



# STUDENT SERVICES

ENHANCING THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

FALL 2023

CYPRESS COLLEGE



**Dr. Paul de Dios**

Vice President, Student Services

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Go Beach"

## OUR MISSION

Student Services enhances the Cypress College student experience by offering learning opportunities outside the classroom that will support each student in meeting her/his personal, academic, and career goals.

## WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Chargers,

A warm welcome to our new students and an enthusiastic welcome back to our faculty, staff, and continuing students. I am excited to share the Fall 2023 Student Services Newsletter.

Please help me welcome:

- **Romeo Garcia**, Director – Student Equity and Success
- **Kendra Ubierna**, Adjunct Counselor – Charger Experience Program
- **Belinda Aleman**, Adjunct Counselor – Financial Aid
- **Roberto Ortiz**, Adjunct Counselor – Rising Scholars

Please help me congratulate:

- **Anne-Marie Beck** for receiving the DEIA Award.
- **Brittany Hamer** in her new position as Special Project Director – Charger Experience Program
- **Nick Gutierrez** in his new position as Student Services Coordinator – Veterans Resource Center
- **Dario Resendiz** and **Roberto Ortiz** for earning their Master of Science in Counseling degrees at CSULB (May 2023)

We had to say goodbye and good luck to:

- **Ashley Berry**, CSU Dominguez Hills

Some of our departments have moved or are planning to move in Fall.

- Career Planning Center to 2nd Floor, CCCPLX-215
- Charger Experience Program/Pledge to 2nd Floor, Student Center
- International Students Program to 1st Floor, Student Center
- Rising Scholars to HUM-126
- Pride Center to HUM-101

We have changed the names of the Programs/Centers below:

- Career Planning and Workforce Development Center (2nd Floor, CCCPLX-215)
- Basic Needs Resource Center and Food Pantry (Student Life and Leadership Building)

# CHARGER EXPERIENCE PROGRAM/ PLEDGE



**Brittany Hamer**  
Special Project Director  
Charger Experience Program

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Zot! Zot! Zot!"

## Spring 2023 Accomplishments

- On May 4, 2023, the Cypress College family gave a huge Star Wars themed welcome to the more than 2,000 guests that attended our annual Commit2Cypress event.
- The Charger Experience Team broke a new record high as they helped more than 1,550 students complete the onboarding and matriculation process. A special thanks to the hard work of the entire Charger Experience Team: David Alfaro, Adriana Caridad, Maria Haro, Karen Hill, Cassandra Lawrence, Amelia Mosley, Mai-Thi Pham, Dario Resendiz, Kendra Ubierna, and the Student Ambassadors!
- We are still helping new, first-time college students qualify for 2 years of free tuition. Students are eligible for free tuition if they are a California resident, enrolled in 12 units or more, completed orientation, guided placement, have a first-semester class schedule, and completed a Financial Aid application.
- The Student Ambassador Program continued assisting students with course registration, the schedule of classes, and troubleshooting technology issues. Thank you, Dario Resendiz, for your leadership working with the Student Ambassador Team.
- The Student Ambassador Team hosted Lifeguard Stations during Week 1 of the fall 2023 semester and helped more than 1,100 students find their classrooms and navigate the campus.
- A heartfelt thank you to Luu Xuan Tran, Nydia Sandoval, and Gloria Ortega for your hard work, support, and dedication to the Charger Experience Program!



Cypress College welcomed more than 1,000 students, along with their parents to campus for New Student Welcome Night.



# PRIDE PROGRAM



**Jenelle Herman (she/her)**  
Campus LGBTQ+ Liaison

(714) 484-7000 ext. 48739  
Q@cypresscollege.edu

Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"The world needs you!"

Jenelle is thrilled to announce the opening of the first Cypress College Pride Center, located in HUM-101 with LGBTQ+ support staff who are ready to support LGBTQ\_ students and allies on campus with daily programming, events, and a safe space to be themselves.

