

# Comunidad

## Los Rios Community College District Latinx/Chicanx Professional Affinity Group

### Annual Newsletter

Visit our webpage at [employees.losrios.edu/comunidad](http://employees.losrios.edu/comunidad)

2020-2021 edition

Distributed May 3, 2021

### La Historia

There has been a long history in the Los Rios Community College District of Latinx/Chicanx employees who have organized a support system for new and continuing professionals in the district. A sense of *familia* is critical for Latinx/Chicanx individuals to thrive in the large and complex institution of education, for professionals as much as students. Below is a brief history of the various versions of this support system that has established a foundation for Comunidad today. We have a current 2020-2021 roster of **729 members**.

- Early 2000's: Chicano/Latino Faculty and Staff Association (LRLFSA) formed at Sacramento City College
- 2013: District-wide Comunidad first met during UC Davis HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution) Summit

### Mission and Vision

**Vision:** Comunidad de LRCCD strives to be at the forefront of research-informed, data-driven, and culturally relevant innovation to dismantle systems of oppression and build an environment that reflects the aspirations of our communities, colleges, and District.

**Mission:** Comunidad de LRCCD is a culturally based professional network that serves to enhance professional opportunities, advocate for students, and create a safe and welcoming environment for the Latinx/Chicanx and undocumented communities.

### Comunidad Leadership 2020-2021



Mario Rodriguez,  
ARC Co-Chair



Dr. Veronica Lopez,  
ARC Co-Chair



Dr. Rick Ramirez,  
ARC Professional  
Development Chair



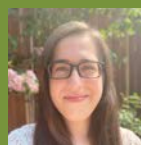
Griselda Casillas,  
ARC Community  
Partnerships Chair



Dr. Ricardo Caton,  
ARC Campus  
Partnerships Chair



Bee Curiel,  
ARC Record Keeper/  
Communication Chair



Mariana Valdez  
Jiménez,  
ARC Secretary



Melissa Sanchez,  
FLC Chair



Tania Hernandez,  
SCC Co-Chair



Paula Gonzalez,  
SCC Co-Chair



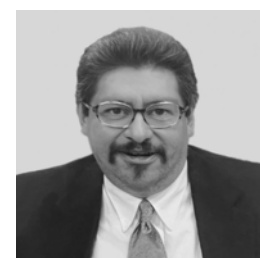
Rosana Chavez-  
Hernandez,  
SCC Secretary



Dr. Lorena Jauregui,  
LRCCD Comunidad  
Communication Chair

### Honoring and Remembering Ruben Ruiz, Sacramento City College

This edition is dedicated to Comunidad member Ruben Ruiz, who passed away on January 22, 2021. He worked at Sacramento City College since 1993, most recently as a financial aid officer. Students saw Ruben as someone they could rely on for timely and thorough assistance. He would go above and beyond to ensure that students were supported and had the right information to succeed. Ruben is missed dearly by his colleagues at SCC and by the members of Los Rios Comunidad.



# Comunidad News

## Summer Comunidad Retreat – August 14, 2020

To kick off this year of education during a global pandemic, we held our first ever virtual Comunidad retreat. This one-day event included sessions on networking, a “Comadres, Compadres, No Binaria” session, digital inclusion, and Anti-Blackness in the Latinx Community.

## Cosumnes River College Puente

The CRC Puente team consists of Aselia Valadez Melo as Puente Coordinator, Chris Torres as HCD Professor, Priscilla Hansen as English Professor, and Tria Vue as Puente Support Staff. This year’s events included a Culture and Identity Presentation and Chicano Movement documentary screening Presented by Senon Valadez, PhD, Emeritus in Anthropology from Sacramento State University, and Director/Producer of Chicano Movement Oral History Project. Puente provided the Film Screening of “Singing Our Way to Freedom” and Q/A with Producer/Director Paul Espinosa. This year Puente began providing major information sessions to Puente Major-Familia’s and hosted events such as UC Davis Prep Médico: Navigating Your Path into Medicine, as well as information sessions about UC Riverside, Chico State, Department of Psychology, Sacramento State Business Administration and UC Davis Avenue E Engineering and Avenue B Biology programs. All sessions included a student panel. Puente Collaborated with CRC’s Music Department and Co-Hosted “In the Studio” with Estevan Azcona, Professor of Chicana and Chicano Studies at San Jose State University, and co-producer of the Smithsonian Folkways Recordings release, *Rolas de Aztlán: Songs of the Chicano Movement*. This Spring, CRC Puente selected 6 students nominated for their leadership to attend UC Berkeley Hope Program Mujeres Leadership Meeting, where students met directly with professionals in various professions; students selected were Kalian Rivera, Monserrate Rosas, Maria Del Carmen Iturriaga, Jaiden Gallegos, Ana Yesenia Murillo Rivas, Grecia Gomez. CRC Puente also began a partnership with SMUD’s Luna Program for Mentorship and Internship opportunities.

