# Join the Excitement At The Mt SAC Transfer Achievement Celebration 2022!

# 00:00:00 **Lupita**

# We know that transfer is truly a pathway to equity in education and majority of our students, here at Mt. SAC, come from a historically underrepresented background. So, a lot of these students transferring are in those student populations, are making a difference in their families, in their communities.

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# 00:00:20 **Lupita**

# And so, this is the time that we have to celebrate them. I invite the entire Mt. SAC Community to support in the future like this event in terms of showing up for the students, telling them, "Yes, we're here for you. And even after you transfer, Mt. SAC is still going to be here for you."

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# 00:00:41 **Christina**

# Hi, I'm Christina Barsi.

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# 00:00:42 **Sun**

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

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# 00:00:46 **Christina**

# 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.

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# 00:01:03 **Sun**

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

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# 00:01:07 **Speaker 1**

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

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# 00:01:13 **Speaker 2**

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

# 

# 00:01:18 **Sun**

# From transforming part-time into full-time-

# 

# 00:01:20 **Speaker 1**

# I really liked the time that we spent with Julie about how to write a CV and cover letter.

# 

# 00:01:27 **Christina**

# Or just finding time to soak in the campus.

# 

# 00:01:30 **Speaker 1**

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

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# 00:01:33 **Christina**

# 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.

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# 00:01:44 **Sun**

# And I'm Sun Ezzell, Learning Assistance Faculty and Professional Learning Academy Coordinator.

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# 00:01:49 **Christina**

# And this is the Magic Mountie Podcast.

# 

# 00:01:54 **Christina**

# Celebrating key moments in our lives is always a special privilege. So, in this episode, we take you along with us to the Mt. SAC Transfer Achievement Celebration, as Alana Bachor and I capture the many voices of students, presenters, speakers, and attendees who participated and were celebrated in this event.

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# 00:02:14 **Christina**

# First, you'll hear some familiar voices as we ask the many Mt. SAC faculty, volunteers, and attendees of this amazing transfer celebration event to share their wisdom and excitement with us. You'll even hear a special interview I was able to capture with the Mt. SAC alumni keynote speaker, Karen Osorio right before she left for the stage to present her speech, which you will also hear.

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# 00:02:39 **Christina**

# And most importantly, you'll get to hear from some of the students who cross the stage and their families, as we share their names being called during the ceremony. If you joined us for the celebration, enjoy reliving the inspiring moments we captured. And if you were unable to attend, we hope this inspires you to join us next time. Here's Krystle Bybee to share a snapshot of what it takes to create an event like this and why it's so special.

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# 00:03:10 **Krystle**

# My name is Krystle Bybee and I'm a Transfer Specialist at Mt. SAC. The transfer team celebration is a really big undertaking. We host over a thousand students at the event usually, and we're in a very large venue. And a lot of the work does - or some of the work I should say, starts potentially a year in advance to start working with the right people on campus to reserve facilities and make sure we're not having two large events on the same night or at the same time, things like that.

# 

# 00:03:39 **Krystle**

# Students should come because this is a huge milestone for them finishing at the community college and meeting requirements and doing everything right in the process to be accepted to universities and to continue on and finish their bachelor's degree. That's a huge milestone.

# 

# 00:03:54 **Krystle**

# And so, whether a student's getting an associate's degree or not, we want them to be honored and recognized for what they've done at Mt. SAC, and faculty and staff should attend the event because students really like having that support for their faculty and staff members to be there celebrating alongside them.

# 

# 00:04:14 **Elmer**

# My name is Elmer Rodriguez, I'm a counselor at Mt. SAC, and I've been here about 16 years. I feel that our students go through so much, and this is a very important event that we can actually come to support our students as faculty members, as staff members. I think it's important to just encourage our students to get to the finish line. They got to the finish line finally, because after all odds, they still made it. So, I wanted to make sure that I'm always here. Were

# 

# 00:04:39 **Alana**

# Were you a transfer student yourself?

# 

# 00:04:41 **Elmer**

# Yes, actually, in fact, I was. I was a student at Mt. SAC for four years, then transferred to UC Riverside, where I got my degree in business and sociology. So, I really, I feel that this is an important moment for our students and just like it was for myself. Not just for the students, but for the families, because many times students sometimes have that support, sometimes they don't, but then we serve as a second family for them too.

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# 00:05:02 **Elmer**

# So, it's really great to be here and just celebrate together. Once a Mountie, always a Mountie. So, don't forget to come home and we're here for you.

