



GAVILAN COLLEGE

Student Services

Dr. Renee Craig-Marius
Assistant Superintendent/Vice-President of Student Services

Board of Trustees Update
September 2024

Ready...Set...Go! Planning for 2024-25

Student Services Leadership engaged in two planning meetings on August 5th and August 19th. Affectionately called the SS Leads "Huddle", program leads came together to celebrate accomplishments of the 2024-24 year and set a vision and goals for the upcoming year. It was a great time to connect, plan, and get ready for the Fall semester.

Areas focused on:

- Year in Review and Wins from 2023-24
- Asst Supt/VPSS 2024-25 Goals
- Review of campus-wide planning efforts
- Goal alignment between departments/programs and Student Services Division goals
- Professional development for Student Services leaders

Gavilan College Student Services Leads Fall 2024 Huddle Part I
Monday, August 5, 2024

Areas of Focus

- ❖ Creating and documenting processes
- ❖ Equity (Framework, Equity Plan, Inclusive programming)
- ❖ Implement Gav Connect with fidelity
- ❖ Hiring and onboarding employees
- ❖ Communication
- ❖ Mentoring and support
- ❖ Opening of Hollister site and provision of services

AS A LEADER, how to incorporate /do/ learn AS a TEAM? (EE)
AS A LEADER

- Workflows
- Communication
- Belonging

Sticky notes on the whiteboard include: "Building a strong team", "Communication", "Mentoring and support", "Creating and documenting processes", "Equity", "Hiring and onboarding employees", "Implement Gav Connect with fidelity", "Opening of Hollister site and provision of services", "Belonging", "Workflows", "Communication", "Mentoring and support", "Creating and documenting processes", "Equity", "Hiring and onboarding employees", "Implement Gav Connect with fidelity", "Opening of Hollister site and provision of services".

Fall 2024 Welcome Week

The Fall 2024 Welcome Week events at Gavilan College was extremely successful, with an impressive 350 students actively participating in the various events held throughout the week.

The highlights included "Bienvenidas" in Hollister and Gilroy campuses, along with an interactive event where students had the opportunity to meet the college's counseling team over coffee and pastries.

Additionally, hundreds more students interacted with college staff, faculty, and administrators at the Welcome Tents, where they received support in finding their classes, looking up resources, and were greeted with friendly faces during their first week of the term. The high level of student engagement clearly demonstrates the positive impact of these events in fostering a sense of community and connection within the college.

● Welcome/Bienvenida at Hollister	44
● Welcome/Bienvenida at Gilroy	214
● Counselors, Pan Dulce & Pastries	48
● Games with ASGC	18



This success wouldn't have been possible without the hard work of more than 50 volunteers from across the campus. A special thanks goes to the Welcome Week Planning Team, including Jacquie Martin, Sarah Garcia, Michel Castro, Judy Rodriguez, and Daisy Lopez Jimenez, for their dedication and effort in organizing such successful events. Last but not least, a big thank you to the facilities, security, and IT teams for their invaluable support throughout the activities.

Guided Pathways

On August 6th, Career and Academic Pathways (CAP) student success team members and leaders of the Guided Pathways guidance team participated in the GP Success Team Workshop facilitated by Regional GP Coordinators, Dr. Sunny Greene and Lisy Gwyn. The goals of the workshop focused on building a sense of liberatory collaboration, reviewing the success team guidebook and success team goals, celebrating accomplishments, engaging in a community of practice, and planning for the 24-25 year. Teams are excited to host CAP events and activities the year to welcome and engage students.



Counseling, Student Success & Equity *Diego Espinoza, Dean*

We would like to welcome new members joining the team:

- Simone Reyes has joined the General Counseling Department. She has served EOPS students for the past few years. Simone's journey at Gavilan began as a student, followed by completing a counseling internship during grad school. Currently, she leads the Counseling Department's Probation and Dismissal Workgroup.
- Joshua Ramirez has transitioned from Adjunct to Full-Time Mental Health Counselor. Josh will continue supporting students who are referred/self-referred to emotional wellness support. He will also be co-leading the efforts of the CARE/BIT Team to address students of concern and provide them with the resources they need.
- Fernanda Renteria is the newest member of our team. She will be taking on the position of the College Transitions counselor written into the Title V—Inicio Grant. She will work with area high schools, outreach, dual enrollment, and the counseling department to streamline transitions to Gavilan College. Before joining Gavilan, Fernanda worked in the classroom with K-12 students and participated in TRIO programs.

