



Destigmatize \* Educate \*  
Empower  
Summer 2025  
Vol 6, Issue 12

# NEWSLETTER

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## MEET AND GREET

### Meet our newest team member, Jericho!

My name is Jericho Padilla, and I am a Programs & Services Specialist for DSPS. I have been working with DSPS students in different schools since 2001. Before GCC, I was the Support Services Coordinator for the Bob Murphy Access Center (BMAC) at CSU Long Beach, coordinating exams and communicating with students and faculty to ensure that alternative testing accommodations are provided. I was also a Disability Specialist, providing necessary accommodations for students with disabilities through and based on the interactive process and disability documentation. For me, seeing DSPS students succeed is very fulfilling, knowing that I was able to help them somehow is my satisfaction.

During my free time, I love going fishing, camping, hiking, food-tripping (anything AYCE--all you can eat for more bang for your buck!), and taking road trips. I would rather drive to see nature than fly. I enjoy spending time in mountains and chasing waterfalls. My goal is to make people smile.



## SHOUT OUT TO EL VAQ!

GCC's [El Vaquero](#) newspaper featured DSPS services in its April 24, 2025 article [Equal Access for Students with Disabilities](#). We are thankful to El Vaq and especially journalist Taylor Wiegand for highlighting our services and helping spread awareness!

Interested in learning more about El Vaq or how to become a member of its staff? Check out <https://www.glendale.edu/students/campus-resources/el-vaquero>

# CONGRATS, GRADS!



**DSPS celebrated our students who transferred and those who earned Associates degrees and certificates in**



Accounting  
Administration of Justice  
Animation  
Architecture Draft & Design  
Art History  
Art 2D  
Biotechnology  
Bookkeeping  
Ceramics  
Character Design  
Child Development  
Communication Studies

Computer Information Systems  
Computer Science  
Creative Writing  
Digital Character Design  
Digital Photography  
Early Childhood Education  
English  
English: Creative Writing  
Entrepreneurship/Small Business  
Film, TV, Electronic Media

Fire Technology  
Fitness Specialist  
General Business  
Healthcare Administration  
Liberal Arts  
Physical Science  
Psychology  
Social Work  
Sport Coaching  
Studio Arts  
Theatre Arts  
Visual Arts  
and more!



**Congratulations Class of 2025,  
and way to go, Vaqueros!**

# DR. PARKS IS AWARDED THE WILLIAM L. PARKER EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE AWARD!

**Dr. Lee Miller Parks**, one of our DSPS Adapted Physical Education (APE) specialists, was awarded the prestigious William L. Parker Exceptional Service Award in May 2025. This peer-nominated award recognizes long service to GCC. Criteria include multiple areas such as academic, professional, and community service; recognition by faculty, staff, students, and administration; and lasting contributions to GCC.

A faculty member since 1993, Dr. Parks has written the curriculum and developed the Adapted Physical Education (APE) Activity classes at GCC. Prior to receiving the Parker award, Dr. Parks was honored as one of Business Life Magazine's Women Achievers of 2024. She was recognized for her commitment to physical and social health of the communities surrounding GCC.

Dr. Parks has represented her profession on the National and State levels as well. She was a selected member of Adapted Physical Educators who wrote the State Education Handbook, outlining APE programs and programming at the Community College level.

Dr. Parks' services to GCC (outside of the APE program) include hiring committees, Safety, Flex, Sabbatical, Health Benefits committees (to name just a few avenues of her service to the school). But Dr. Parks' true commitment is to the DSPS students who are enrolled in the APE classes. Colleagues shared just a few praises that describe our incredible Dr. Parks:

"Anyone who knows Lee knows that she is the kind of professor who truly exemplifies what it means to teach community college students."

"Lee is always looking for opportunities to broaden her students' horizons and let them experience what is possible."

"Dr. Parks is consistent; students know that and trust her."