# 

# 00:05:09 **Yadira**

# Hi, my name is Yadira, I am the ACES Program Specialist for the ACES Program. I am a Mt. SAC alumni. I went through the ceremony for the Transfer Center and I'm very proud of what MT. SAC has done to support myself and my brothers. I always like to say that MT. SAC has a 100% success rate with my family. Both my brothers and myself, all graduated and transferred to a four-year institution.

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# 00:05:32 **Yadira**

# So, we've all gone through this process of ceremony. So, I wanted to be here to help our students and give back to them what Mt. SAC has given to us.

# 

# 00:05:39 **Allie**

# I'm Allie Frickert, and I'm a professor in the History Department. My daughter, Emma Frickert is graduating and she will be getting two AA degrees in social justice and in psychology.

# 

# 00:05:51 **Christina**

# How proud are you?

# 

# 00:05:53 **Allie**

# So proud?

# 

# 00:05:53 **Christina**

# How proud are you?

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# 00:05:58 **Emma**

# This is Lonnie, she's seven. She's proud, but she's also sad because big sister is going to be moving to UCSB.

# 

# 00:06:06 **Christina**

# Are you a little mixed emotions today?

# 

# 00:06:09 **Lonnie**

# Yeah.

# 

# 00:06:09 **Christina**

# Yeah.

# 

# 00:06:11 **Patricia**

# I'm Patricia Maestro, I'm a general counselor.

# 

# 00:06:12 **Sara**

# I'm Sara Mestas, also a general counselor.

# 

# 00:06:15 **Patricia**

# We are celebrating our students who are transferring to their four-year colleges and it's called the Transfer Achievement Celebration 2022.

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# 00:06:24 **Christina**

# Woo-hoo.

# 

# 00:06:25 **Patricia**

# Thank you students. Congratulations and excited to be here to celebrate with you and your family. So, it's wonderful to be here at the Transfer Achievement Celebration.

# 

# 00:06:34 **Emily**

# My name is Emily Versace and I'm a counselor here at Mt. SAC.

# 

# 00:06:37 **Christina**

# What are you most excited about today?

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# 00:06:40 **Emily**

# I am just so excited for all these students who have not just studied hard and worked hard and done all the things you need to do to be able to transfer, but they did it while there was a pandemic going on. And I'm just so happy that we get to be in-person again, outside, cheering for them, celebrating all of their wonderful work and their determination.

# 

# 00:07:02 **Emily**

# And I hope that they are really proud of themselves. And I hope that this event helps them see how special what they did and what they accomplished is.

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# 00:07:13 **Robert**

# My name is Robert Hidalgo and I'm on the board of trustees here at Mt. SAC. I got elected in 2013 and then reelected again in 2018. So, I've been with the college for a little while now.

# 

# 00:07:24 **Christina**

# That is a little while.

# 

# 00:07:25 **Robert**

# Yeah, I enjoy it. It's a great institution and it makes my job easy as a trustee.

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# 00:07:31 **Christina**

# So, what inspires you to come to these?

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# 00:07:32 **Robert**

# The end of the year kind of celebrations are for me the most exciting thing because our meetings are kind of boring and we approve some very boring things. The one thing I do like is coming to the transfer celebration and our graduation because we get to celebrate with the students and their accomplishments.

# 

# 00:07:46 **Robert**

# So, this is definitely one of the most celebratory kind of exciting things that I like to be a part of at the college. And like I said, it's just the pinnacle of all the success, the student outcomes, them going off and doing bigger and better things and representing Mt. SAC to wherever they go. So, that's why I like coming to these events. Being a very small part of their success means a lot to me too.

# 

# 00:08:12 **Mary**

# So, my name is Mary Beth Barrios, and I'm a counselor in General Counseling. This event is I think something very well-deserved for students. A lot of our transfer students don't realize the milestone that this is, or sometimes their family members don't realize.

# 

# 00:08:27 **Mary**

# They think sometimes, "Oh, it's just Mt. SAC," but they don't realize that the first two years of their major is the most challenging. So, making it to this point is really, I think, a huge, huge thing. And I think it's really important to be here and support them and let them know that they've really accomplished a big goal here.

# 

# 00:08:48 **Selena**

# I'm Selena Robles, and I'm pretty new to the Transfer Center. I just was hired for the Transfer Center in March of this year. So, I'm the Administrative Assistant III and basically, here, today, to support the Transfer Center event and helping set up tables, table clothes, and kind of coordinating with the check-in. So, I'll be working the check-in, one of the check-in tables.