## Accomplishments

- 2018-2023—Annual National Coming Out Day Event in October
- 2020—Creation of 1st official LGBTQ+ position in District history: Cypress College LGBTQ+ Liaison—Jenelle Herman (she/her)
  - Fullerton College (Ariel Gentalen) & NOCE (hiring in process)
- 2020 Fall—Creation of District AP 5041 to honor student gender identity and chosen name
- 2021 Fall—Additional all-gender restrooms on campus: VRC, SLL, New SEM (more coming with VAPA renovation)
- 2021-2023—Annual Transgender Visibility Event in March
- 2022-2023—Annual Lavender Graduation
- 2022 Fall—Creation of first-ever dedicated LGBTQ+ space on campus (aka the Gay Room)
- 2022 Fall—Creation of dedicated LGBTQ+ Support Email: Q@cypresscollege.edu
- 2022 Fall—New LGBTQ+ Support Staff: Sarah Arizaga (she/her)
- 2022 Fall—Creation of District AP 7120-13 to honor employee gender identity and chosen name
- 2023 1st Annual Cypress College Pride Game with women's soccer team
- 2023 Spring—New LGBTQ+ Support Staff: Terra Acevedo (she/they)
- 2023 Fall—New LGBTQ+ Support Staff: Jonathan Cossio (he/him)

## Fall 2023 Events

- Recurring Events & Trainings include:
  - Daily in HUM-101- 12-12:30 p.m.: Mindfulness and 1-2 p.m.: Tea Time (Queer Social Hour)
  - Mondays, 12:30 p.m.-1 p.m. - Employee Mini-Trainings
  - Thursdays, 1-2 p.m. - QSA Student Club Meetings
  - Fridays, 9-11 a.m. - Watch for In-Depth LGBTQ+ Trainings
- Aug 24, 12-3 p.m. - hosted Lavender Welcome (HUM-101) & Queer Campus Tour
- October: LGBTQ+ History Month
  - Oct. 11, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - 6th Annual National Coming Out Day Event
  - Oct. 13, 3-5 p.m. - 2nd Annual Pride Soccer Game

Meet the LGBTQ+ Team, pictured from May 2023 Lavender Graduation ceremony: Terra Acevedo, Sarah Arizaga, Mars Wright (keynote speaker), Jenelle Herman, and Jonathan Cossio



# ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS



**Dr. David Mosely Booze**  
Director, Admissions and Records

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase: "Go Beach!"

## Fall 2023 Updates

- Fall 2023 service hours have been extended to further meet the needs of students. Remote services will be offered until 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Students can reach A&R after 6 p.m. on these days via Cranium Café, calling the main extension, or email.
- The Front-Loading/Transfer Evaluation project reached a significant milestone by articulating all courses for all campuses with regions 7 and 8 of the California Community College system. A&R will partner with the Counseling Division to begin a pilot during the fall 2023 semester through which select students with transfer units will have their transfer work evaluated "front-loaded."
- Auto-Award Pilot for spring 2023 certificates will continue during fall 2023 semester.
- College Scheduler Pilot for fall 2023 registration continues with Charger Experience students. More information is coming soon.
- We are happy to announce changes to COVID-19 provision that allowed students to select the Pass/No Pass grading option through the last day of instruction in a term has been made permanent. Students may select the Pass/No Pass Grading option via myGateway through the withdrawal deadline. After the withdrawal deadline and before the last day of instruction, students may submit a Petition for Exception.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PROGRAM



**Yongmi Han**  
Manager  
International Students Program

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Go Aggies!"

## Spring 2023: Degree Completion & Transfer Summary

- 14 students completed AA/AS/ADTs
- 6 students transferred to CSUs; 4 transferred to UCs; 1 transferred to Otis College; 3 students approved for employment authorization

## Fall 2023 New Students

- 60 new students admitted for fall 2023 and completed Academic, Immigration and Campus Resources Orientations.