"Lee is steadfast in her commitment to fight for the rights and equity of those who cannot."

Some comments from her students underscore their benefits from participating in the APE program include "I really love Dr. Parks and her staff. They are incredibly kind and educated. . . They understand fitness, health and movement. . . APE has helped my physical being by means of discipline, wisdom, knowledge, and understanding and applying what I learned to my real life."

"Dr. Parks' class helps me to have exercise in my daily life in safe manner. This impacts my life and has helped to improve my social and emotional life as well."

"My experience in APE has been both positive and empowering. The program provided modified activities that matched my abilities. . . which strengthened both by physical health and academic performance."



Many congratulations, Dr. Parks, on earning this incredible and well-deserved award!



# CHANGES COMING TO DSPS WITH AIM

**Starting Summer 2025, DSPS is launching the DSPS Vaqueros Portal Accessible Information Management (AIM) system.** The DSPS Vaqueros Portal is a fully online, web-based database system designed to help streamline the communication and interactions with faculty and DSPS students. Your DSPS Vaqueros Student account will be accessible through your upcoming GCC Single Sign-On (SSO) account or the [DSPS website](#).

Students can use the DSPS Vaqueros Portal to

- Apply for DSPS services online and attach/upload disability documentation.
- Initiate accommodation requests.
- Schedule Tutoring Appointments with DSPS.
- Request Alternative Media Services.
- Schedule Exams and more.



To help with the transition, Mauricio and Jericho will be available to provide training for DSPS students. In Summer 2025, students can attend an in-person session with either Jericho or Mauricio in SG 108 on Tuesdays at 10am and Wednesdays at 2pm. Remote (Zoom) sessions are Thursdays at 10am and 2pm via this information:

Zoom Link: <https://glendale-edu.zoom.us/j/81110411289>

Zoom Meeting ID: 811 1041 1289

If you wish to schedule an in-person or remote appointment, please contact Jericho at [jpadilla@glendale.edu](mailto:jpadilla@glendale.edu).

## CAPED SCHOLARSHIPS



**The California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED)** is accepting scholarship applications for the 2025–2026 academic year. These scholarships support California college and university students with disabilities.

Applications are due by August 31, 2025. Students with disabilities enrolled in California colleges/universities with a minimum GPA of 2.5 (undergraduate) may apply. Scholarship amounts vary and are up to \$1,500.

The application consists of personal and school information, essay (or video) response, unofficial transcripts, letter of recommendation from a faculty member, and a disability certification form signed by your campus disability support office or current letter of accommodation.

Scholarships are available for various categories, including veterans, students with specific disabilities, those demonstrating academic excellence and leadership, and students pursuing careers in counseling or disability services.

For more information, visit the CAPED Scholarships at <https://www.caped.co/scholarships/> or contact [scholarships@caped.co](mailto:scholarships@caped.co).

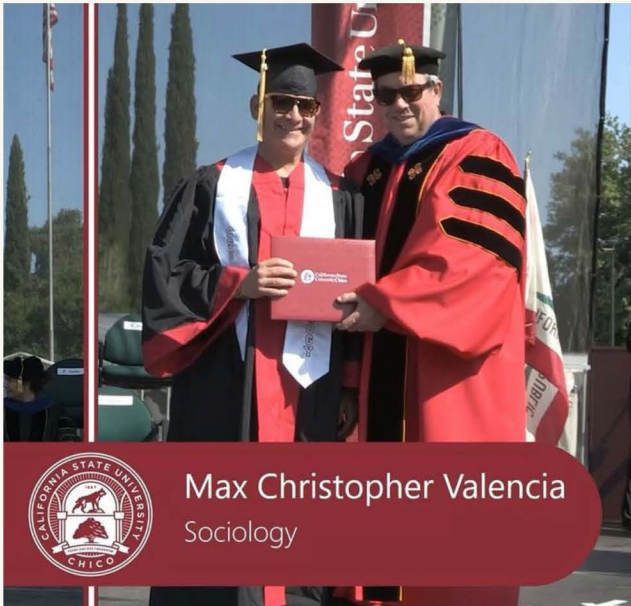


# FLOWER POWER!

In May, DSPS students and staff took some time to de-stress before finals. MFT intern, Nareh Shahbazian, led a flower therapy session to help us get back in touch with our artistic sides and with nature. We thank her for her time and the beautiful flowers!