# 

# 00:09:10 **Selena**

# Everybody told me what a fun event it is, how happy the students are, and actually being able to see what we do every day, working with the students and seeing the result of that education empowers you. And I think you have all of those things inside you already, but what it does, is it brings it out and it gives you the confidence to go out into the world and be all you can be. I'm also a transfer student from Mt. SAC.

# 

# 00:09:36 **Zelda**

# My name is Zelda Bolden, and I work in Student Services for a program called Reconnect and Engage. I love this event. It's an opportunity to showcase the different institutions that our students transfer to. It's an awesome event because it's individualized. So, that's why I love the Transfer Achievement Celebration.

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# 00:09:55 **Tiffany**

# My name is Tiffany Inabu, I'm an Adjunct Counselor in General Counseling, and I am actually a community college transfer myself. And when I was student transferring, I graduated with a AA degree, but a lot of my friends didn't and they were really sad that they couldn't go to graduation. So, it's really exciting to see that there's a celebration for students who are transferring because that should be celebrated too.

# 

# 00:10:12 **Eddie**

# My name's Eddie Lee and I'm a counselor here. I love the idea that transfer students get a graduation ceremony. I was a Mt. SAC student and I transferred to Cal Poly for a degree in sociology before going into a master's program in counseling.

# 

# 00:10:32 **Kristina**

# Hi, I'm Kristina Allende and I'm a professor of English, literature and creative writing. Yeah, I just got an email saying I'd been recognized. And fortunately, the Student Life Office said that we could ask which student it was, which I thought was really cool because then I could reach out to the student and thank her, and she'll be here tonight with her family. So, I thought you know what, if she acknowledged me and kind of in a way, invited me to this, then I'm going to be here. So, I'm excited.

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# 00:10:56 **Lupita**

# My name is Lupita Jimenez and I am a full-time transfer specialist at the Transfer Center. I always like to get to know the students at a deep level, because at the end of the day, when it comes to transfer, it is not just here's what you need to transfer. It's not just you need 60 transferable units, you need this and that, this GPA.

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# 00:11:15 **Lupita**

# It's also getting to know the student to make sure that we empower them to see themselves as transfer scholars. At the core, I think that it's also the one-on-one that we do with students, making sure that one, they feel welcomed here, in the Transfer Center, that their transfer aspirations are important, valued, and supported here at Mt. SAC. And of course, when it comes to programming, making sure that they're seeing role models. So, our alumni, Mountie alumni.

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# 00:11:43 **Lupita**

# So, students know, oh, another Mountie did it, I can do it too. Someone who looked like me did it and transferred. So, that's another way to go about empowering our students and helping them see themselves as transfer scholars and helping them persist.

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# 00:11:59 **Lupita**

# I will be presenting the alumni speaker, amazing, amazing person, Karen Osorio. She definitely did a lot at Mt. SAC while a student, not only for herself to develop as a student, but more than anything, advocating for again, our historically underrepresented students on campus. As a student leader, she pushed for a lot of great programming. So, I'm so excited for her to be speaking today.

# 

# 00:12:27 **Karen**

# My name is Karen Osorio, I'm actually a Mt. SAC alum. So, I was a student here about two years ago, transferred over to UC Riverside, but I was actually here at Mt. SAC for six years as an undocumented student. So, I graduated high school and there was no financial assistance for undocumented students back in 2010. So, I decided to take two years off, then come to Mt. SAC.

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# 00:12:50 **Karen**

# And I was here for six years. It's been quite the journey, but I feel like Mt. SAC was just a place where I was able to just develop just so many skills, including leadership skills. And I actually worked here at Mt. SAC for my entire stay here. And I'm currently, still working here at the Transfer Center.

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# 00:13:09 **Karen**

# So, it's just nice to have it just be full circle like as a Mt. SAC alum. And then just so blessed and humbled for them to have asked me to be the keynote speaker tonight.

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# 00:13:23 **Christina**

# That's so amazing. Thank you for sharing that. Were you working in the Transfer Center before?

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# 00:13:28 **Karen**

# Yeah, I actually worked in various departments as a student here, and then I actually was employed for the Measure GO campaign. So, I was a Field Director for Measure Go. So, I was the one organizing students and just having them volunteer to film bank and do all that good stuff. I've been working for nine years now at Mt. SAC.

