

## **EOPS/CARE Joint Advisory Board Meeting 2016-17**

**April 12, 2017**

### **Attendees:**

**Mt. San Antonio College Faculty and Staff:** Irene Herrera, EOPS/CARE Director, Gabriela Ulloa, CalWORKs Specialist, Marisa Fiero, Foundation Jenny Phu, Financial Aid, Hector Sanchez, EOPS Counselor, Sandra Padilla, Bridge, Elmer Rodriguez, DREAM Coordinator, Jeze Lopez, REACH, Victor Espinoza, EOPS Students, Renu Katoch, Adult Basic Education

**Community Partners:** Rosalba Arroyo, DCFS, Jessie Sandoval, David and Margaret, Briana Martinez, David and Margaret, Tesla Parrales, UCLA, Maria Rivera-Duncan, Cal Poly Pomona, Paul Gonzales, TriCity, Paulina Sepulveda, All 4 Kids, Ana White, DPSS, Connie Rex, DCFS, Yolanda Quintana, Soroptimist International

### **Welcome and Introductions**

- Irene Herrera welcomed the committee, attendees, and stakeholders. They were all thanked for their efforts in support of EOPS and CARE. All in attendance were invited to introduce themselves.

### **Review of minutes from last year's Advisory Meeting**

- Minutes were reviewed and approved unanimously.

### **EOPS program update**

- Irene Herrera, EOPS Director, acknowledged the importance of EOPS services to Mt San Antonio College students.
- EOPS is serving 1100 students this year because the funding is higher than in past years.
- The book service for students was \$500 and a \$200 grant was provided to students in Spring 2017.
- As of today 820 students have completed their first contact with an EOPS counselor.
- The CARE specialist retired last year and the position has been posted seeking qualified candidates. One full time counselor was hired to fill vacancy from last year. One new hire is Administrative specialist II Alex Brambila.
- EOPS program will open for new students on May 9, 2017.

## **Student Testimonial- Victor Espinoza**

- Victor shared he started at Mt SAC in 2013. He described his background as “rough”, “single parent household”, and “caring for his ill mother”.
- Shared he never showed emotion but EOPS supported him being able to open up and “take care of things.” Credits EOPS with providing him extra comfort he needed from counselors Natalie and Hector. EOPS was his “back wall.”
- He worked two jobs in addition to taking care of his mother. Participated in programs such as Bridge, ACES and Student Ambassadors.
- Has a job on campus as a student ambassador. He reports he “loves it” because he has opportunity to help people. He likes to help “those people no one sees.”
- He is the first person in his family from both sides of the family to transfer to a university. He will be attending Cal Poly Pomona in the Fall of 2017.

## **CARE program update**

- Nadine Hernandez, Student Services Program Specialist II, reported on a few of the events students participated this past year.
- Annual Thanksgiving meal is a decorated box with traditional Thanksgiving dinner donated by Mt SAC American Language department. This year 32 CARE students received the meals.
- Annual Adopt a Family is event where Mt SAC staff adopt a CARE family during the holidays and provide gifts to the whole family. This year approximately 35 CARE students were touched by the generosity of the Mt SAC community.
- Inspiring Women’s Luncheon was attended by 15 CARE students. Students listened to other women’s stories of success.
- Region 8 CARE conference will be this month. Nadine and EOPS Counselor Tony will be co-facilitating the event. Nineteen CARE students will be attending.
- CARE workshops have been providing students with motivating messages such as those included in the folder you picked up on your way into this meeting.
- Annual Parents Luncheon will be May 19<sup>th</sup>. The name of the luncheon is in recognition that all CARE students are parents.
- Foster Youth- EOPS/CARE program remains open for Foster Youth year round and will hosting a Foster Youth Luncheon on May 12, 2017 in Sherman Park (next to the farm) on the Mt SAC Campus. Attendee from David and Margaret group home asked if she would be allowed to bring Foster Youth to meet other students on campus. Irene replied in the affirmative and asked Nadine to connect with her.

