Leandro Perez:

There hasn't been one time that I haven't walked into the Rising Scholars office, even though everybody seemed really busy, as being able to voice whatever it is and still get acknowledged even doesn't matter the workload that they have, and I feel welcome. I almost feel just like an extended family of somebody that's just been related to me, but only relations towards the incarceration, what I want to do to better myself. And this is just the point. This is just a start for me. They haven't lost faith in me as far as what I could accomplish. And the whole thing is you can, and you will. I couldn't even just fathom the idea of me sitting in class with the clue of what I was going to do until I started getting this roadmap and the encouragement and the faith of somebody that hardly even knows me, but they're telling me you could do it. But what's really helpful with Rising Scholars is because I find myself as being as one. Nobody's left alone, together we're going to do it.

Christina Barsi:

Hi, I'm Christina Barsi.

Sun Ezzell:

And I'm Sun Ezzell and you're listening to the Magic Mountie Podcast.

Christina Barsi:

Our mission is to find ways to keep your ear to the ground, so to speak, by bringing to you the activities and events you may not have time to attend. The resources on campus you might want to know more about, the interesting things your colleagues are creating, and the many ways we can continue to better help and guide our students.

Sun Ezzell:

We bring to you the voices of Mt. SAC from the classroom to completion.

Speaker 4:

And I know I'm going to achieve my goals, and I know people here are going to help me to do it.

Speaker 5:

She is a sociology major and she's transferring to Cal Poly Pomona. Psychology major, English major.

Sun Ezzell:

From transforming part-time into full-time.

Speaker 6:

I really like the time that we spend with Julie about how to write a CV and a cover letter.

Christina Barsi:

Or just finding time to soak in the campus.

Speaker 7:

To think of the natural environment around us as a library.

Christina Barsi:

We want to keep you informed and connected to all things Mt. SAC, but most importantly, we want to keep you connected with each other. I'm Christina Barsi, Mt. SAC alumni and producer of this podcast.

Sun Ezzell:

And I'm Sun Ezzell, learning assistance faculty and professional learning academy coordinator.

Christina Barsi:

And this is the Magic Mountie Podcast. Feeling inspired is unavoidable as you listen in to this episode featuring the Rising Scholars program. Our host Sun Ezzell, speaks with the coordinators, project experts and students who help make this program the amazing and supported experience it is. Their mission to ensure students achieve their educational goals and feel supported along their way is expressed through the stories you're about to hear firsthand in this episode. And as Ieisha Kitchen points out, the Rising Scholar program is an empowerment program as well. Enjoy.

Sun Ezzell:

Welcome everyone to the Magic Mountie Podcast. This is Sun Ezzell your co-host and I'm so excited today to welcome Joe Louis Hernandez and the Rising Scholars program to the podcast. Welcome everyone.

Daniell'e Silva:

Thank you.

Joe Louis Hernandez:

Thank you for Having us.

Kevin Gonzalez:

Thank you.

Ieisha Kitchen:

Happy to Be here.

Leandro Perez:

Happy to be here.

Sun Ezzell:

Wonderful. It's wonderful to have a chance to talk with you today. And I was wondering to start out with, if you could just introduce yourselves by sharing your name and maybe a little bit about what brought you to Mt. SAC. And what's your role with Rising Scholars if you're a staff or a student or both.

Joe Louis Hernandez:

If I could get it started, my name is Joe Louis Hernandez. I'm the Coordinator for Rising Scholars. What brought me to work here at Mt. SAC is this is my educational home where my education got started, so it's such a privilege to come back to the campus that gave me such a great start and to be able to serve students just as I was served.

Daniell'e Silva:

Hi everybody. My name is Daniell'e Silva. I am a student here at Mt. SAC and I decided to come to school to broaden my ability to connect with people within the community. And I would like to help to decrease racial disparity by maybe running for office or doing something politically charged in the future, so I thought why not get a really clear understanding about people and politics and why not do it at Mt. SAC?

Leandro Perez:

Hello, my name is Leandro Perez and I am a student here at MT. SAC. What brought me here to MT. SAC was to achieve my education goals. I am currently working my associates for a drug and alcohol counselor to just be a part of and be able to give back to the community.

Ieisha Kitchen:

And hello, my name is Ieisha Kitchen. I am a Project Expert with the Rising Scholars program. What brought me to Mt. SAC actually is I love community colleges. I love their open access, so I want to stay in the realm of community colleges and also I'm here because I would love to work, if anybody knows Joe Louis does his work, so I admire the work that he does. I would jump to be under his way and get to learn from him, so that's what brought me here.