## American River College Puente

ARC Puentistas are starting to announce their college admissions news, which include Sac State, UC Davis, Berkeley, and many more! The ARC Puente celebration for students will take place on Wednesday, Cinco de Mayo. Some students from Honors College Composition and Literature course, and TA Claudia Guerrero, joined English Coordinator Cathy Arellano to virtually attend the National Association of Chicana and Chicano Studies conference. Counselor Carmelita Palomares and SPA Katia Morales-Becerra kept the mentee-mentor mixers lots of fun with their virtual games, such as “Lotería Treasure Hunt” and “Among Us.” In addition to teaching ENGWR 300 and ENGWR 94 in the Fall and ENGWR 301 in the Spring, English Professor Melissa Diaz added her special pizzazz to the online events. Mentor Griselda Rodriguez with Counseling/Coordinator Dr. Rick Ramirez facilitated “Our Cultural Strengths and Assets: Reframing Deficit Thinking” workshop and Mentor Stephanie Gomez led the “Self Care Is for Everyone” workshop. This semester, in Honors ENGWR 481, Mentor Claudia Guerrero has been volunteering and Nacho Fernandez of WAC has returned to work with PUENTE students. Finally, back in Fall 2020 all of the cohorts attended the statewide virtual conference and heard incisive calls for social justice from Dr. Cornel West and Las Cafeteras.



## Sacramento City College Puente

This academic year, SCC Puente welcomed a new English Instructor, Rachel Spangler. With her guidance we had a 100% completion rate for English Writing 300! The Puente Program at SCC was the first program to develop a remote Mentor model that was used and shared throughout the nationwide program. SCC Puente Program Student Personnel Assistant Alejandra Benites and Counselor/Coordinator Sandra Guzman both worked together to develop these “Mentor Platicas.” In collaboration with RASA Center, Sacramento City College Puente hosted many activities, including a virtual discussion with renowned author, Reyna Grande.

## Los Rios Undocumented Student Resources

California AB 1645 was passed, providing funding to enhance and institutionalize undocumented student support in California community colleges. During the Fall 2020 semester, Los Rios campuses collaborated to host virtual "Undocu- Weeks of Action", a High School Senior Undocu-College Week, and an Undocu- Leadership Conference component to the 5th Annual Keeping the Dream Alive Conference hosted by Dream Resource Center at Sacramento State. In Spring of 2021, Los Rios Undocu-Resource Programs collaborated with other northern California colleges and partnered with Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) to host the virtual "Undocu-Wisdom Workshop Series" for students, allies, and the community.



**American River College -- Jose Gonzalez** was hired as the new UndocuScholar Resource Connect Student Services Specialist in February, 2021. Jose earned a BA in Social work in 2017 and will be graduating on May 15, 2021, with a Master's Degree in Counseling from CSUS. Jose is an Alum of Cosumnes River College and Sacramento City College, and a former PUENTISTA. His previous experiences include a coach for the DEGREES Project (Dedicated to Educating, Graduating, and Retaining Education Equity Students). In addition, Jose was a social worker for Children's Law Center. He is excited to be a part of the ARC Comunidad, a group of passionate people willing to go above and beyond for our students. His goal is to continue advocating for UndocuScholar students and help eliminate barriers that prevent them from achieving their educational and professional goals.



**Folsom Lake College -- Andrea Fuentes** currently serves as the Equity Center Specialist and Undocumented Student Liaison at Folsom Lake College (FLC). She has been with the Los Rios Community College District since 2016. Prior to working with Los Rios, she served as Success Coordinator for Ohlone College and as an EOP Counselor for California State University, East Bay. She holds a Master's degree in Education from Chico State and prides herself in being an advocate for UndocuScholars and students of color. Andrea's dedication to serving students come from her personal experience as a first generation college Latina and daughter of undocumented parents. She is proud to support FLC's undocuscholars through her work in the FLC Equity Center.



**Cosumnes River College -- Joann Ramirez** has served Cosumnes River College as an Outreach Specialist since 2017 and as the Dream Center Liaison (AB1645) since 2020. In this capacity she oversees Dream Center programming and support services for students impacted by undocumented status. Joann currently serves on various district and state-wide committees and collaboratives to increase collaboration across the Sacramento region to serve undocumented students and students of mixed-status families. These include: LRCCD Rapid Response Team, CCC Undocumented Student Advisory (Entering the Path Lead), member of the CCC SB1159 Workgroup, Northern California Undocu-Centers Collaborative (Co-Chair), CCC Undocumented Student Advisory Committee Member.