Puente

- Puente has met the Fall 2024 student recruitment goal and we are excited to host our upcoming Puente Student Welcome and Noche De Familia on August 21, 2024.
- On September 30th, the program will host a panel discussion for the campus community focused on the identity of the Amah Mutsun people and their connection to the land.
- Additionally, a special session will be conducted with the Puente English 1A class, exploring "Intercultural Communication with an Indigenous Focus."

Student Health Services/Mental Health *Ryan Shook, Supervisor*

- The Student Health and Mental Health programs have been busy onboarding our new Masters of Social Work Intern, Miriam Garcia Vargas. Miriam is in her final year in the San Jose State Master of Social Work program, and she is Gavilan graduate. Miriam will be supporting the CARE Team, Title IX, conduct, student health, and mental health services.
- Student Health Services is currently planning the Health Faire. We are moving back to the student center, have over 40 community partners signed up to participate. The Health Faire is always the first Wednesday in October. This year it will be Oct. 2nd, 10 am – 2 pm.
- We are working with the Stanford Blood Center to host a blood drive on October 23rd. We are also working with San Benito County Public Health to host flu vaccine clinics in November.

Welcome Center

Michele Castro, Sr. Program Specialist

- Welcome Center Peer Mentors (PMs) continue to highlight student collaboration and community at Gavilan College.
- Throughout the summer PMs provided training (to Higher Aspirations & El Centro PMs) worked that the Rock & Enroll events at both Gilroy and Hollister, and conducted tours to over 100 guests to Gavilan
- Student Highlight - At the Financial Aid Scholarship Award Ceremony on August 2nd, graduating PM Stevan Manzur received the Rotary Scholarship of \$15,000. Stevan is transferring to UC Berkeley.



Student Life & Engagement

Jacquie Martin, Student Life & Engagement Coordinator

ASGC

- ASGC meetings this semester will be held on Wednesdays from 4:05pm to 5:55pm in Library 170 & on [Zoom](#), the next meeting is on Wed 9/11/2024.
- Club Day took place on Thursday, September 5th from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM on the pathway from Parking Lot C. This will be an opportunity for students to get involved in existing campus clubs and consider starting a new one.



Student Activities

- There will be a Hispanic Heritage Month Museum Field Trip on Friday, September 13th from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM. We will be visiting the San Jose Museum of Art to see the exhibition called "[Christina Fernandez: Multiple Exposures](#)". This landmark exhibition presents the work of Christina Fernandez, whose photographs and installations explore migration, labor, gender, and her Mexican American identity.
- Join us for "Rocky the Vote" an event in celebration of National Voter Registration Day on Tuesday, September 17th. Students can get registered to vote and receive nonpartisan voter education resources in Hollister from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM and in Gilroy on the pathway from parking lot C from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM.
- Rosanna Alvarez, a local writer & artist, will be hosting a Community & Storytelling Event for Hispanic Heritage Month on Wednesday, September 25th, from 11:20 AM - 12:45 PM in Gilroy.
- The LGBT+ Student Meet Up is taking place on Thursday, September 26th, from 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM in Gilroy.
- Voter Engagement Initiatives that Gavilan is participating in this semester:
 - The California University and College [Ballot Bowl](#) is a friendly competition where higher education campuses compete to register the most students to vote and showcase civic engagement efforts. The California Secretary of State Students Vote Project hosts the Ballot Bowl only during an even numbered year ahead of the general election.
 - The Community College [Concert Competition](#) is a nationwide, nonpartisan effort to turn out student voters at 2-year institutions, and entry is EXCLUSIVE to community colleges. The winner will receive a free concert by a major recording artist on their campus on Vote Early Day (October 29th). Sponsored by Levi's and SHOWTIME/MTV.

Financial Aid

Kelli Bostwick, Director

Financial Aid staff have been diligently processing applications for Fall 24 and preparing for our first disbursement of the new semester. Additionally, staff have participated in several events promoting community and Student Success:

- Scholarship Ceremony – August 2nd
 - At the Scholarship Ceremony at the Elks Lodge on August 2nd, a total of 130 scholarships (14 external and 116 internal) were awarded for a total of \$198,000.00! A shout-out to Alyssa Munoz for planning and executing this amazing ceremony. Students and donors were treated to a beautiful breakfast, they were able to meet the donors that provided the scholarships. Pictures include staff, students, speakers, and donors.



