



# NEWS FROM THE CENTER

A publication of the Multicultural & Community Engagement Center

Summer 2021 - Issue 19

## Summer Mini Edition

As we wrapped up another year of activities for the academic year 2020-2021 and began planning for next year, we thought this was a good time to reflect on how our activities and workshops were received by the GCC community.

We collected approximately 265 feedback surveys over the course of the year. The results from a few of the questions are summarized in this issue (see pages 5 to 7). Note that comments are taken from various workshops. While we couldn't include all comments and survey responses here, we have put together a full report summarizing all the questions which can be found [here](#).

Our thanks go out to everyone who took the time to complete the feedback survey.

In this mini version of our newsletter, we also want to take the time to introduce you to our SPARK peer mentors for 2021 (pages 2 and 3). SPARK peer mentors and activities are integrated into all the Summer Bridge Student Development 101 courses. Interactive workshops that mentors engage in with new GCC students include, goal setting, their educational journeys, and how to become more engaged in campus programs and activities. Summer Bridge students often comment that their interaction with peer mentors is extremely rewarding and beneficial.

And finally, we have a call to action article (page 4) written by one of our MCEC Student Ambassador and Peer Educators, Jannet Rodas. Jannet discusses the most recent immigration update meeting and invites everyone to become more active individuals as we are navigating through proposed legislation, including the American Dream & Promise Act in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

*Additional immigration updates will be forthcoming in late summer and the fall semester as legislation continues to develop and move forward.*

# SPARK MENTORS 2021



## ← Jenevieve

"Nobody has the right to be the judge of what is right for me." - Song lyrics from *What makes a Man a Man* by Charles Asnavour



## ← Sarahi

"Fear is an awesome compass tht you're heading in the right direction."  
- *Jen Sincero*



## ← Janett

"There are always doubts about me and I always want to prove people wrong, so that's what I try to do." - *Kembra Walker*



## ← Sarin

"Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less." - *C.S. Lewis*

## Jose →

"My mama always said, life was like a box of chocolates, You never know what you're gonna get." - *Forrest Gump*



## Lia →

"One day at a time" - a constant reminder that things don't happen in one day and patience is important in order to succeed.



## ← Mariam

"The difference between stupidity and genius is that genius has its limits." - *Albert Einstein*



## ← Keren

"Wherever life plants you, bloom with grace." - *unknown*

## Trinity ➔

"Given that struggles and challenges are an unavoidable part of life, we might as well make our way with a joyful, positive spirit."  
- *Daisaku Ikeda*



## Arpa ➔

"I find that the harder I work, the more luck I seem to have."  
- *Thomas Jefferson*



## ⬅ Benji

"All of this happened before and all of it will happen again."  
- *Ronald D. Moore*



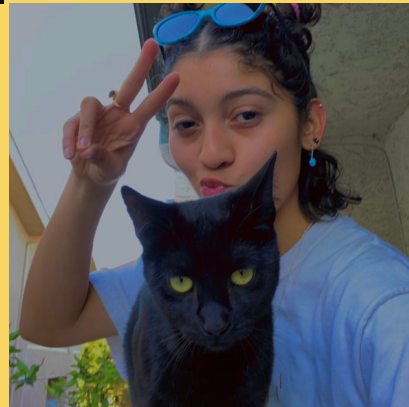
## ⬅ Kalani

"I knew who I was this morning, but I've changed a few times since then."  
- *Lewis Carroll*



## Xinix ➔

"The power for creating a better future is contained in the present moment: You create a good future by creating a good present."  
- *Eckhart Tolle*



## Keemia ➔

"When you arise in the morning, think of what a precious privilege it is to be alive—to breathe, to think, to enjoy, to love."  
- *Marcus Aurelius*



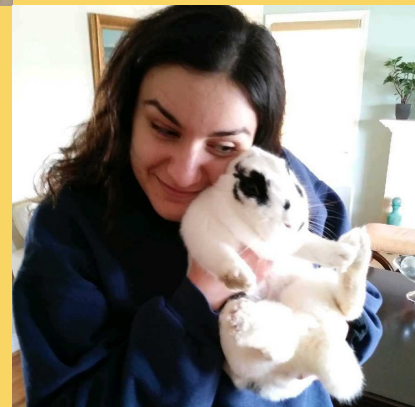
## ⬅ Elza

"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."  
- *Maya Angelou*



## ⬅ Julie

"Lighten up, enjoy life, smile more, laugh more, and don't get so worked up on things you just can't control."  
- *unknown*



## Elena ➔

"Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today."  
- *Benjamin Franklin*



## Emily ➔

"Even the smallest one can change the world."  
- *Beatrix Potter*

# A Call to Action

*By Jannet Rodas, MCEC Student Ambassador and Peer Educator*

On May 19th, 2021, the Dream Resource Center and the Coalition for Human Right (CHIRLA) informed and made a virtual call to action to the community, students, faculty, and staff at Glendale Community College.