# 

# 00:13:46 **Christina**

# You have a career here.

# 

# 00:13:47 **Karen**

# Yes.

# 

# 00:13:47 **Christina**

# So, what are you graduating with from UCR? Was it?

# 

# 00:13:51 **Karen**

# Yes. It's a BA in education, so education with an emphasis in social justice and public policy.

# 

# 00:14:00 **Christina**

# That's amazing.

# 

# 00:14:01 **Karen**

# I also consider myself an activist, so I've been super involved in the immigrants rights movement with the coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles (CHIRLA). So, I've been organizing community members. So, bringing out specifically underrepresented, like Latinos, low propensity Latinos. So, getting them out to vote, speaking to them in their language because a lot of the time, they don't know about all of these just things that are on the ballot.

# 

# 00:14:30 **Karen**

# So, speaking to them in their language and letting them know that I, myself, cannot vote, but encouraging them and using my story for them to come out to the polls is very, very inspiring. So, that's a little bit about what I've done.

# 

# 00:14:43 **Karen**

# I've also actually traveled to Washington DC to lobby for the Dream Act. I've gone three times. One of those times I was seven months pregnant, so I was out there lobbying for the Federal Dream Act which would provide undocumented students with a pathway to citizenship. Residency and then citizenship. So, yeah, I've just been all over.

# 

# 00:15:05 **Christina**

# Wow. You have been all over and you sound very dedicated. Were you active with the Dream Center here at all?

# 

# 00:15:12 **Karen**

# I was. I was actually part of the students that were planning when the Dream Program didn't exist. So, we got together, researched those schools that did have a Dream Program and just developed everything we wanted. And then I was also actually President of IDEAS, the Improving Dreams, Equality, Access and Success, which is the undocumented student support group or club on campus. So, yeah, I was a part of that as well.

# 

# 00:15:38 **Christina**

# I had a feeling. What are you going to be sharing about today?

# 

# 00:15:41 **Karen**

# Just a little bit about my story, a little bit about who I am, give thanks to Mt. SAC who's given me so much. I'm going to say how I see myself as just a Monarch butterfly. So, Monarch butterflies migrate from Mexico to the United States. So, such a long journey and so have I, right? From coming to the States and just,it's been a journey being undocumented, low-income first generation. I'm also a parent, so I have a little one, she's four-years-old.

# 

# 00:16:12 **Karen**

# So, it's been quite the journey. And I just talk about that metamorphosis and how I learned to fly here at Mt. SAC.

# 

# 00:16:19 **Christina**

# That's so beautiful. And now, I understand the butterfly earrings that you're wearing.

# 

# 00:16:24 **Karen**

# Yes, yes, I love butterflies.

# 

# 00:16:32 **Marci**

# It's my pleasure to welcome you to the 2022 Transfer Achievement Celebration. My name is Marci Matsushita-Sanchez, and I'm the new Transfer Center Director. I just started in April. So, it's my great pleasure to welcome you and to have joined the Mt. SAC family and the Transfer Center team. As you know, those of you who have worked with the specialists and the other folks in our center, it's an amazing team. Let's give them a round of applause right now.

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# 00:17:16 **Marci**

# We're here to recognize all of the students that have worked really hard to be eligible, to apply, and then be to admitted to your next college or university. We're so proud of you. You're an inspirational group. I hope you don't get tired of hearing that because it's so true. You are a force to be reckoned with as individuals and as a group who have made it through this pandemic.

# 

# 00:17:46 **Marci**

# I can't imagine all the wonderful things that you're going to do in the future, given the resilience and the persistence that you've already shown getting through this time in history. So, very proud of all of you as well.

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# 00:18:05 **Marci**

# So, I also want to take this time to thank the family members, the loved ones, and your support system members for being there for you, being there for these college students in your lives. And we know that it takes changes to your daily and weekly routines, an understanding of what's needed technologically to be able to be successful, adjusting scheduling - just everything that you've all done to support the college students in your lives, we thank you.

# 

# 00:18:40 **Marci**

# I'd like to take a moment to acknowledge the land that we are on today. So, we take this moment to honor acknowledge, reflect, and express our sincere gratitude for an appreciation of the people's ancestors and sacred land that we gather upon today. We honor the ancestral homelands and traditional territories of indigenous peoples who have been here since time immemorial.