Kevin Gonzalez:

Hi, my name is Kevin Gonzalez. I am a Project Expert with Rising Scholars. What brought me to Mt. SAC Rising Scholars in January, Joe Louis, the opportunity to work with this wonderful program. I am formerly incarcerated also, I am a student, I'm in a grad program at Long Beach. And when I first started my community college career, Mt. SAC was one of the schools I attended in my first year.

Sun Ezzell:

Welcome back. I was wondering for any of our listeners who might, maybe not know about Rising Scholars yet, what is Rising Scholars?

Kevin Gonzalez:

What is Rising Scholars? We are a student support program on campus and we work to support formerly incarcerated students or students who are directly impacted by the criminal justice system. And so we work to address any needs that they may have. Most of our staff is formerly incarcerated, and so we do identify with this population. We have very unique needs. We work to support our students on campus.

Ieisha Kitchen:

And if I can add a little bit into that, I'd also like to add that we're also an empowerment program. On top of those supportive services, we also empower our students to... We'll be on their personal and professional goals that they may have come in with. I always like to add that piece because we're a little... There's a lot of supporters programs out there, but there ain't one that got that empowerment piece inside of it so it's definitely... I wanted to add that.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you so much. And I was wondering if you could share a little bit about what some of the benefits are for students who join Rising Scholars.

Ieisha Kitchen:

I'm going to jump at this one Kevin. I love it. I think some of the benefits first in, for most, I think is a system. We provide, there's outreach, there's admissions assistance. We help with financial aid, community, whether it's bringing your community on campus or outside of campus. Resources, anywhere between expungement clinics and anything with maybe helping with finances or helping you go to the next level with writing your statement to transfer, write your PIQS or anything like that. We offer anything between financial aid, like I said, community mentorship, advocacy, tutoring, supplement instructions, legal services, as I said like our expungement clinics. I think those are some of the benefits to being in this and most importantly like a family. You have somebody who knows and who understands what it's like to have a second chance and then be added in this realm of academia.

Ieisha Kitchen:

I think that's some of the things we offer counseling wellness, even employment opportunities for people like me, I also identify as formerly incarcerated and also students who may be in this same realm. I think those are some of the great benefits. And then you get this family and then there's this whole empowerment piece of advocacy where the next thing you know, our students typically, they're going out and then bringing in the other ones because they see this fitness and that they're empowered to share with other people.

Kevin Gonzalez:

Just to add to that, I think with our students, our students have someone that they can go to. And a lot of times the campus is not a very familiar space. And so being able to have us to contact, to address things that can pretty much deter people just from coming to campus like, "Hey, I'm having trouble. I keep getting in the run around from this department, this department. I don't even feel like being on campus anymore." Or just having maybe not that experience. It could be as simple as, "Hey, I just did 20 years in prison. I don't know how to do this." We are there to assist them with that. Show them the way and just try to make that transition easier and accessible and do it in a way that makes them want to be on campus.

Sun Ezzell:

That's wonderful. Thank you so much. I have a couple questions for the Rising Scholar staff. I was wondering if you would be willing to share a little bit about what your experience has been like supporting the Rising Scholars program.

Kevin Gonzalez:

This type of program, for me, for my own experiences, I am formerly incarcerated. I was always in and out of prison and jail. My whole thing was when I would get out, I didn't know what I wanted to do. It was hard to get a job, so okay, let me just start school. But I'd be on campus and it was very... I didn't feel comfortable on campus. I felt like it was not a place where I belonged and so I wouldn't want to be there. Next thing you know, I'm back in the streets and then back in jail. And so being able to have this space, a program like this was very crucial in me staying sober and getting acclimated back into coming back into the community and staying out here and then pretty much doing something with my life.

Kevin Gonzalez:

I always say education saved my life. And so supporting Rising Scholars is important to me because when I came onto a university campus, there was a professor there who I was able to identify with. He was formerly incarcerated and so he created that space for me. He pretty much took me by the hand, showed me here, "This is what you want to do. This is what you want to get involved with. You're going to grad school, it's not an option." In supporting Rising Scholars, what I've learned in my own journey is very important for me to give back. To share those experiences because it was done for me and if my experience can help another student navigate and feel comfortable and being able to find out, "Hey, this is what I want to do. Or this is what I want to go." Or maybe they don't know, just being able to show them like, "Hey, get involved in this." We can only point the way we can force people through the doors but I think just having that support and having that experience is important for me to give back.