During this event, CHIRLA's presenter, Esperanza Guevara, offered a historical and very informational overview of the fight for comprehensive immigration reform, introduction of CHIRLA's Yes to Immigrants Forward agenda, the American Dream & Promise Act & Senate companion bills. In addition, she provided a legislative update on H.R. 6 or otherwise known as the American Dream and Promise Act.

During the second part of the presentation, CHIRLA's Fatima Flores shared her personal story, and in her presentation slides, the following phrase was displayed: "Your story is powerful because it has the ability to change our world. If we all come together to fight collectively, there isn't anything that we can't do."

Her inspiring introduction set the tone and motivated participants, regardless of US citizenship or not, the goal was to engage in collective action. Flores invited participants to take action by using their phones and guided them step-by-step on how to contact their senators via social media or phone calls and leaving a scripted messages supporting the immigration reform.

If you wish to become civically engaged in supporting the undocumented community, CHIRLA's Phone2Action is a practical community resource, and you can start by texting: 11Million to 52886.

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## Multicultural & Community Engagement Center Staff

This newsletter is created with the contributions of staff and students at the MCEC. It is also our pleasure to be able to work with some amazing students in our program.

Nane Kakosian (nanek@glendale.edu)  
*Student Services Program Coordinator*

David Crawford (dcrawford@glendale.edu)  
*Student Services Technician*

Anthony Garcia (anthonyg@glendale.edu)  
*Dream Resource Center & Equity Counselor*

Hoover Zariani (hzariani@glendale.edu)  
*Program Manager*

Follow us on our webpage and on social media:

[www.glendale.edu/mcec](http://www.glendale.edu/mcec)



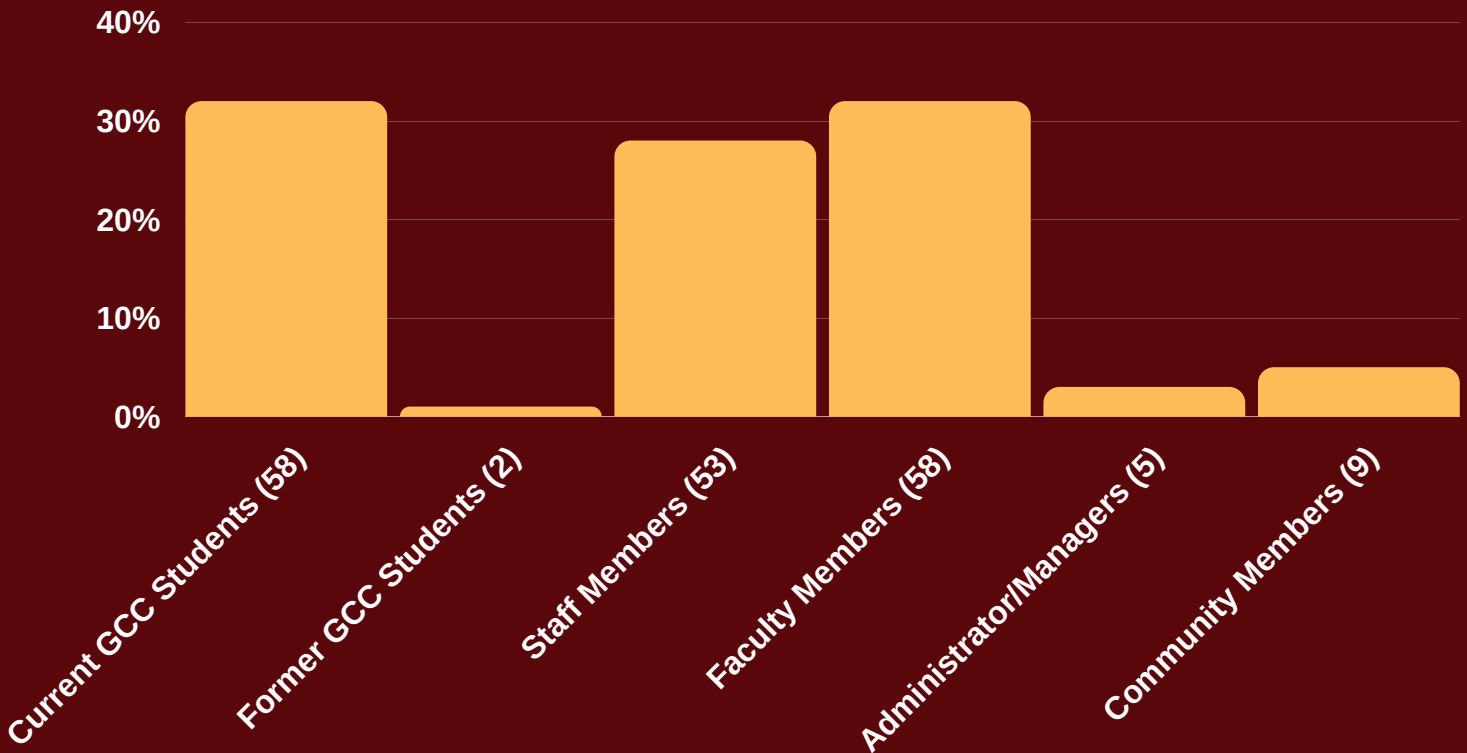
[gccmcec](https://www.instagram.com/gccmcec)



