

NEWSLETTER

Office of First Generation
&
Peer Mentoring Programs

Hello La Verne Community,

This month, at our office, we are focusing on the following first gen tip, "decoding the system".

When we work with our students, we want to keep in mind that our institutions have many "codes" (i.e.: language, policies, systems) in place that our students may not always recognize. I invite you to consider ways to participate in decoding the system for our students, this will enable them to better navigate their community, and truly feel a sense of belonging.

As always, know that the Title III Grant/First Gen Office is always here to support you!

Aracely Torres

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

There is a large barrier in understanding the language and system of higher education, and we cannot assume that our students understand it all. It's up to us to unpack the college experience, in all aspects. It can be as simple as emphasizing the importance of the class syllabus or checking emails. Breaking down the services offered by departments across campus, explaining 'drop in hours', and guiding them through certain university processes are all ways we can begin to decode the system for our students.

-Cassie Godinez, STEM Pathway Peer Mentoring Coordinator

For me this tip represents paying it forward. As a first gen student, I had mentors who "decoded the system" in order for me to be successful. Now, I want to try my best to do the same. For me this means asking a lot of open ended questions and never assuming a student knows or understands a certain system, organization, process, etc. An example is helping students navigate federal work study and how this is equivalent to an actual job search. By supporting our students through processes like this one and teaching them how to navigate the process every step of the way we start to assist in decoding systems for them.

-Tiffany De Leon, Title III & Access Programs Program Coordinator

Faculty Spotlight

Adonay Montes

WHAT SCHOOLS DID YOU ATTEND?

Cal Poly Pomona Undergrad, San Diego Masters, Claremont Graduate University Ph.D.



WHAT DEPARTMENT DO YOU WORK IN?

Educational Counseling Program and Spanish Bilingual Bicultural Concentration

FAVORITE SONG?

I enjoy listening to boleros, trios, and classical music.

RANDOM FACT:

I survived a major earthquake in my native country of El Salvador.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO FOR FUN?

Play soccer, cycle, and hiking

ARE YOU FIRST GEN?

Yes, I am the first in my family to engage in a full college trajectory and earn a Ph.D.

WHAT PEARLS OF WISDOM WOULD YOU LIKE TO SHARE WITH FIRST GEN STUDENTS?

Don't look back, stay focused on your goals and enjoy being yourself in any space, people need to see you for who you are!

Student Spotlight

Natalie Garcia

YEAR IN SCHOOL

Senior

MAJORS/MINORS

Major: Sociology, Concentration: Social Justice,
Minor: Spanish



EXTRACURRICULAR INVOLVEMENTS

- Mentor and Front Desk assistant for the Office of First Generation and Peer Mentoring
- Chipotle Crew Member
- Vice President for the Language and Culture Club
- Member in the Latinx Student Forum
- Volunteer at Bright Prospect

WHAT IS YOUR GOAL AFTER GRADUATING FROM LA VERNE?

To attend graduate school in a Higher Education degree program and find a job at a University.

FAVORITE THING TO DO ON CAMPUS OR FAVORITE MEMORY ON CAMPUS?

Hanging out in the library with friends and attending events.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE OTHER FIRST GEN STUDENTS AT LA VERNE?

Network!! Meeting different people is what I have found to be the best thing to do as a college student. Every person you meet can guide you towards your success whether the impact is big or small.

Access Programs Spotlight

Access Programs is a support program for foster youth on our campus. If you work with any foster youth students please refer them to our office. Our program coordinator is Tiffany De Leon - tdeleon@laverne.edu ext 4786.

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ACCESS PROGRAMS

Foster Youth and Give Something Back Scholars student support services at the University of La Verne

STAFF

Program is housed under the Title III Grant and part of the Office of First Generation and Peer Mentoring Programs. The Director and Program Coordinator are the main point of contact.

GIVE SOMETHING BACK

An intentional partnership has been developed with the Manager of Admissions and Academic Services and the student coaches. Highlights of this partnership include,

- Developing communication guidelines
- Standing monthly meetings
- Streamlined Care Management for scholars
- Implemented high impact practices to support scholars

CAMPUS PARTNERS

Developed relationships with stakeholders in key offices. These campus partners offer support in areas where we have seen access students need the most support. These include but not limited to the following,

- Financial Issues (Fin Aid & Student Accounts)
- Registration Issues (Registrar and Academic Advising)
- Personal/Familial Issues (CAPS & SOS)
- Housing (Housing & Res Life)

RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

Our office has identified high impact practices that support the success of these students. A few of the HIPs developed are,

- Summer Bridge
- 1st 6 weeks interventions
- Access to Faculty/Staff
- Monthly Programming
- 1:1 Check In and Support
- Academic Interventions
- CARE Support
- Book Depot

ASC Tutoring Services

Students, make sure to visit the Academic Success Center (ASC) if you are in need academic support. They provide tutoring for various courses for different majors, take advantage of this resource!

Meet with an ASC Consultant

- Writing, Business, Accounting, Languages, Statistics
- Online, In-Person, E-Tutoring
- Individual & Group Options

Classroom Support

If you have an SLA in your class, take advantage of:

- Office hour appointments
- Group Consultations
- Extra support

Academic Coaching

Enhancing skill sets in the following areas:

- Time management
- Study skills
- Test anxiety
- Self-Organization

24/7 Tutoring

Access tutoring in over 300 subjects 24hrs/day:

- Accessible through My LaVerne Portal & ASC Portal

Workshops

Online workshops this fall:

- Writing skills
- Statistics
- Avoiding Procrastination
- Growth Mindset
- Many more!



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ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE

FALL 2021 SERVICES

Drop-In Consultations

Sunday

Statistics: 12pm - 2pm

Monday

Science: 4:30pm - 6:30pm

Math/Physics: 6pm - 8pm

Tuesday

Math: 10am - 12pm

Writing: 2pm - 4pm

Science: 6pm - 8pm

Spanish: 6pm - 8pm

Anatomical Kinesiology: 6pm - 8pm

Wednesday

Writing: 9am - 11am

Science: 4:30pm - 7:30pm

Math/Physics: 6pm - 8pm

Thursday

Math: 10am - 12pm

Spanish: 12pm - 2pm

Anatomical Kinesiology: 12pm - 2pm

Writing: 7pm - 9pm

Friday

Math: 11am - 1pm

Science: 12pm - 2pm

Anatomical Kinesiology: 3pm - 5pm



SCAN ME

ASC PORTAL

<https://laverne.libguides.com/c.php?g=1067009#s-lg-box-26445993>

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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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