## Fall 2023 Calendar

- Sep. 5-7: Welcome Back Week (Donuts & Coffee, Schools Supplies)
- Sep. 2: Bowling with Fullerton College International Students
- Oct. 2: Mini CSU Fair;
- Oct. 11: CSU/UC Application Workshop
- Oct. 18: Exploring Diversity - Russia
- Oct. 31: Halloween Event
- Nov. 8: Exploring Diversity - The Netherlands
- Nov. 15: International Education Week Celebration: Games/Snacks
- Nov. 22: Thanksgiving Potluck
- Dec. 4-8: Finals Week- Motivation Wall Messages, Hot Cocoa, Snacks

## Spring 2024

- Spring 2024 application period Oct. 1-Dec 1, 2023

# COUNSELING & STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

## DEVELOPMENT



**Dr. Troy Davis**

Dean, Counseling and Student Development

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Strong Beach!"

The Counseling and Student Development Division has been working diligently with registration to capture higher enrollment numbers and have been successful with the increase in enrollment for fall 2023. Re-engaging the student experience is a high priority and we continue to offer robust hybrid services.

### Newly hired Full-Time Faculty 2023

- Shawnnie White - Legacy 1 year full-time Legacy Counselor

### Newly hired Adjunct Faculty 2023

- Nicole Winborn - Instruction
- Monique Thai-Arnold - Express Counseling
- Vivian Barrera - MESA
- Sierra Hegle - Transfer
- Guadalupe Dominguez - Transfer
- Cristina Torres - (STEM) <sup>2</sup>
- Elias Purmul- MESA
- Lucy Vu - Career Planning Center
- Karol Johansen - Career Planning Center
- Edward Clarke - Career Planning Center
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## CAREER PLANNING CENTER



**Angela Sardan**

Coordinator, Career Planning Center

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asardan@cypresscollege.edu

Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Go Yotes! We define the future!"  
CSU, San Bernardino

### Spring 2023 Accomplishments:

- Career and Social Justice Event and Career Fair - 196 students
- CPC x Legacy - Legacy Internship Program - 5 students participated and placed in paid internships related to their major
- Collaboration with Governor Newsom Internship - 1 student placed
- Spring Workshops - 58 students attended
- Soft Launch of Career Closet - 20 students received FREE attire

### Fall 2023 Events:

- Grand Opening of New Location (CCCPLX-215) and Career Closet plus launch of Handshake (job board platform) - Late September
- Connect2Cypress/ Majors2Careers - Nov. 7
- Fall Workshops - LinkedIn, Soft Skills, Resume/Cover Letter
- Micro Events facilitated by Title V Career Coaches. Topics include:
  1. Exploring Career Options within Social Sciences
  2. Communicating Your Value: Resume and Interview Skills Workshop - Partnership with (STEM)<sup>2</sup> Program
  3. The Journey to Becoming an Author
  4. Getting Your Foot in the Door: Networking for VAPA students
  5. Career Mobility
  6. Employability for Your Future
  7. Career Growth Strategies
  8. Kinesiology - Title TBD

# LEGACY PROGRAM



**Regina Rhymes**

Professor/Coordinator, Legacy

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rrhymes@cypresscollege.edu

Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together."  
African Poverb

## Spring 2023 Accomplishments

- Black History Month:
  - Artificial Intelligence Presentation featuring Kenneth Starks
  - Blacks in STEM Panel Discussion
  - Day of Expression
  - Attended OC Black Chamber of Commerce Annual Luncheon
- Participated in the 16th Annual A2Mend Summit and Women's Networking Conference
- Opportunities through Mentoring and Networking presentation
- Speed Networking Workshop
- Legacy Awarded 15 scholarships to qualifying students
- Legacy Culmination Celebration featuring the Honorable Judge Dana LaMon
- Juneteenth Celebration featuring Bobby McDonald
- Five Legacy Scholars participated in the Second Annual Internship Program
- Four tutors/peer mentors employed by the Legacy Program

## Fall 2023 Events

- Planning for HBCU Tour

# LIFE PROGRAM



**Anne-Marie Beck**

Counselor/Coordinator, Liberated  
Intellectuals for Excellence (LIFE)

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Go Ducks Go! Fight Ducks Fight! Win  
Ducks Win!!"