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# 00:19:10 **Marci**

# And to recognize that we must continue to build solidarity and kinship with native indigenous communities. And on a side note, we just opened our first nation native people's center. There will be openings for that in the future, but we are expanding our services to include those who identify. Alright, I think I'd like to turn it over to Dr. Scroggins to give us a welcome tonight. Thank you.

# 

# 00:19:51 **Dr. Scroggins**

# Good evening. It's great to see you all here. And your next step is onto the university.

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# 00:19:58 **Dr. Scroggins**

# Over 2000 students will have met their requirements to go to a four-year college or university from Mt. SAC. And while you may be a little concerned about performing at the university, let me tell you; you will be well-prepared by your faculty, by all who supported you. Let's give your faculty a hand for all of the education they've provided you and how well-prepared you're going to be for that university experience.

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# 00:20:36 **Dr. Scroggins**

# Now, some of you have earned the Associate Degree for transfer, and you will be prepared by having completed all of the lower division requirements for your major and lower division general education. You'll be transferring as a junior with just two years to go and 60 units to complete that very valuable bachelor's degree.

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# 00:20:56 **Dr. Scroggins**

# And yes, that is a valuable benchmark in your educational path. That world is out there with lots of jobs waiting for you to have that higher level of qualification for that bachelor's degree. And yes, you will succeed. Actually, data shows that your ability to complete that bachelor's degree as a transfer student, is actually higher than the completion rate for those who start at the university as freshmen.

# 

# 00:21:27 **Dr. Scroggins**

# So, you will be successful completing that degree and off to the path to that bachelor's degree that will open doors for you. And as those doors open, it's not just the opportunity to provide an economic benefit for you and your family - you'll have a rewarding career doing work that has meaning, that has value to you and to our society.

# 

# 00:21:55 **Dr. Scroggins**

# And beyond just the work experience, you will contribute more to our society in terms of cultural values and involvement in this great country's direction. Statistics, again, show that the percentage of people who vote in election is directly related to education.

# 

# 00:22:17 **Dr. Scroggins**

# So, as you become more aware, more educated to make better decisions, to vote and guide this country, you will be even more valuable as leaders in the future, both in the workplace, in society, in your family and among your friends. But more importantly, you are the future of this country.

# 

# 00:22:41 **Dr. Scroggins**

# So, where do you go next? Well, you will head to the university and be ready for those classes. Yes, what you've learned here; your critical thinking skills, your technical skills, your ability to integrate with one another, your understanding of different cultures and the way people work together, are valuable skills beyond the technical skills that you've acquired.

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# 00:23:10 **Dr. Scroggins**

# We're very proud of this college and our diversity. You are the most diverse population that we have graduated here from Mt. SAC. And that diversity is intentional. You have had support from counselors, from tutors, from special support groups. All of you have had that wraparound services that really have helped. Let's give another round of applause for all those other people beyond the classroom who've helped you be here and succeed.

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# 00:23:49 **Dr. Scroggins**

# And of course, part of that support group is sitting up there in the stands; your family, your friends, your neighbors, the community supports you as well. And we will still support you here at Mt. SAC as you continue in your work.

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# 00:24:01 **Dr. Scroggins**

# In fact, some of you will even return to Mt. SAC. Well, wait a minute, what do you mean return? Well, our board of trustees can tell you that every month as we hire new employees to work here at Mt. SAC, at least one out of four, would you say, are Mt. SAC graduates.

# 

# 00:24:22 **Dr. Scroggins**

# So, remember, education could still be in your future. If you enjoyed the educational process, consider being a teacher or a counselor or a support professional as part of your future. Once a Mountie, always a Mountie. We'll continue our celebration for your qualification to transfer and your movement beyond Mt. SAC to the university. Thank you.

# 

# 00:24:58 **Lupita**

# Hello everyone, how are you all doing? Awesome, I like that attitude. Congratulations to you all for being here and transferring to the university. My name is Lupita Jimenez and I am a Transfer Specialist, and an EOPS Care Adjunct Counselor at Mt. SAC.

# 

# 00:25:18 **Lupita**

# I have the true honor to introduce to you our 2022 alumni speaker. Originally, from Aguascalientes, Mexico, Karen Osorio is a compassionate Student Services professional whose story resembles Maya Angelou's quote: "We delight in the beauty of the butterfly, but we rarely admit the changes it has gone through to achieve that beauty."