## DSPS ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT



**Max Christopher Valencia**  
Sociology

**Max Valencia was a GCC Associates in Sociology major who transferred California State University, Chico, and earned his B.A. in Sociology. He graciously shared the following:**

“I’m currently pursuing my Master’s degree in Diversity, Community Development, and Leadership at California State University, Northridge (CSUN). I also work on campus as an Assistant Learning Specialist, primarily supporting student-athletes in their academic success.

I’m most proud of the commitment I made to myself in 2019, at the age of 49, to return to school after a 30-year hiatus and pursue higher education. That decision has changed the course of my life.

My goal is to continue building supportive and inclusive communities within youth and high school sports, drawing from my academic journey and professional experience. I’m passionate about education, equity, and mentorship, especially for underserved student-athletes.

I’d like current GCC students to never stop believing in yourself and what you’re capable of achieving. Surround yourself with people who uplift and support you. The staff at GCC played a crucial role in my journey. Rita, in particular, was a true rock for me on campus. Her unwavering support helped me stay focused and see the bigger picture.

I also want to share that I live with ADHD, and the support I received at GCC made a significant impact on my direction and success. Always remember: ‘Short Steps, Long Vision.’ I wish you all the best on your path, you’ve got this!”

# AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) TURNS 35!

This year marks the 35th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law. The ADA has transformed American society and enabled a generation of Americans with disabilities to thrive. The ADA grants civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities, ensuring equal opportunity in various areas like employment, public accommodations, and government services. It prohibits discrimination based on disability and requires reasonable accommodations to be provided in these areas. You can watch the historic signing at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9gsGiszvjyQ>



To learn more about the ADA, go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JOWN4UO1Wv>

## ADA: Disability Rights are Civil Rights!

You can watch the famous Capitol Crawl, when in 1990 individuals with disabilities crawled up the steps of the Capitol building in Washington DC. Organized by American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT), the activists chanted, "Access now! ADA now!" Their aim was to convince Congress to push the legislation, which had stalled. From children to senior citizens, these individuals made the difficult climb. Four months later, President George HW Bush signed the legislation.

Read an interview with some of the participants:

<https://www.newmobility.com/2020/07/the-capitol-crawl/>



<https://vimeo.com/328233990>

## RESOURCES

Do you know there's a lengthy **list of disability related resources** on the DSPS webpage? We have resources on advocacy, education, employment and internships, scholarships, state and federal programs, transportation, and more!

Go to [www.glendale.edu/dsps](http://www.glendale.edu/dsps) and click on

**RESOURCES from DSPS.**

## NEWSLETTER IDEAS, QUESTIONS, COMMENTS?

Email Rita at [rzobayan@glendale.edu](mailto:rzobayan@glendale.edu)

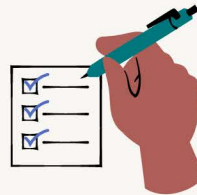


# FALL 2025 DSPS CLASSES

## Credit Classes in Fall 2025 at Verdugo

**Adapted Physical Education (PE) classes are 1 unit and transferable to UC and CSU.**

- PE 130: Adapted Activities
- PE 131: Adapted Self Defense (Tai Chi)
- PE 132: Adapted Aquatics (at the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center)
- PE 134: Adapted Wellness & Fitness Lab
- PE 135: Adapted Indoor Cycling (spin)
- You can also check out Dance 150: Physical Reintegration (transferable to CSU only)



### Student Development (ST DV)

- **St Dv 105: College Success for Students with Disabilities**

Topics include effective study strategies, short and long-term goals, time management, self-advocacy, college academic regulations; associate degree options, including transfer; student services and specialized student support services.

