne.edu
For more specific questions about our office feel free to email our staff!



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Office of
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University of La Verne