# 

# 00:25:48 **Lupita**

# While at Mt. SAC, she was involved in student government, student clubs, campus-wide committees, and in volunteer work that contributed to social causes and equity. As president of the IDEAS Club, she organized various activities that provided essential educational support to our undocumented students on campus, Like advocating for AS resolutions that called for Mt. SAC to become a sanctuary campus, and develop a Dream Program.

# 

# 00:26:24 **Lupita**

# She also held the Vice President of Activities position ... yes, applaud that - in student government, where she demonstrated genuine concern and understanding for the struggles that each student faces. It was not surprising at all when she was offered the opportunity by the president's office to serve as the Field Director in order to lead and involve the students in the "Yes on Measure GO" campaign back in 2018; an education bond that successfully passed and will contribute to the opening of the new student center on campus next spring 2023.

# 

# 00:27:14 **Lupita**

# Karen's involvement on campus also included working as a High School Outreach Student Ambassador, Summer Bridge Program peer advisor, Student Services and REACH Ambassador, and Transfer Center Ambassador, where she assumed a leadership role in inspiring and motivating other students through her unique ability to build rapport with others.

# 

# 00:27:36 **Lupita**

# Karen's passion for serving others made her the recipient of over 10 Mt. SAC scholarships: the Mt. SAC Student of Distinction Award in the Service Achievement category and the Mt. SAC Inspiring Women Award. What's most astonishing about Karen is her sense of caring for others, even when she's the one in need. Her altruism and compassion are inspirational.

# 

# 00:28:05 **Lupita**

# After successfully completing her AT in sociology at Mt. SAC, she's now the first one in her family to graduate from a university. Karen just received her BA in education society and human development with a concentration in community, leadership, policy, and social justice from the University of California, Riverside. A Degree that was nine years in the making. Congratulations Karen.

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# 00:28:39 **Lupita**

# So , please join me in welcoming to the stage our 2022 alumni speaker, Karen Osorio.

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# 00:28:54 **Karen**

# Thank you, Lupita. Transfer class of 2022, I am very humbled and honored to be in front of so many talented scholars and soon to be, Mt. SAC alumni. I would like to thank President Scroggins, the board of trustees, administrators, faculty, and staff for providing us a welcoming space to explore our interest and develop our passions.

# 

# 00:29:30 **Karen**

# A huge thank you to the following programs and services: The Dream Program, Associated Students, and EOPS who provided me with the necessary resources and leadership skills to thrive. [Foreign Language]

# 

# 00:30:07 **Karen**

# I've always compared my life journey to that of the metamorphosis of a butterfly - a Monarch butterfly, to be exact. The Monarch butterfly represents the beauty of immigration as it is known for its migratory pattern, migrating from Mexico to the United States, making a long journey to reach its destination.

# 

# 00:30:40 **Karen**

# Surviving political turmoil has always been a part of my life. The fear of deportation, losing a job due to an immigration status, and the struggle towards economic mobility are issues that my family and I live with every day.

# 

# 00:31:04 **Karen**

# From a young age, I understood that my responsibility was not only to change the environment that my family lived in, but to do something about the environment that other families continue to do so today. I am grateful for the sacrifices my parents made, leaving everything behind to make sure we are safe, fed, and educated, so that we could embody their own dreams and aspirations that unfortunately, they could not reach in their homelands.

# 

# 00:32:05 **Karen**

# Like a Monarch, my journey as a low-income, undocumented, first generation, non-traditional student parent has not been easy. If you identify with any of these identities, please stand. We did it. Thank you.

# 

# 00:32:42 **Karen**

# I graduated high school in 2010 and was accepted to all the universities I applied to. And that's when I realized what it was like or what it was to be undocumented. Since there was no financial assistance for undocumented students, I took two years off, worked with my father, and then decided to enroll at Mt. San Antonio College.

# 

# 00:33:15 **Karen**

# Through this metamorphosis, the caterpillar turns into a beautiful butterfly and it is at Mt. SAC that I learned to fly. I hope and encourage each and every one of you today to share your story, share your experiences and expertise. Never forget to surround yourself in community because together, we are stronger.

# 

# 00:33:48 **Karen**

# To the historically underrepresented students that are here present, be present and take up space in these institutions that were never created with us in mind. It doesn't matter how long it takes you. It took me nine years. Do not stop.

# 

# 00:34:14 **Karen**

# Here's to breaking more barriers, breaking more statistics, and paving the way for future generations. Spread your wings Mounties and fly, soar to new heights and begin the next chapter in your journey, knowing full and well, what you are capable of. Dream without borders. Congratulations transfer class of 2022.