**Transferable to UC and CSU. 3 units**

- **St Dv 143: Study Skills Lab** for study strategies and help with credit Math and credit English classes.



- **St Dv 190 Introduction to Adapted Word Processing** is designed to provide individualized instruction to students with disabilities. The course uses assistive computer technology and word processing programs to teach students how to prepare simple written documents. Note: This course is Pass/No Pass only, and is primarily designed for students who meet Title 5 eligibility requirements for Disabled Students Programs and Students (DSPS). This course may be taken up to four times for credit. This course was formerly known as and is equivalent to CABOT 93.
- **St Dv 191 Introduction to Microsoft Office 365/Google Suite** provides an overview of Microsoft Office 365 and Google Suite, including the core applications and features of both platforms. Students will learn how to navigate these tools, create and edit documents, collaborate with others, and organize their work efficiently. The course will also cover best practices for data security and privacy.
- **St Dv 192 Introduction to Assistive Technology** introduces students to the use of assistive technology. Students will learn about a variety of assistive technologies that can help individuals with disabilities to access, use, and control computer systems. This includes technologies such as screen readers, speech recognition software, text-to-speech, speech-to-text, note taking software, and alternative input methods. Through hands-on activities and discussions, students will gain an understanding of the benefits and limitations of different types of assistive technology, as well as the ethical and social implications of their use.
- **St Dv 193 Computer Technology Literacy** introduces students to the basics of computer technology, including hardware, software, and the Internet. Students will learn how to use common computer applications, troubleshoot basic computer problems, and stay safe online. By choosing disability-specific programs and/or the assistive technology best suited to their individual needs, students will set and work toward goals related to their education.

For more information, including dates/times and class codes to add, please go to the schedule and choose Fall from the term dropdown menu: [View Schedule of Classes \(glendale.edu\)](http://glendale.edu).

# CONTACT INFORMATION

## Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD) located in SG 128

Dafna, Dani, Diana, Janelle, Jericho, Karmen, Rita, Shauna, and Tracey  
csd@glendale.edu, 818-240-1000 ext. 5905

Summer office hours: MON to THURS, 8:00AM to 4:30PM and FRI, 8:00AM to 3:00PM\*  
Counselors' days and hours vary.

## Accommodations Resource Center (ARC) located in SG 108/112

David, Laura, Maryam, Mauricio, Rogelio, Rozik, and Talin  
ARC@glendale.edu, 818-240-1000 ext. 5530 and 5402

Summer office hours: MON to THURS 8:00AM to 4:30PM and FRI, 8:00AM to 3:00PM\*  
Specialists' and tutors' days and hours vary.

\*except the first Friday of the month when the offices close at 2:30pm.

## Alternate Media

Scott, sziegler@glendale.edu, 818-240-1000 ext. 3366  
MON to FRI 8:00AM to 4:30PM



## Lead Interpreter and Coordinator for ASL and CC/RTC Services

Kim, kweissman@glendale.edu  
MON to FRI 9:00AM to 3:00PM



## Adapted Physical Education

Coach Laura Matsumoto: lauram@glendale.edu  
Dr. Lee Parks: lparks@glendale.edu

## Garfield DSPS

Dani and Jesse  
818-240-1000 ext 5035 or 5099  
Counselors' days and hours vary.



## Join the DSPS Canvas Shell

Receive official announcements, reminders, and more! Students registered with DSPS can contact Rogelio Ramirez at rramirez@glendale.edu to check if they are on the list or if they wish to join.

## Follow our IG

Check it out to learn about workshops, scholarships, employment opportunities, fundraisers, conferences, webinars, deadlines, and more.



Follow us at [dsps\\_gcc](https://www.instagram.com/dsps_gcc).