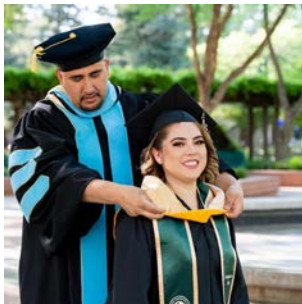
**Cosumnes River College -- Aracely Larreynaga** was hired in November 2019 as the CRC Dream Center Student Personnel Assistant. Aracely received her BA in Psychology and BS in Human Development from UC Davis. She is currently a graduate student in the Counselor Education Program at CSUS. Aracely has dedicated her time to engage in intentional services and programming that are unique and specific to the undocumented student population. During her time at the UC Davis AB540 and Undocumented Student Center, she engaged in support services on campus that were unique for students impacted by the undocumented status. Her dedication to serve and support undocumented students are due to the need for advocacy for students who are impacted by their status every day. She will continue to engage and support students who are disproportionately impacted by their status in every step of her educational and professional career.



**Sacramento City College -- Angelica Garcia-Galvan** was hired in September 2019 as a temporary Student Support Specialist for the Undocu-Resource Program and was transitioned to a full-time Specialist in April of 2021. Angelica is a former Sacramento City College Alumni, RISER, and Puentista (2012-2013). She recently earned her Bachelor's degree in Ethnic Studies from California State University, Sacramento. As an undocumented student, Angelica has dedicated herself to supporting and advocating for students who are undocumented and/or underrepresented. She has worked at Sacramento City College for approximately 8 years as a Student Assistant and Student Personnel Assistant for general counseling, the Learning Resource Center, EOPS, and the Puente Project. As an SPA for the Puente Project, Angelica co-founded the Luther Burbank Dreamers Program in 2016, McClatchy Dreamers Program in 2019, and helped coordinate Future Scholars Conferences in 2017 & 2019. Sacramento City College has been a second home to Angelica and she is happy to contribute to the Panther community, especially as an advocate for other students like herself.

## **“Honrando a Nuestros Estudiantes” Virtual Event – Thursday, May 6, 2021**

The annual Latinx/Chicanx Recognition Ceremony, Honrando a Nuestros Estudiantes (Honoring Our Students), is a Los Rios Community College district-wide event that celebrates the accomplishments of students that have earned a certificate and/or degree or are transferring to a four-year university. The committee also awards multiple scholarships to students. For the 2021 virtual ceremony, we have an unprecedented 261 graduates and transfer student registered to participate.



## **Los Rios HSI Updates**

A “Hispanic Serving Institution” is a federal designation that allows colleges to apply for competitive grants focusing on Latinx and low-income students. Sacramento City College’s HSI Title V grant that funded SAGE (Students in A Global Economy) is closing after fulfilling its grant goals of providing students a learning community with a global and cultural focus. This project was most recently led by Director Rosana Chavez-Hernandez, who also spearheaded the grant-writing of a new HSI Title V Project that was awarded to SCC and will focus on an early college program starting in Fall 2021. The SCC SESI Project, “STEM Equity Success Initiative”, is funded by the HSI STEM Title III grant. This program serves STEM students in a learning community environment, and also has a faculty Professional Learning Community. This project is led by Director Martin Ramirez. Cosumnes River College was awarded an HSI Title V Grant that will focus on developing the “MI CASA” Project, providing students the opportunity to enroll smoothly in college, stay in college, and reach their education completion goals on time. A big congratulations to CRC’s Gladis Sanchez, who has been hired as the new CRC HSI Grant Project Director.

## **American River College Professional Development Series**

This inaugural series has a focus on supporting the success of Latinx/e students based on the Latinx DI Report. “Mejorando ARC para nuestras comunidades: Bridging the gap between education and liberation for Latinx/e students” launched this spring and was facilitated by Griselda Casillas and Dr. Veronica Lopez.

## **Mario Rodriguez, ARC Awarded ACPA Latinx Community Advancement and Service Award**

Mario Rodriguez received a meaningful award from the American College Personnel Association (ACPA), which is an international student affairs professional association. He was recognized for his long-time work advocating for the Latinx community in higher education.

## **Graduates**

Congratulations to our Comunidad colleagues who completed a degree 2020-2021.