Ieisha Kitchen:

I'm piggyback a little bit off of that. I would like to say my experience supporting Rising Scholars has been healing. I've really been healing. And I say it's healing because I sometimes see myself in these students. And even when I don't, I know what it's like to be a part of a certain group that may be still stigmatized. We still have these other traumas that come along with this, so to have somebody step in the world of academia who has this background is like no other. I always tell people it's the heart's work. I feel like it's my purpose. If I've been through it, why would I not help someone else through it? Why would I not? If I have the tools, how could I hold them for myself there for the next person especially someone who's been formerly incarcerated?

Ieisha Kitchen:

And also representation, that being in the eyes like, okay, you really formerly incarcerated. And in this realm of individuals, I like to say where most people are realist. Most people don't join to do this work because they just want paycheck or they, "Oh, I just landed here." No, no, no, it's really heart's work. We're doing this to come from a certain place, which most of us is like, to give back, to help them get a step up. Because a lot of us, like I say healing, I'm still going through it. There's still days I have good days. There's some days I have bad days. I think it's healing to even be in this space as formerly incarcerated and them see... I can't even explain it. It's so deep and them see me as well because I know one day that'll be their truth.

Ieisha Kitchen:

I know. I know one day that that'll be their truth. And it also matches my servant leadership style. I'm privileged and I have this power that I also can share with them and that they can whether, if we change their social circles or whatever the case they may be. Again, for me, my experience been nothing but gratitude, gratefulness, I'm blessed to be here. I'm blessed to serve those students. It's nothing like someone getting a second chance and really wanting to have a new staff at it, so I love it.

Kevin Gonzalez:

This is also a learning experience. I know for myself, probably for us, Joe Louis, he's a mentor. He's a mentor as well as our coordinator in the program, but he's a mentor for me in life. And so working with this type of program and with this population, it's definitely a learning experience. How do we go about this? How do we do this? What can we do? How do we move forward? What type of connections, what kind of networking should we do? It's a learning experience and really for me, it's also helping my own reentry. I just wanted to say that.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you both so much. I was wondering, what advice would you give to formerly incarcerated students who would like to work in roles such as yours with Rising Scholars?

Ieisha Kitchen:

I'm going to say it as if I'm talking to them. You may not see it now. Sometimes we don't see ourselves. You came here for a reason. You can and you will. And a thing that I like to use and we always use is I like to call my students, doctor, is it Dr. Perez? Is it Dr. Kitchen? Because you never know. And I believe that's how far you'll go. And I think you'll go beyond that, so you can, and you will, in that order. You can, and you will.

Kevin Gonzalez:

My advice would be get involved. Get involved, show up, volunteer, ask questions, "Hey, what are you guys doing?" Even if you feel like you're bugging, you're not bugging because we see you. People see you in this space, not just as students, but also as the next leaders, the next people who will be our colleagues. And I think that's very important for students to realize is you belong in this space and if this is what you want to do, then come show up, show up every day, show up every other day, call us here we're doing, "Hey, what can I get involved in? What do you guys need help with?" And I think that goes a long way, showing you're reliable, showing that you are dedicated. People see that and people will recognize that and when time comes to get involved, you will be thought of, you'll be like, "Hey, we need this done. Why don't you get in contact with this person? They're always here. They always show up. We can rely on them." That goes a long way.

Joe Louis Hernandez:

Maybe even starting a club as a student and getting involved with Student Government also gets you really... Like for Daniela that wants to do government. If you get in Student Government, it begins to get you into those realms of one of those people. I would encourage Daniela to get involved with Student Government and then maybe even run for Student Trustee. The same for Leandro, you'll get put in place with people that have been elected officials. I think just knowing what to do and what you can do would be something... Starting with the Formerly Incarcerated Students Club organization and then moving up the ranks. Those would be some good things to do because then that gets you exposed into what student affairs.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you all so much. And I have a couple of questions for Rising Scholars students, and just open them up to whoever would like to respond. I was wondering if you could share a little bit about how Rising Scholars is impacting your educational journey.