## Open Discussion

- Tesla is the UCLA representative assigned to Mt SAC. She shared students will get notification of admissions in late April and that she is available for advising in Mt SAC transfer center.
- Ana announced Department of Social Services may be a scale back of discretionary programs (such as tattoo removal and car seat services) but they are looking at minimizing the impact to student. Funding is shifted but will not affect mandatory services.
- Gabby from Mt SAC CalWORKs announces they are in transition and in the process of hiring a director. Now that they have a full time counselor they have moved from transactional to a more comprehensive model. Outreach efforts have increased and end of year celebration will include EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs.
- Foundation office worked collaboratively with CARE to create scholarship for CARE Students. Also have scholarship for students in the Dream program.
- Elmer is the coordinator of the DREAM program on campus. They have partnered with three law centers in Los Angeles to provide support for undocumented Mt SAC students. His office has 500 students in the program. Elmer provided resource guide for "Supporting Undocumented Youth" from UCLA Law Center.
- Sandra Padilla from Bridge program shared the mission and function of the Bridge program. Reports this upcoming summer will be the largest Bridge program ever with 527 students.
- Jeze reports the REACH program provides services for 250 foster youth students. His most important goal is retention of foster youth. Program will have its first ever end of year event to recognize students. Later this year Mt SAC will host Foster Youth conference for all local area high schools.
- Rosalva stated the 1<sup>st</sup> District Foster Youth education program purpose is to support students from Pomona Unified to graduate and attend college. In the past she had brought students to sign up for EOPS. Shared she will bringing 12 foster youth student to Mt SAC this year.
- Jessie is the new employment coach at David and Margaret. Her role is to support students with career exploration, finding internships and providing employment experience. Announced that every Wednesday from 1-3 pm there is presentation to assist those who are homeless.
- Paulina stated Children's Bureau located in Baldwin Park provides mental health services on-site and at-home therapy services to clients with Medi-cal. If client does not receive Medi-cal they do have alternate forms of payment.
- Connie announced her office Children's Services is an independent living program that will also experience budget cuts. Currently they are funding housing

and education. Students who earn gpa above 2.7 can participate and earn up to \$1000 dollars and student below 2.7 also get recognized but not funded. As of today car insurance is still available for Foster Youth.

- Yolanda is a small business owner who volunteers with Soroptimist International Women's Organization. It is a non-profit that supports womens' issues around the world. Soroptimist has partnered with CARE to provide scholarships for students. Three Mt SAC students have earn scholarships through this partnership.
- Blanca from 1<sup>st</sup> District Foster Youth Education Program is the program manager. Reports her program is funded by the office of Hilda Solis. They provide direct services to foster youth and they are measuring the outcomes. She stated she hears more support at Mt SAC for foster youth than other colleges in the area.
- Maria stated Cal Poly Pomona EOP program has admitted approximately 50 students from Mt SAC. Cal State Apply will replace CSUMentor as the new CSU application for admission in June 2017. Cal Poly Pomona will be semester system starting in 2018. EOP only admits transfer students in Fall. Renaissance Scholars is program at Cal Poly for foster youth.
- Jenny announced Mt. SAC Financial Aid receives approximately 60,000 applications but if someone has question her office is able to review FAFSA applications on a case by case basis. She reminded the group it is not too late to apply for Financial Aid and Mt SAC has an event titled "Cash For College" twice a year. Shared there is an initiative coming soon that will support homeless youth.
- Reina invited the group to tell students who did not graduate from High School to visit Mt SAC Adult Basic Education office. Students of all ages can earn high school diploma and high school credits, study for a High School Equivalency exam (GED/HiSET), prepare for Military exam or learn computer skills, vocational skills.
- Paul shared about Tri City Mental Health Services. Anyone can walk in to attend support groups at their wellness center. All services are free. They have services for 18 and over and 16-25 are range.

## **Closing**

Irene thanked all the committee members, attendees, guests, and stakeholders for their time and contribution. She acknowledged them for support of EOPS/CARE students. Announced they will get an invitation for next years' EOPS advisory

meeting. She thanked the group again for the material they provided and shared with one another.