**Anjelica M. Lopez, ARC, MS in Counseling from CSUS**

**Jose Gonzalez, ARC, MS in Counseling from CSUS**

**Martin Tellez, ARC, MA in Higher Education & Student Affairs from USF**

**Joann Ramirez, CRC, MS in Counseling from CSUS**

**Nayeli Chaidez, CRC, MS in Counseling from CSUS**

**Alejandra Benites, SCC, BA in Liberal Studies/Multicultural studies from CSUS**

**Angelica Garcia-Galvan, SCC, BA in Ethnic Studies from CSUS**

**Paula Gonzalez, SCC, MS in Counseling from CSUS**

**Yolanda Ramirez, SCC, BS in Career and Technical Studies from CSUS**

## **Hires and Promotions**

A big welcome and congratulations to our Comunidad colleagues who were hired or promoted in 2020-2021.

**Jose Gonzalez, ARC, UndocuScholar Resource Connection Student Services Specialist**

**Karina Tinoco, ARC, Interim Outreach Specialist**

**Bee Curiel, ARC, Interim Outreach Specialist**

**Angel Garcia, ARC, Interim Director of ETS**

**Gladis Sanchez, CRC, HSI Title V Grant Project Director**

**Mario Rodríguez, CRC, TRIO SSS/STEM Specialist**

**Angelica Garcia Galvan, SCC, Undocu-Resource Program Student Support Specialist**

## **Retirements**

Congratulations to the Comunidad colleagues who retired from our district in 2020-2021.

**Diana Montijo, ARC, Counseling Student Personnel Assistant, 15 years of service**

**Denise Castaneda, SCC, English Professor, 13 years of service**

## Comunidad Calendar of Activities (All Virtual) 2020-2021

**July 30, 2020**

Comunidad Leadership Planning Meeting

**August 14, 2020**

Comunidad Virtual Retreat

**September 14, 2020**

Comunidad Bienvenida for Los Rios Students

**September 15, 2020**

SCC Raza Bienvenida Week: Latinx Student Bienvenida

**September 15, 2020**

SCC Raza Bienvenida Week: Latinx Bingo

**September 16, 2020**

SCC Raza Bienvenida Week: Labels and Identity Workshop

**September 17, 2020**

SCC Raza Bienvenida Week: HSI-SESI Faculty Long Introductions & Student Educational Journeys

**September 17, 2020**

SCC Raza Bienvenida Week: "I'm in College! Now What?" Student Workshop

**September 18, 2020**

SCC Raza Bienvenida Week: Puente Club Creative Circle for students

**September 18, 2020**

Platicas With Comunidad Professional Development: LGBTQW+ 1010 - How to be an ally

**September 23, 2020**

Platicas With Comunidad Professional Development: Ways to Support Hispanic Serving/Latinx Initiatives

**September 28, 2020**

Comunidad Social hosted by ARC

**September 28, 2020**

"Drag Ball" Drag show event for Latinx Heritage Month hosted by ARC

**September 30, 2020**

Platicas With Comunidad Professional Development: Supporting New Professionals in Los Rios

**October 2-3, 2020**

"Feria de Educacion" College Preparation Event for Students - hosted by Sacramento State

**October 15, 2020**

SCC Comunidad General Meeting

**October 20, 2020**

Platicas With Comunidad Professional Development: Road to Pursuing your Master's Degree

**October 22, 2020**

Platicas With Comunidad Professional Development: Road to Pursuing your Doctoral Degree

**October 28, 2020**

Comunidad Social hosted by SCC

**November 2, 2020**

Los Rios Dia de los Muertos Altar Share

**November 12, 2020**

Self Care with Comunidad: Yoga Session

**November 16, 2020**

SCC Comunidad General Meeting

**November 18, 2020**

Self Care with Comunidad: Stress Reduction Workshop

**November 19, 2020**

Self Care with Comunidad: Viva La Joteria - Latinx LGBTQIA+ Staff/Faculty Space

**November 19, 2020**

Comunidad Social hosted by FLC

**November 30, 2020**

Self Care with Comunidad: Yoga Session

**December 3, 2020**

Self Care with Comunidad: Meditation Session

**December 17, 2020**

Comunidad Posada Social

**February 3, 2021**

ARC Comunidad General Meeting

**February 6, 2021**

"Steps to College" College Preparation Event for Students - hosted by Mexican Consulate in Sacramento

**February 11, 2021**

Statewide Colegas Latinx Virtual Mixer

**February 17, 2021**

ARC Comunidad General Meeting

**February 18, 2021**

SCC Comunidad General Meeting

**March 3, 2021**

ARC Comunidad General Meeting

**March 17, 2021**

ARC Comunidad General Meeting

**March 25, 2021**

SCC Comunidad General Meeting

**April 14, 2021**

ARC Comunidad General Meeting

**April 28, 2021**

ARC Comunidad General Meeting

**May 6, 2021**

Honrando a Nuestros Estudiantes Virtual Celebration

**May 12, 2021**

ARC Comunidad General Meeting