Leandro Perez:

Hi, my name is Leandro Perez and I like to give a shout out over there to my man, Joe. All right. Joe Louis, to Kevin, to Ravia that couldn't be here that called me on short notice, but I was more excited about, I am just a student and being able to be a part of this. I did it with a lot of pleasure and it's an honor to be a part of this. My story which so far, what I've been hearing is formerly incarcerated. Now that's one of the reasons why I came to this program of Rising Scholars. I didn't have a clue that everybody else around me was there and they were all formerly incarcerated. I looked at them as professional people, but what am I? I'm getting to see that this mirror image, it's beautiful and it's making me feel so comfortable. And people aren't there just to go get a check by the way. They're going over there to try to assist people.

Leandro Perez:

I love the way, I forgot your name, but I really want to say that the way you said it was perfect because there are those that go to work just to get that check and they're the ones that care. And there hasn't been one time that I haven't walked into the Rising Scholars office, even though everybody seemed really busy, I could get inside my head and say, "Oh yeah, I'm just bugging them." Just like Kevin said, but it's not that. It's being able to voice whatever it is and still get acknowledged even doesn't matter the workload that they have, whatever consists of, I'm curious, I'm trying to figure out from point A to point B and I feel welcome. I almost feel just like an extended family of somebody that's just been related to me, but only relations towards the incarceration and what I want to do to better myself.

Leandro Perez:

And this is just the point. This is just a start for me. They haven't lost faith in me as far as what I could accomplish. And the whole thing is you can, and you will. And I'm going to continue going. They made me things and go past any barriers that I could ever imagine, because I couldn't even just fathom the idea of me sitting in class with the clue of what I was going to do until I started getting this roadmap and the encouragement, and the faith of somebody that hardly even knows me but they're telling me you could do it. There's countless efforts but what's really helpful with Rising Scholars is because I find myself as being as one, nobody's left alone, together we're going to do it. And that's what I really like about that close relation with everybody. And that's a shout out to everybody that's over there at Rising Scholars today. Thank you.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you so much.

Daniell'e Silva:

This is Daniela. My first experience with Rising Scholars was visiting and having an escort take me down to help me to get my books. It was just a really great experience because I did feel lost on campus and not really knowing where I was going. And so it was really nice to have, I believe it was Robbie and Naisha and Precious, but we walked downstairs and they introduced me to everyone in the student store and stayed with me while I got my ID. It just gave me a very warm feeling and I felt accepted and welcomed and actually looked forward to coming back. That was my first experience on campus and with Rising Scholars. Thank you you guys.

Sun Ezzell:

That's wonderful. Thank you so much for sharing. I was wondering for the Rising Scholars students, you've both shared some positive experiences you've had at Mt. SAC, I'm wondering if there's been anything surprising about your experience coming to Mt. SAC or with Rising Scholars.

Leandro Perez:

Yes. What was surprising to me was how open-minded that a lot of the staff. Well, my peers had helped me look past some things because I felt, "Well, I'm going to go get this alone." But when they started to share some of their experiences and doing it so freely without having any guilt, and we like to say, those that are in the shade will come to light. Well, they don't have nothing to hide and it makes me feel more comfortable. When I'm feeling comfortable in my own skin, no matter what I'm wearing today, it encourages me to continue forward. And one thing I do want to say is they come at you with just offering themselves.

Leandro Perez:

It's really them, they're not faking it to make it, they're actually doing this because they want to help. The situation where if I have something to offer, why not give it back to somebody so freely and they're doing that? And I'm saying I'm surprised because I didn't expect that from this school. It's been magical, everything has just been set at this time. The timeframe for me was perfect timing. I couldn't have met a better group of people that are actually, it's what I would like to do to the community of giving back. And they're showing me this, it's almost like this whole thing was meant for me, but you see, it's not being selfish, it's giving. I really respect that. Thank you.

Daniell'e Silva:

I'm not sure if there's another student or not, but I do have an answer for that. I was really surprised to learn through an opportunity I received with a Rising Scholars program. I got to speak on a panel with a couple other students, and I was really surprised to learn that I can still pursue a career in law and in politics and get assistance with that even though I am formerly incarcerated. And that gave me a huge amount of inspiration and confidence in being able to voice and pursue what I feel part of my life purpose is.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you both so much for sharing. I was wondering, it sounds like your experiences with Rising Scholars has been really amazing and supportive and you're making really wonderful, authentic connections with each other and with other students with similar experiences. What do you believe is the importance of having staff with similar background as students in the Rising Scholars program? And you've talked about this a little bit, but maybe just if there's anything else you wanted to share.

