

NEWSLETTER

Office of First Generation & Peer Mentoring Programs

Hello ULV Community,

I hope you are well. Spring is here, and with that comes change, growth, and warmth. I hope this season we all take a moment to find gratitude in even the smallest of things.

This month, the First Generation and Peer Mentoring team is focusing on the following tip:

Provide access to Gatekeepers: Connect students with key figures and resources so they can build their own networks, i.e.: develop programs (formal and informal) where students can meet deans, department chairs, program directors etc., who can act as ally's and advocates for students.

Creating opportunities for our students to engage with folx in such positions not only expands the students' network, it provides them with opportunities to develop/strengthen their relationship/network skills in a safe environment. While at the same time understanding that there are folx in key positions who can support them and push their needs forward.

In Community,

-Aracely Torres

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

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Providing access to gatekeepers is a large part of the work we do, specifically through our monthly meetings. Community is powerful, and during a time of Covid, connecting our First Gen students to others who also identify as First Gen, can be a game changer in their experience. I like to intentionally create our monthly gatherings with this tip in mind. In each program, our students have an opportunity to connect with Peers or Alumni, that can provide insight to getting involved on campus, services to use, and give advice on majors or career. By doing this we informally open up their networks to others who can be allies in their college journey.

-Cassie Godinez, STEM Pathway Peer Mentoring Coordinator

As a first generation student myself, I learned the importance of having a network thanks to mentors in my life. Now in the role of mentor myself, I try my best to pay it forward and do the same for students that I work with. I see my network as a resource that expands to my students. As Cassie mentioned, programming is one way where we do this for our students. I personally am always thinking of connections and access. I always ask myself how can I open the door for my students? How can I build a bridge between my social capital to the needs of my students? Our students don't always have access to key gate keepers. The way I do this the most is through a 1:1 introduction. For example, connecting students to folx in my network that offer their time to do informational interviews with students on a career field they are interested in. This in turn, helps the student learn the value of informational interviewing, professional networking, communication skills, and of course expanding their own social capital.

-Tiffany De Leon, Program Coordinator

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Faculty Spotlight

Daniel Loera

WHAT SCHOOLS DID YOU ATTEND?

I started at Citrus College (back then it was in the City of Azusa) then transferred to Saint John's Seminary College (Camarillo, CA) where I earned my BA in Philosophy, I then went to Saint John's Graduate School of Theology where I did 2 years of graduate studies, but I left before completing my degree (it was a 4 year program). I then enrolled at Mt. Saint Mary's College, Doheny Campus in their graduate program in Religious Studies where I received my MA in Religious Studies. Finally, when I came to work at the University of La Verne, I decided to enter the Doctor of Education program in Organizational Leadership which I completed in 2012.



RANDOM FACT:

I met Pope John Paul II when he came to Los Angeles in 1987.

WHAT DEPARTMENT DO YOU WORK IN?

I work as the Director of Multicultural Affairs with the Center for Multicultural Services which is now housed under the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

FAVORITE SONG?

This is really difficult to just name one because it depends on the mood I am in. However, there are some songs that I will readily ask for when the mariachi is playing: this includes La Feria de las flores and Camino a Leon Guanajuato. In English I like "Why can't we be friends" and "Cisco Kid" by WAR. I'm old school, I love everything by Al Green, Marvin Gaye, and Smokey Robinson, just to name a few.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO FOR FUN?

I love to garden, hike, and build things made out of wood.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE FIRST GEN STUDENTS?

Personal:

Life, for me, is a gift. I believe in the power of LOVE to fill the void in the heart. I live my life unafraid to speak against injustice. To identify injustice requires that I constantly educate myself on the plight of others. The passion to focus on injustice comes from my own experience of alienation and discovery. I believe in redemption and the possibility that anyone can change. I am a person of optimism and hope. I believe in the impossible. I will strive to be more humane, loving, and consistent in my interactions with others.

Professional:

I will always be in the process of becoming a more just, compassionate, and inclusive leader. I will challenge myself by involving myself in unfamiliar settings and circumstances for the sake of developing my capacity as a leader. I will be realistic about my level of involvements in order to remain an effective leader. I will learn to say "no" for the sake of remaining effective and to avoid burnout. I will practice and become an excellent practitioner of various leadership skills in my interactions with others. I will share my learning with others and be a mentor to those who follow in my footsteps. I will also reach out to those who have been alienated and isolated.

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IN THINKING OF YOUR OWN WORK WITH FIRST GEN STUDENTS, HOW DO YOU PROVIDE MENTORSHIP?

I go back to my own experience as a first generation student. Prior to college, I never spoke with anyone who was informed about the college experience and subsequently I had to learn by doing. This included not accessing academic supports because somehow I thought this was “cheating.” That supposedly I was supposed to do it all on my own, and figure it out at the same time.

I had no clue what was a “normal” college experience. I was afraid of losing my cultural self and being indoctrinated by my college experience. These were the sort of messages that I was receiving from people in my circle that somehow formal education would lead me to detach myself from my culture and family. College turned out to be a liberating experience for me; an experience that allowed me to flourish and become the person I am today.

Given my experience, I believe it is imperative to get to know the context from which students arrive to college and meet their needs based on what they know or do not know. Understandably, success means something very different for each individual and I believe my role is to “push” students to stretch the limits of what they have outlined for themselves. My role is to affirm the talents students have, to challenge the habits that will keep them from fulfilling their dreams, and to invite them to take-on additional leadership and roles that they might not otherwise take on. I also try to inculcate the importance of service to others, of opening the pathways for others, and of how life giving and meaningful this can be in one’s life.