# 

# 00:35:02 **Marci**

# We are now moving to the moment we've all been waiting for, and that is the recognition of our transferring students. Alright, here we go.

# 

# 00:35:14 **Announcer**

# Amanda Udukumbura, UCLA.

# 

# 00:35:17 **Amanda**

# Hi, my name is Amanda Udukumbura, and I am majoring in sociology and I will be transferring with a sociology and gender studies double major. I'm most excited about the extracurriculars, especially the clubs. I was an active member in the Pride Center, and I also served as a student assistant. It was really fulfilling and gratifying.

# 

# 00:35:32 **Amanda**

# I always get emotional talking about it because it really just made me into the person that I am today. And it really supported me all the way. Community is really essential. It's kind of like the heart stone of who we are. Some advice that I would give to students at Mt. SAC is to reach out, make those connections, find friends, find family and community.

# 

# 00:35:50 **Announcer**

# Andrea Marina Escobar, Arizona State University.

# 

# 00:35:55 **Andrea**

# Andrea Escobar. I'm majoring in psychology and social behavior science; nervous, excited. Honestly, I didn't think this day was going to come.

# 

# 00:36:03 **Alana**

# And who do you have with you?

# 

# 00:36:05 **Andrea**

# My sister and my goddaughter.

# 

# 00:36:07 **Alana**

# And so, how are you feeling for your loved one?

# 

# 00:36:09 **Andrea's Sister**

# Super excited. I'm proud of her and I saw her like struggle with homework and everything. So, like she said, I don't know like it seems surreal, the day, but I'm happy to be here for her .

# 

# 00:36:20 **Announcer**

# Faith Ann Nelson, Cal State, Fullerton.

# 

# 00:36:24 **Faith**

# My name is Faith Nelson and I'm transferring to Cal State Fullerton.

# 

# 00:36:27 **Alana**

# Who's here with you today.

# 

# 00:36:28 **Faith**

# My mom.

# 

# 00:36:29 **Faith's Mom**

# She just graduated high school last June. And here she is, getting her AA and transferring to Cal State Fullerton. So, super proud.

# 

# 00:36:38 **Announcer**

# Alyssa Rosalie Aguilar, Cal Poly, Humbodlt.

# 

# 00:36:42 **Alyssa**

# I'm Alyssa Aguilar. I'm transferring to Cal Poly, Humboldt. It's one of the furthest universities in the CSU system. And I wanted to kind of get out of my comfort zone because I've been going to school in Southern California, like my whole life. So, I wanted to venture somewhere else where I could like really hone my skills.

# 

# 00:37:03 **Anonymous**

# I'm here for Alyssa Aguilar. She's transferring to Humboldt State. She's following her sister's footsteps, which she did the same thing. She came here, got her requirements done and then transferred to Humboldt. So, we kind of wish she would stay closer, but she's just following tradition, which is okay. So, we're really proud of her that she's sticking with it. That's the hard part. So, yeah, we're really happy.

# 

# 00:37:28 **Announcer**

# Karina Zendejas, Cal Poly, Pomona.

# 

# 00:37:32 **Karina**

# My name is Karina Zendejas, I'm transferring to Cal Poly to do music industry studies. It has all the aspects of the music industry without actually making the music industry. So, it's like the background stuff, and it couldn't tell anything from like audio engineering, which is my preferred side of it to just like being a handler or whatever for talent.

# 

# 00:37:48 **Karina**

# I'm definitely more excited to hit the field now. It took me forever to like transfer and everything, but I think I'm definitely going into a much more accepting space just because like over the years, when you go to concerts, I've seen more and more like female-led teams, which is really exciting for me personally.

# 

# 00:38:02 **Christina**

# If you had advice for someone at Mt. SAC right now, who's trying to transfer, what would that be?

# 

# 00:38:07 **Karina**

# Keep going. It's going to take forever, but keep going. It took me a really long time to go. And so , I feel like you shouldn't measure yourself with other people's yard sticks or whatever. Your pace is your pace. And as long as we make it to the end, I mean, there's pride in that.

# 

# 00:38:21 **Announcer**

# Elizabeth Garcia, Cal State LA.

# 

# 00:38:24 **Elizabeth**

# Elizabeth Garcia, and I'm transferring with an AT in Administration of Justice to Cal State LA. It was very interesting, a lot of topics that have been around in the few years, so it's a lot of relevant stuff.