Ieisha Kitchen:

Again, I talked about representation. You want to see yourself and I think that's all a part of gathering this vision and getting that roadmap. I think it allows people to continue to visualize and see themselves.

Kevin Gonzalez:

What Aisha said is very important. Seeing ourselves in those positions. And I think to be able to make those connections with students and with staff, typically, we don't feel comfortable. We don't feel like, "Hey, this is somebody that I could talk to. Somebody that I see as a friend or as a homey or as somebody that can confide in." Having somebody that you're able to identify with, somebody that you could build rapport with based on experiences. I could talk to them on their level. They could share things with me or with us that they might not share with just anybody. They can come to us and tell us like, "Hey, this is what's going on." And we'll understand as compared to someone else might look at them like, "I have no idea what you're talking about and I have no idea how to address this."

Kevin Gonzalez:

We come from the streets. There's all kinds of stuff going on. There's trauma, there's substance abuse, there's violence abuse, there's everything. And a lot of us, most of us have experienced that in all types of ways. And I think being able identify that even without them telling us, us being able to identify that just by art of experiences and then being able to direct them to correct resources or at least make suggestions where like, "Hey, you know what, I think maybe this can benefit you." In a way where it's not coming from... When you're in certain situations like, "Oh, I don't want help." Or, "I don't need this." Or, "I don't need that." I think us having been in those spaces, in those experiences and dealing with these issues, we could address it in a way that hopefully is beneficial and useful. And actually we get somewhere.

Leandro Perez:

I get this satisfaction just talking about you guys, because like I said, it's a reflection of where I would like to stand. What I mean by that is let's just say that I did have a tough road and I don't mind sharing my experience and being open with everybody that's listening to this podcast because they have, like Joe, Robbie, Kevin have just openly shared their experiences. Let's just say that I didn't just ponder into school one day and say, "Hey, I'm going to get this." It was hard work. And times where I felt like this is taking a way too long, man, somebody came along and just said the right thing and that inspired me. If I could do some inspirational work, let me be a vessel. It might be from my experience, I didn't graduate high school until this year.

Leandro Perez:

And those are big accomplishments because when it was just the only one road of leading me back into institutions, where I thought that's the only place where I was going to end up in, I found another way. And although I'm 54, just recently graduated from high school, I'm continuing on with my education. It's been nothing but turmoil in the past. But that's just something in the rear view and I don't look back. What I like to do today by offering my experiences and share it with everybody that doesn't think that this life has anything different to offer, don't think twice about it. Getting yourself together, Rising Scholars and people that work for Rising Scholars have a lot to offer. You're not alone thinking about where I'm going to get my book from, the money from a book, they'll help you. They help me get my books for my classes, in the countless hours because I talk.

Leandro Perez:

But then for some reason I sit here and I get all nervous inside of myself thinking, "What do I have to offer?" And I just want to be me today and I could feel free to say all these things because I... First of all, it's been over 13 years since I've been out of the system and I have been working on it. The reset of a rate for somebody like myself, as long as I put my best effort and this is my best effort and I get everybody else like family members, relatives that are just really happy in the courts that I'm going right now. I'm going straight and narrow. It wasn't always like that. I'm referring to just changing my life, finding myself in school and not getting lost. And this is for a better future. What I plan on doing from here, I only have today so I'm trying to be my better me. Thank you.

Daniell'e Silva:

Yeah, definitely very inspiring. I appreciate you sharing. For me, I think that it definitely broadened my horizon to feel like something that in mainstream society would be something that we don't want to talk about, something we want to put behind us, for example, an expungement clinic. What is that for? An expungement clinic is to expunge something off your record. The word sponge is in there. What do we do with sponges? We clean. The idea of cleaning something away because why? What are words? If it's not clean, it's what? Dirty. Okay. What I did is a dirty thing. You know what I mean? I broke the law, I broke it. The idea of feeling like I have value based on mistakes that I made in my past, which obviously don't define me today.

Daniell'e Silva:

And being able to use that story to connect with other people who are experiencing something similar, who have triumphed over adversity and maybe also found themself in the system. The idea that we could use this part of our story to aid, assist, benefit, and even bring value to a school institution or a counseling program, a peer program, that was what I gained from realizing that Rising Scholars existed, that everyone there was just like me, just a couple chapters ahead in their life. And that all I needed to do was continue to turn the pages until I get to that chapter in my life. And that was what gathered from this experience so far.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you both so much. I was wondering for any students who might be listening, who might be thinking of reaching out to Rising Scholars, but are feeling uncertain, what would you like to say to them?