NEWSLETTER

Student Spotlight

Itzia Chavez

WHAT MAJOR AND YEAR ARE YOU?

Psychology, 4th year



EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENTS?

On campus I am involved as ASULV's VP of Finance, a First Generation Mentor, and an Interfaith Fellow. I am also a student worker for LaFetra's CLI team! Off-campus, I am an office assistant for a speech therapy clinic

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL AFTER GRADUATION?

Upon graduating, my short-term goal is to pursue an MBA with a concentration in leadership. With enough experience in the business world, I hope to then pursue a Ph.D. in Industrial Organizational Psychology to really look at the concept of leadership and research it. I am interested in seeing if leadership varies across gender, ethnicities, or even socioeconomic status. I want to understand if leadership looks different at larger corporations when compared to small businesses.

FAVORITE MEMORY ON CAMPUS?

My favorite memory on campus was definitely CAB's Carniverne events.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER FIRST GEN STUDENTS?

One piece of advice that I would give others is to get involved on campus, so that you start to figure out your own self and sense of belonging. Once you start to become confident in yourself, your entire perspective shifts, and your goals in life become clearer. At times, life can get tough for us first-gen students, but if we keep our focus on the bigger picture we can achieve great things.

HOW HAVE YOU USED THE TIP "PROVIDING ACCESS TO GATEKEEPERS" IN YOUR OWN MENTORSHIP?

Within my own mentoring, I constantly push my mentees to reach out to their academic advisors for questions about credits or classes before registration comes around so that they can avoid being one of the last ones. I also send my mentees scholarship opportunities or extracurriculars for student involvement that can help them build a network of people but also help develop them into leaders along their 4 year path. Continuously, I remind them of the importance of joining a research lab, or joining a club so that they can add to their resume and get that experience they need in case they want to pursue graduate school in the near future.

NEWSLETTER

Resource Corner

Office of Student Life

LOCATION

Abraham Campus Center, First Floor

STAFF AND THEIR ROLES IN THE OFFICE:

Cindy Vallejo, Associate Director of Student Life

Adam Wong, Assistant Dean, Student Engagement and Belonging

Jazmin Alvarez Barragan, Coordinator, Student Life Operations

The staff for the OSL oversee student organizations, greek life, CAB, ASULV, and New Student Orientation.

VIRTUAL CONNECTION

If you are interested in connecting with any of these organizations on campus, contact them via email or follow instagram.

Student Life: studentlife@laverne.edu

Clubs: clubs@laverne.edu

Campus Activities Board: lavernecab@gmail.com

Associated Students of ULV: asulv@laverne.edu

New Student Orientation: orientation@laverne.edu

WHAT SERVICES DO THEY OFFER

- Connecting students who are looking to get involved.
- Host monthly meetings, roundtable discussions, and online trainings for clubs about marketing, meetings, events, and communications.
- Leos Unite - a buddy system on campus for undergrad, grad, and CAPA students who want to meet other students by similarities on majors, interests, hobbies, etc.
- Campus Involvement Calculator - a form students can fill out if they are having trouble getting involved. Based on their answers students will receive a response on recommended activities for them to join. You can find the form on CampusLabs.

FOLLOW THEM ON IG TO KNOW MORE!

@lavernecab

@asulv_laverne

@ulv_orientation

@ulv_studentlife

Sororities: @cpa_laverne

Fraternities: @ulv.ifc

NEWSLETTER

Resource Corner

Continued: Office of Student Life

HOW CAN FIRST GEN STUDENTS UTILIZE THIS RESOURCE?

A student's involvement in campus life can greatly enrich their higher education journey. Student life allows students to enhance that part of their life outside the classroom. Many of the activities provided by Student Life offer opportunities for students to gain an array of important life skills such as communication and leadership. Not to mention learning to collaborate with others from different walks of life. The other great thing is that options are vast and unique. Every organization offers a chance at a completely different experience. As Student Life staff member Cindy Vallejo says, "Give yourself the opportunity to grow and take a risk on yourself." By doing so, students gain friendships and contacts that allow them to create their own Leo network that will be with them for life.

IMPORTANT THINGS TO KNOW:

- The OSL is currently working with accessibility to gain information about how to make programming more inclusive.

HOW DOES THIS RESOURCE CONNECT STUDENTS TO GATEKEEPERS?

ASULV is ULV's governing board that is composed of senators for our different colleges and serve as a connection to deans, advisors, department chairs, and more. If you have any questions or concerns you'd like to be addressed, ASULV has weekly meetings on Mondays @ 3pm so you can voice your opinions and ideas.

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Tutoring Support

Do you need support in STEM subjects or Statistics? The Academic Success Center is now offering 24/7 tutoring for all ULV students! Students can connect with a live tutor in under 30 seconds for over 300 subjects, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tutors can help with any question - no matter how big or small! Please see the attached student flyer with more information!

[Click here to learn more about ASC's 24/7 Tutoring Service!](#)

Qualifications of Tutors:

- Tutors possess a minimum of a Bachelor's degree (over 80% have Master's degrees)
- Tutors have at least 2 years of teaching experience

How it Works:

- Students log into their Blackboard Course
- Students find 24/7 Tutoring under "Course Tools"
 - a. Click the link for a demonstration video!
- Students connect with their tutor

To learn more about 24/7 Tutoring, students can visit the ASC Student Resource Portal, where they will find the following:

- Student FAQs
- How to connect with a live tutor

If you have any questions, please contact the ASC at asc@laverne.edu or by calling us at 909-448-4342.

-Savannah Garcia, ASC Director

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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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