# 

# 00:38:41 **Christina**

# Any advice for Mt. SAC students who want to transfer?

# 

# 00:38:43 **Elizabeth**

# Just to keep going. You know, sometimes life gets in the way, but you just have to come back and finish it regardless of what might be happening in your life becaise it's worth it in the end, I think. But learn as much as you can while you're here.

# 

# 00:38:56 **Nathan**

# I'm her boyfriend, Nathan, I'm very excited. I'm very proud for everything that she's done.

# 

# 00:39:01 **Announcer**

# Karely Perez, Cal State Fullerton.

# 

# 00:39:05 **Karely**

# My name is Karely Perez. My major is psychology. I'm super beyond excited. Yes, totally. Mt. SAC was amazing with the transferring process and everything. I was lost, and you it was a constant asking them questions and they were so good with explaining exactly step by step how to do everything.

# 

# 00:39:21 **Alana**

# Were there any resources on campus that helped you with your transfer questions?

# 

# 00:39:25 **Karely**

# The Transfer Center itself. The Transfer Center itself was a great resource.

# 

# 00:39:30 **Alana**

# Who did you nominate for this event?

# 

# 00:39:31 **Karely**

# So, I nominated two. I nominated Professor Chandler and Mrs. Martinez, who was my Alpha Gamma Sigma advisor; great professors who actually pushed me towards transferring like "You can go big." So, I nominated them. I love them. They're the best professors ever.

# 

# 00:39:46 **Alana**

# What would you tell students that are aspiring to transfer right now at Mt. SAC?

# 

# 00:39:51 **Karely**

# I would say don't hold back. I know it gets hard to where you kind of start doubting whether you can make it to where you want to go. I would say reach for the stars. Definitely reach for as high as you possibly can. You can definitely do it.

# 

# 00:40:04 **Announcer**

# Vanessa Vicencia Pramono, UCLA.

# 

# 00:40:09 **Vanessa**

# I'm Vanessa Pramono. So, obviously, I'm here because I'm transferring this year and I would like to celebrate my success and all my hard work for this semester and my second year at Mt. SAC. It's been so hard, but it's all worth it. And now, it's my time to celebrate my success.

# 

# 00:40:23 **Vanessa**

# So, I didn't know I would even like go to college, but now, that I'm here celebrating my success, I dont know how to feel. I can't explain it in words, but I'm very excited for today. So, Mt. SAC definitely helped prepare me a lot in my academy journey. I'm really glad I'm able to find a lot of programs here, especially programs such like like EOPS, Promise+Plus. And a lot of program I'm involved in, they provide me with a counselor that really got me through my process and tell me how the transfer process went.

# 

# 00:40:54 **Vanessa**

# And it's really helpful because coming from high school, I had no idea about college and I have no mentor, but being in Mt. SAC, I'm glad I'm able to find the community that could guide me. And yeah, now, I'm here and I'm transferring. So, yeah, I'm so happy about it.

# 

# 00:41:10 **Announcer**

# Justin Nicolas Tenorio, Cal State San Bernard Bernardino.

# 

# 00:41:15 **Justin**

# I'm Justin Tenorio, my major is communication.

# 

# 00:41:18 **Christina**

# So, what are you most excited about transferring?

# 

# 00:41:19 **Justin**

# Pretty much like a new opening, new chapter. Just gratefulness and just humble. You know, it's really amazing like how far not only me, but everyone else came to. It's just really terrific and amazing. Happy for all of them.

# 

# 00:41:34 **Justin**

# Define why you're here, how far you worked - it's not only you're doing this for your family or your friends. It's up to you what made you like come here either two-year or four-year, it doesn't matter. Like it's what makes you happy, what are you chasing. Pretty much your own decisions, that's how life is. We all make our own decisions either it's a good or bad as long as we know what we are doing.

# 

# 00:42:03 **Christina**

# Transferring from Mt. SAC to university to earn your bachelor's degree has countless benefits and opens the door to many opportunities. Learn how to do so with an Associates of Arts or Associate of Science transfer degree like we highlighted in this episode by using transfer resources, such as the Counseling Department or the Transfer Center. Just go to mtsac.edu/counseling or mtsac.edu/transfer.

# 

# 00:42:07 **Christina**

# Thank you for listening to the Magic Mountie Podcast. And don't forget to share your favorite episodes.

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