## Accomplishments

- LIFE has become the Rising Scholars Program – in alignment with the Rising Scholars programs at Fullerton College and North Orange Continuing Education
- A \$1.5 million youth justice grant was applied for and are anxiously awaiting the positive news
- Received an additional \$78,000 in funds from the Chancellor's Office to support our ever-expanding community of Rising Scholars students, now at 75% retention rate
- We will be hosting author Keri Blakinger, along with a dinner and Q/A, in October
- Fall semester to celebrate with a Pancake Breakfast Orientation, and Beach Day
- Celebration highlighting graduating and transferring students

# PUENTE PROGRAM



**Dr. Therese Mosqueda-Ponce**  
Counselor/Coordinator, Puente

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Si se Puede!"

## Spring 2023 Accomplishments

- Puente Class #28 finished the spring semester 98% retention
- Puente Orientation
- Puente Bonfire at Huntington Beach
- Puente Mentor Training
- HACU Conference (Guadalajara, Mexico)
- Puente Tour at Cal Poly Pomona University
- Puente/LIFE Program Event, Obed Silva
- Dia de Los Muertos Altar Celebration
- Puente Campus Tour at Cal State University Fullerton
- End of Semester Mentor Dinner

## Fall 2023 Events

- Mentor Dinner Kick-Off/Potluck
- Hispanic Heritage Month/Sep. 15- Oct. 15
- Puente 41st Anniversary
- Northern Campus Tour
- CSULB Tour

# (STEM)<sup>2</sup> /MESA



**Yanet Padilla**  
Director, (STEM)<sup>2</sup>/MESA Program

(714) 484-7149

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Go Broncos!"

## Accomplishments

- (STEM)<sup>2</sup> celebrated 48 transfers! UC Berkeley, UCLA, UC Irvine, CSUF, Cal Poly Pomona, CSULB and CSU Monterey Bay
- \$1.6 million grant has been awarded to Cypress College to help underserved and underrepresented students majoring in calculus-based STEM fields who seek to transfer to a four-year institution
- 19 STEM Scholars passed the 5-week online course
- 11 accepted the challenge to participate in a robotics competition
- A group of 45 STEM scholars were chosen to participate in undergraduate research across a range of STEM disciplines at the following universities: Cal Poly Pomona, CSU Fullerton, Chapman University, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UC San Diego, and University of Las Vegas, Nevada
- 22 students were chosen to participate in internships and special programs: The Center for Social Entrepreneurship NOCCCD; Pathways to Computing for Women of Color at UC Irvine; L'SPACE program; and COPE Health Scholars
- (STEM)<sup>2</sup> welcomes Jessica Ochoa who will be serving as a Special Projects Coordinator for (STEM)<sup>2</sup> and MESA
- (STEM)<sup>2</sup> is now located inside the Learning Resource Center, Room 131.

# TRANSFER CENTER



**Penny Gabourie**

Director, Transfer Center

(714) 484-7129

pgabourie@cypresscollege.edu

Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Go Chargers!"

## Spring 2023 Accomplishments

- Held 2 Virtual Transfer Fairs, including California CSU/UC & Private universities
- Held HBCU mini fair during Black Student Success Week
- Provided Workshop (Let's Transfer)
- Biola University & CSU Fullerton Bus Tour
- CSU Dominguez Hills & CSULB Bus Tour
- Pre-Tag Workshop

## Fall 2023 Events

- UC Tag Workshops- September
- CSU Application Workshops- September & November
- UC Application Workshops- October & November
- Transfer Fair Events 101- November
- Saturday Transfer Remote Counseling Hours 9 a.m - 1 p.m.