Kevin Gonzalez:

I would suggest, "Hey, just come talk to us." Just come, sit down, come to the office. I mean, you don't have to tell us anything, just ask us, "Hey, tell me about Rising Scholars." And we'll engage you in conversation and hopefully by the time you leave, you'll be a part of Rising Scholars. I mean, that's the best suggestion that I have. Come see what we're doing. Come see what we're about. And we'll go from there.

Ieisha Kitchen:

Yeah. I want to add to that. I'll just say, come see about us. I guarantee you, if you come, we will not want to leave. So, you will have an amazing experience. There's no other office like ours and I'll put my money on it, so come and see about us. If you see us out, speak to us, if we're tabling, just come see about us. And there's many of us here and we would love to be in a community and have you here with us.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you so much. And how about for faculty or other college employees who want to help connect students with Rising Scholars? Is there a good way to do that?

Kevin Gonzalez:

Yes. Send us an email. We do reach out to professors. We do reach out to faculty and staff. But a lot of times we also have professors email us like, "Hey, I've heard about you guys here, I've heard about you there. Can you come do a presentation?" We'll go and do a presentation. We've had staff be like, "Hey, I want to collaborate with you guys. How can we do this?" Pretty much just reach out to us, send us an email. We also have an interest form. I mean, that's more for students, but I mean, you can email our email addresses on there. You can email us and get ahold of us. You can also stop by the office.

Sun Ezzell:

Thank you. And I'm curious to hear Leandro or Daniela. One thing that faculty often do is they'll share a flyer. Is there anything else that you've seen your teachers do in class in addition to sharing a flyer that made you think, "Hey, that might be a thing I would want to go check out."

Daniell'e Silva:

My sociology teacher, the first quiz that we took, it was an open book quiz. And in order to pass it, you had to answer questions. It was not timed. And it was questions like, you just met Alex on campus and he explained to you he doesn't have transportation and he's not sure if he can continue school. What advice can you give to Alex? We had to go through the website and find the answers to the food pantry, availability, whether appointments were needed, what we could provide to Alex for showering? How many showers are available? Things like that and so that was really... It was entertaining. It was educational and it was also a really great idea to set the pace in the class for feeling like it's okay to look for the answers as you're taking the test, it's not cheating. And I learned a lot about the programs that were available through that experience. Thank you, Dr. Mica .

Sun Ezzell:

Great. Thank you so much for sharing that wonderful idea. As you were sharing, all of you made me think about how important stories are and how important our own stories are. And then also hearing other people's stories and feeling like we connect and identify and find community. I just wanted to thank you for that. I wanted to open it up, if there's anything else you would like to share, maybe I haven't thought to ask something. I'll just open it up to anybody.

Kevin Gonzalez:

I just wanted to say, thank you for having this. You're doing a wonderful thing here and a great thing providing these recordings, this podcast for our campus community, for a fact. I mean, really anybody can listen to it. But yeah, you guys are doing a great thing here, so thank you.

Ieisha Kitchen:

I will second that. Sometimes we don't know things, so I think this will be great to just share with others. And I'm thankful that you view our population as something special to want to come see that we have and all the assets that we bring to this community college.

Daniell'e Silva:

Yeah. I just want to say thank you so much for taking interest in this program and other programs. I'm definitely feeling more confident about my current situation and the things that I've gone through and I'm more open to share because I've been able to practice sharing my story, thanks to the Rising Scholars on numerous occasions now. And I'm looking forward to hearing more of your podcast and more of the people that you've interviewed as well. Thank you so much for the opportunity today.

Sun Ezzell:

It was absolutely my honor to get to meet with you today. And I'm so happy to be able to support Rising Scholars and bring a little bit of your stories and your experiences to the greater Mt. SAC community. Thank you so much for honoring all of us by being here to share your wisdom with us and thank you for the phenomenal work that you're doing on campus. And Leandro and Daniela we're so glad that you're here and we hope that you'll continue to have positive experiences at Mt. SAC and feel that you want to be on campus and thank you so much for being here.

Joe Louis Hernandez:

Thank you for having us.

Leandro Perez:

Thank you for having me.

Christina Barsi:

Thank you for listening to the Magic Mountie Podcast. Remember to subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you like to get your podcast so you can listen in the car in your office or however you like to listen. Once you subscribe, we'd love to hear what you think by leaving us a review and don't forget to share your favorite episodes.