[@gccmcec](https://twitter.com/gccmcec)

**How do you identify yourself?  
What was the highlight of the event?  
What was the biggest takeaway?**

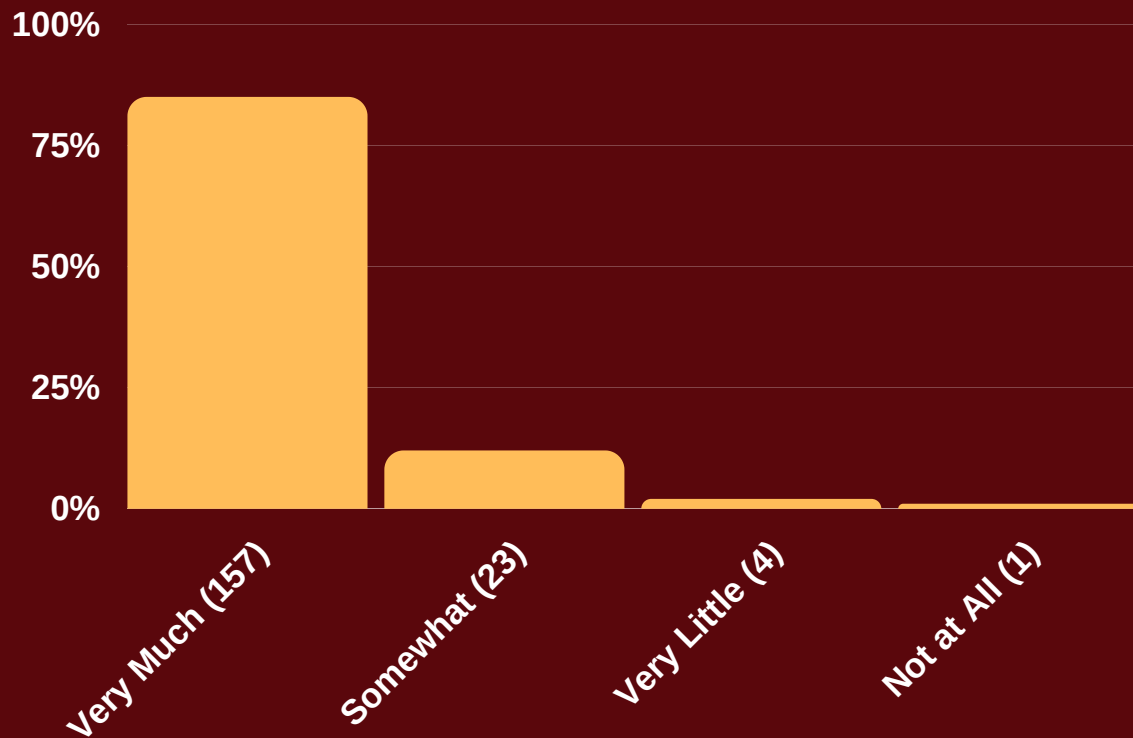
*(two questions combined)*



**Suggestions/Comments:**

- **Having an opportunity to have a day to speak about Dr. King and how GCC is lending itself to fulfill the dream he had, with all students that we serve.**
- **The highlight of the event was about the discussion of Black lives in America and how it has been presented in a negative way, in the lens of injustice or lack of access, wealth, and rights.**
- **Student experiences! So meaningful and eye-opening!**
- **Nice breakdown of the historical and current factors associated with anti-API hate. Also, the question and answer session.**
- **Hearing peoples' stories and seeing compassion and kindness modeled firsthand toward people who were not as knowledgeable but wanted to learn and help their students. It was beautiful to see how proactive solutions were offered, calling people in.**

# Do you feel this presentation created an inclusive space for discussion?



## Suggestions/Comments:

- It was a very welcoming space.
- Family isn't always blood related.
- Empathy is SO important!
- Hearing student concerns from students.
- Insight from personal stories.
- A sense of warmth and hope.
- The discussion portion, where people asked honest vulnerable questions and were met with empathy.
- Diversity of experiences and connection to MLK.
- How complex civil rights activism is.
- Feeling like part of the presentation and conversation.

# **Do you feel that you gained a greater understanding or appreciation for issues related to diversity as a result of participation in the presentation?**



## **Suggestions/Comments:**

- **This was an excellent event to better understand the black student experience.**
- **Segregation in Glendale and Its lingering effects.**
- **Some Armenians don't identify as white, but are counted as such and this skews the numbers and needs to be analyzed.**
- **I attended most of the events and feel grateful for the education I experienced.**
- **Being able to learn about representation of culture.**
- **How in-depth the presentation was that spurred deep dialogue. Grateful to learn more about our AAPI history.**
- **Seeing gaps for what exists on campus and Kay's PowerPoint.**
- **Going over the sources and support GCC does have and doesn't have.**
- **The Civil Rights Era did not end in 1968.**
- **Not to make assumptions about students - ask questions and come with curiosity.**
- **That dialect doesn't equal intellect.**