# STUDENT EQUITY & SUCCESS



**Romeo O. Garcia (he/him/siya)**  
Director, Student Equity & Success

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Leadership...is only incidental to the movement. The movement should be the most important thing." late Filipinx immigrant labor leader Philip Vera Cruz

## Updates

- Express Counseling completed more than 4,500 student contacts for summer 2023 and we are poised and ready for the start of the fall semester. Thank you to Express Counselors and our Express Support Team for the warm welcome, and I look forward to working with you all!
- Asian American Native Hawai'ian Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Grant is launching this fall with new State funding!
- Cypress College team members are participating in Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) as we prepare for our Annual conference to share efforts to improve access, persistence, and success for Asian American, Filipinx, Native Hawai'ian, South Asian, Pacific Islander students via culturally responsive programming and Learning Communities.
- We plan to hire an AANHPI Coordinator and support staff this fall 2023.
- Momentum is rebuilding with Student Equity and Achievement Committee and Achievement Committee and Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Committee. Stay tuned for our Fall meetings, professional development opportunities, and special events.
- It's a pleasure meeting everyone at Cypress College. I am excited to work together with you!



# STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

## DISABILITY SUPPORT SERVICES (DSS)



**Celeste Phelps**  
Director, DSS

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Drive on Humboldt!"

### Disability Support Services (DSS)

- DSS had its highest student enrollment (1,240) ever (increase of 23%) during 2022-2023.
- The ARISE Program reported 651 DSS and non-DSS student visits (duplicated count) during spring. All Cypress College students may use ARISE located in the Business Building, Room 119
- The summer bridge program, First Steps, is entering its seventh year this summer with a hybrid format.
- During the spring, the DSS Testing Center proctored 855 accommodative exams for Cypress College faculty.
- DSS began its transition away from peer notetaking to notetaking technology (Glean, Otter, and Notetaking Express). During the spring, 65 students used technology instead of peer note-takers.

### Charger Assessment Team (ChAT)

- ChAT supports students who may be in distress or whose behaviors are of concern to others. ChAT employs a proactive and collaborative approach to provide care and support to students.
- Faculty and staff may refer a student to ChAT at any time by submitting a Care and Support Referral.
- During 2022-2023, ChAT received and provided support and resources to 100 students.

## EOPS/CARE, CALWORKS, GUARDIAN SCHOLARS



**AnnMarie Ruelas**  
Director, EOPS/CARE,  
CALWORKS, Guardian Scholars

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aruelas@cypresscollege.edu

Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"U-C-L-A! Fight! Fight! Fight!"

### EOPS/CARE, CalWORKs, Guardian Scholars & Grads to Be

- Programs served more than 750 students during the spring 2023 semester and over 1,000 unduplicated students throughout the year.
- The graduating class was the largest to date, with over 200 students graduating and transferring.
- We are looking forward to our Adopt-A-Family and Adopt-An-Angel holiday programs this year.
- Free legal services are offered to our undocumented students in coordination with the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA). To book a free confidential legal consultation with CHIRLA please visit the CHIRLA Student Legal Website.
- The Grads to Be Programs across NOCCCD will be hosting a week of workshops and activities in support of Undocumented Student Action Week, October 23-27, please join us!
- A big congratulations to Ashley Berry, EOPS Student Services Specialist who was recognized for the 2023 NOCCCD North Star Award for Cypress College!
- A special thank you to the hard work and dedication of the entire team: Eva Palomares, Alan Reza, Leena Acosta, Jackie Garcia, Teresa Cuara, Aimee Vaquera, Lili Perez, Ashley Berry, Leilani Matanguihan, Jennifer Jennings, Lisa Hoang, and Jonathan Valle.
- For more information, visit our Program Website.

# FINANCIAL AID OFFICE



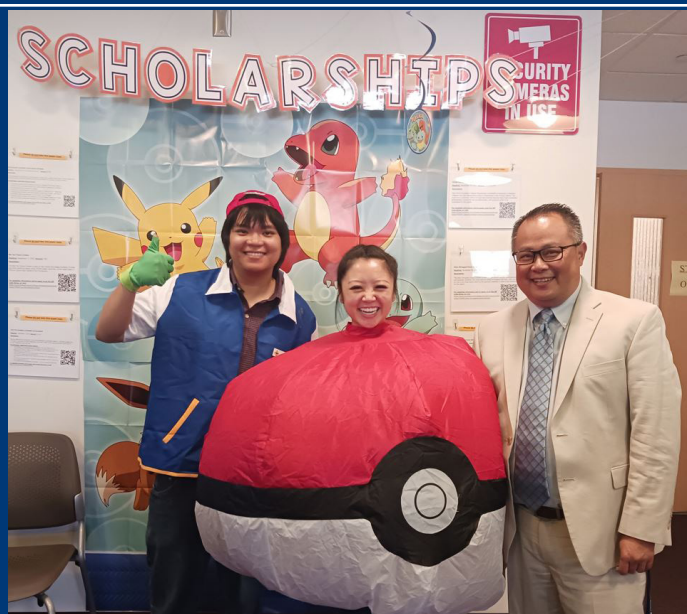
**Gabriela De La Cruz**  
Director, Financial Aid