- Rock & Enroll, Gilroy – August 3rd
 - Financial Aid staff were able to assist 56 students in the Financial Aid Lab, to complete FAFSA and CADAA applications and assist in answering questions at the Saturday, August 3rd Event at the Gilroy Campus.
- Rock & Enroll, Hollister – August 16th
 - Financial Aid staff also participated in the evening Rock and Enroll Event at the Hollister Campus. We were able to assist 16 students in the Financial Aid Lab, to complete FAFSA and CADAA applications and assist in answering any questions.

FA staff also participated in welcome week activities at both the Gilroy and Hollister sites, assisting in the welcome tents and will support the resource fair from August 26th through the 30th.

Hollister Site
Judy Rodriguez, Director

- Rock and Enroll Event in Hollister, August 16th
 - The event took place at the Briggs Building and partnered with the SBC Community Foundation to provide Admissions, Financial Aid, Counseling & Registration to students of San Benito County. A big thanks to those who worked the event and tabled to provide resources about the opportunities Gavilan College offers.
- Welcome Week for Fall 2024
 - The Hollister Site welcomed students back to school with breakfast burritos and “service with a smile”. A big shout out to the staff who signed up to make this week a success and helped students feel welcomed!!
- Science Alive Inspires and Receives Grant Support!
 - The Community Foundation of San Benito County has awarded Science Alive a \$3,000 grant thanks to Judy Rodriguez's efforts. This grant will ensure free bus transportation for San Benito County middle school students to attend next year's Science Alive program at our Gilroy Campus, improving equitable access. Per Ken Wagman, please mark your calendars for Science Alive 2025, scheduled for Saturday, March 8th —it will be a blast!



CalWORKS
Annette Gutierrez, Director of Basic Needs

- Reviewing the number of Unduplicated Student Served in Spring 2024, it is clear to see how impactful and important Student Support Services are to our students noting numbers of total students served from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 increasing by almost 40%:

Term	# of Credit Students	# Non-credit Students	Total Student Services/Term
Fall 2023	493	361	854
Spring 2024	1566	618	2184



- Save the Date:
 - Higher Aspirations Open House - Wednesday, October 9, 2024, 12 pm to 3 pm Located in Library 132. Meet the team and check out the Higher Aspirations dedicated space.



Ruth Lopez, Program Specialist for Basic Needs secured 69 backpacks stuffed with school supplies for students from United Way given out at Welcome events in Hollister and Gilroy campuses during the first week of the fall semester.

Student Support Programs

Carina Cisneros, Dean

Over the summer months and leading up to the start of semester, EOP&S staff have been focused on intensive outreach to assist incoming students in gaining acceptance into the program for fall 2024. Outreach and collaboration with Financial Aid has generated a positive and impactful response from incoming students.

Highlights from August 2024 include:

- On August 15th, the Accessible Education Center (AEC) held a new student orientation for incoming students with disabilities. The event was so popular that a bigger room had to be reserved the day prior to accommodate more students and families.
- Congratulations to the Accessible Education Center for reporting an overall increase of 27% more students served in academic year 2023-24 over the prior year.
- On August 21st, the Veterans Resource Center held a virtual orientation for new student veterans to meet our VRC Counselor and school certifying official. This event is intended to support incoming student veterans with connection and developing a sense of belonging.
- Welcome and congratulation Stephen Gaitan, in his promotion to Director, Accessible Education Center in the Accessible Education Center department! Stephen started with Gavilan College as a Workability III Project Supervisor/Counselor in August 2015. Stephen holds a bachelor's degree in exercise science, adult learning disabilities certificate, and a master's degree in counseling/pps credential from San Jose State University.

Upcoming Events:

- CalWORKS, Fresh Success, Higher Aspirations, EOPS, CARE, NextUp, and Housing Insecure students will have access to free family law paralegal assistance for Santa Clara County cases.
 - Interested students are asked to attend one of the informational sessions scheduled on Friday, September 13th, October 11th, and November 8th in El Centro from 10 am to 12 pm.
 - Students may schedule a follow up appointment to complete family law related court filings after they attend the informational session.
- September 6th: Free consultations for Immigration Legal Services provided by the UFW Foundation (flyer attached). Available to all Gavilan students and employees. For appointments, go to: findyourally.com.
- September 25-26: EOP&S/CARE and NEXTUP are planning an overnight northern CA university tour that will include visits to UC Davis, Sacramento State, UC Berkely, and CSU East Bay.