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gdelacruz@cypresscollege.edu

Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"All Hail to Garfield High...There  
stand the High School that we Love."

- Financial Aid would like to remind everyone that students can still submit the 2023-2024 FAFSA or Dream Act application to receive aid for fall 2023, spring 2024 and/or summer 2024.
- Cypress College is partnering with The Babson Financial Literacy Project to host a series of workshops to provide students with information on how to become more financially literate and manage their financial future. Students can register using the following link: <https://cypressfnaid.eventbrite.com/>
- We would love to connect with your students to let them know about Financial Aid. Please indicate your interest by filling out the following form. Requests must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance. We will follow up with you to confirm if we are able to assist. <https://forms.office.com/r/7rx08ypp.JS>
- For the Fall semester, the Financial Aid office will have extended remote hours on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. Students can reach out using Cranium Café, email, or by calling our office.
- Extended remote hour services began the week of Aug. 8, 2023



The Financial Aid office held an open house at the start of the fall term. Students were able to learn about the financial aid process, award letters, financial literacy and met the staff.



Students were treated to Boba Tea after viewing all the resource tables.



# STUDENT LIFE AND LEADERSHIP



**David Okawa**

Director, Student Life and Leadership

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Go Eagles! Fight with all your might for Cal State LA!"

## Accomplishments:

- This past academic year, our department continued to focus on the development of Inter-Club Council (Campus Clubs and student leaders with support from Associated Students). Our key focus is continuing post-pandemic cocurricular and extracurricular student reengagement and improving efficiency with our charter processes.

## Fall 2023 Updates:

- We are in the planning stages for a remodel of the Food Pantry, addition of Basic Needs offices for effective service navigation, and reconfiguration of inventory space to better service our students who receive these resources.
- Our department is bolstering our outreach efforts regarding student involvement opportunities and spreading awareness of our Basic Needs resources.
- Our projected growth will likely exceed 400 students per week utilizing Food Pantry services by the end of the fall 2023 semester.
- Our department continues to provide comprehensive support for Associated Students and related engagement efforts that promote student success and a welcoming collegiate environment. We also continue to develop Civic Engagement and Leadership Academy programs in collaboration with Associated Students.

# VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER



**Dr. Juan Carlos Garcia**  
Counselor/Coordinator, VRC

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Favorite Alma Mater/Phrase:  
"Fight On!"

## Fall 2023 Updates

- The VRC served more than 600 students during the spring 2023 semester and over 1,000 unduplicated students throughout the year.
- VA work-study completed weeklong training with US Vets, VRC, & DSS.
- New VRC cohort completed week-long Jump Start Training (JST).
- The VRC continues to support, engage, and connect with students by providing counseling, textbook assistance, priority registration, gas/grocery cards.
- The Veterans Club (CCVO) and Women's Unit(y) Club will continue the great work they began in 2022-2023.
- VRC will host bi-weekly workshops to assist students with academic and personal information.
- Veterans Week will be celebrated Nov. 6-9 with a series of events: Green Zone Project Training; Open House; Military Women's Celebration; and VRC BBQ
- CCVO & Women's Unit(y) Thanksgiving Potluck – Nov. 21
- VRC End of Year Celebration – Dec. 9
- A big welcome to our new Student Services Coordinator, Nicholas Gutierrez
- For more information, please call (714) 484-7150.

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