

Cohort #4 Members



**Dosha
Bautista**

I started at El Camino College in the International Student Program office February 2017 after our family was stationed in Los Angeles. Being an Air Force spouse means moving states every three to four years, which can be very difficult, but I can truly say that the experience working within universities at different levels has made me become even more passionate about the power of education to expand human potential and ultimately transform lives.

I received my Bachelor of Science in Sociology from the University of Florida and then went on to earn my MSED in Instructional Design. I am a first-generation student that grew up in an environment where college was not something that was viewed as attainable. Luckily, I had a high school counselor that took interest in me and assisted me with college applications and scholarships. Now, I get to give back by empowering students to pursue and achieve their educational goals.

When I am not at work, you can find me either cuddled up with my cats reading a good book, in the kitchen cooking for family and friends, traveling with my husband and kids, running marathons, walking the beach or shooting photography.



**April Belle
Bernabeo**

I've been working in ECC's Special Resource Center (SRC) since 2005. I started as a student worker and continued as an hourly worker while I pursued my Bachelor's Degree from UCLA. I enjoyed working part-time in the SRC and in the family business, installing stone tops and tiles. In 2017, I was hired full-time as a Senior Clerical in the SRC. 10 months later, I was promoted to Instructional Services Advisor.

After graduating from High School and receiving my GCE A Levels from Cambridge University in 2000, my family and I moved to the US from Brunei. We lived in Northern California where I attended Napa Valley and Diablo Valley College. One year later we moved to SoCal where I completed an Associates Degree in Computer Programming from Computer Learning Center in LA. I was unable to secure a career in computers so I enrolled at El Camino College. I obtained my Associates Degree, with honors, in Psychology. I transferred to UCLA and received a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 2011.

Some fun facts: I was born in the Philippines, raised in Brunei, migrated to San Francisco/Bay Area, moved to Gardena, and now I live in Carson. I love travelling the world with my daughter, Angel. Right now it's Europe we keep going back to, specifically Paris, France. I also love trying out new food. Angel is not a fan of some delicacies. You can just imagine her distaste while I munch on bacon-flavored crickets, balut, escargot, deep-fried tarantulas and the like. Delicious! Au revoir!



**Allison
Carr**

Allison Carr has been a full-time professor of English and ESL at El Camino College since 2010. She previously taught advanced composition and reading and pronunciation at CSULB in their American Language Institute Program. She also has taught composition courses at CSUDH and as an adjunct at ECC. Prior to working with adults, she taught middle school Language Arts and Social Studies and Adult School in Hawthorne, CA. She received an MA in English with an emphasis in TESOL from CSUDH, and a BFA in Theatre Studies and a minor in English from UT Austin. Her first job post-college graduation was teaching ESL in Japan, which led her on the path to ESL teaching. She lives in Long Beach with her husband, son, and dog and is proud to call California her home. She looks forward to working with colleagues as part of ECC Pride!



**Cynthia
Cervantes**

Cynthia Cervantes joined El Camino College as a Part Time Childhood Education Instructor in the summer of 2013. In the spring of 2015 she was hired as Full Time faculty. However, because she was pregnant with her first child at the time, Cynthia began teaching Full Time in the spring 2016 semester. Cynthia received her BA degree in Child Development from Cal State Northridge and her MA degree in Early Childhood Education from Cal State Northridge as well. At El Camino College Cynthia highly enjoys advising the Child Development Club. She also enjoys serving on the College Curriculum Committee and EEO Committee. When she is not teaching, Cynthia loves to spend time with her husband and two daughters who are 4 years old and 20 months. They enjoy traveling to Mexico, going to the park, visiting new places, dining out and just being silly together. One fun fact about Cynthia: Her maternal grandmother gave birth to 20 children!



**Matt
Cheung**

Matt is a graduate of El Camino College, and returned to the College to teach as an adjunct in 2005. He became a full time member of the English department in 2007. He is active in the First Year Experience Program, the Puente Program, and served as an Accreditation co-chair for the 2014 Institutional Self-Evaluation.

When he is not inundated with grading papers, he enjoys reading, playing with his two nieces, and practicing yoga.



**Robin
Dreizler**

I have been an incredibly passionate and loyal ECC employee for 22 years. Prior to my current position as Dean of Enrollment Services, I was director of Outreach and School Relations. In all, I have nearly 37 years of service in education mostly in student services assisting students. I hold a Master's in Humanities and a Bachelor's in Communication/Public Relations from California State University Dominguez Hills. El Camino College has been part of my life since 1978 when I chose to enroll as a student athlete on the baseball team. I was a student worker, then a part time worker through the 1980s and early 90s before being hired full time in 1997. In 2007 I was given the incredible honor of being inducted into the El Camino College Athletic Hall of Fame. Additionally, three of my four daughters chose to attend ECC as well. My hobbies include spending time with my family including my wife and 4 daughters, hiking, photography, golf, and splashing around in the ocean.



**Maria
Ehrlich**

I am a first generation college student who transferred from community college and earned a Bachelor's in Health and Human Services from CSU, Los Angeles. My professional career began as an Instructional Aide for Long Beach Unified School District which offered me the opportunity to help students with disabilities achieve their academic goals. In this role I assisted many students transiting out of high school by preparing them for college or arranging work placement. During this time I also worked part time at El Camino College as a Front Desk Receptionist for the Special Resource Center. In June 2017, I was hire as Student Services Specialist for the Financial Aid department. In this position I coordinate and participate in campus events, high school visits, college fairs, and local presentations to raise financial aid awareness. One of the most gratifying aspects of working in the educational field is being able to provide support and build the student's confidence to navigate through college. Outside of work I love spending time with my husband Matt, our one year old son Connor and our dog Sparky. We enjoy taking Connor to parks, beaches, museums and the zoo. I also like to travel, swim, hike, cook and entertain.



**Caroline Sina
Fifita**

I am a Tongan woman from Hawthorne, California. I was a transfer student from El Camino College (ECC) and graduated with my B.A. in Political Science from University of California, Riverside. I was blessed with the opportunity to work as a TNC project assistant for ECC's Student Equity team in summer 2016 and am now coordinating the MANA program which is a resource for Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) students. Previous to working for ECC, I was involved in various non-profits in Los Angeles such as the Tongan Community Service Center, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, and more. As a form of my self-care, I like to shop, travel, and try new food.



**David
Gonzales**

David works in the Industry & Technology Division as Dean. He started in 2018, but worked at El Camino College from 2006 to 2015 as Director in the Community Advancement Division. He left ELCO for Long Beach City College in 2015 for an Interim Dean position and returned ""home"" to El Camino College to take the Dean position in 2018. He taught part-time at Cerritos College in New Product Development, Machine Tool Technology, and Engineering Technology for 6 years.

David is a LA Rams fan and is happy that the team is back in Los Angeles.



**Amy
Grant**

Amy Grant is originally from Brooklyn, NY. She came to California for graduate school, obtaining a Ph.D. in Chemistry from UC Irvine. Amy taught English in Japan for a year, and traveled to China, Thailand, and South Korea. On her way home, she stopped in Egypt and Israel. Soon after, she was hired to teach chemistry at El Camino College in 1999.

Amy had an unbelievably good day while volunteering at the El Camino College booth at the L.A. Times Festival of Books in 2002. During a break, she went to get a book signed by her favorite author, Maya Angelou. She found that the line was already closed. But the UCLA student guarding the back of the line was her former ECC chemistry student, who snuck her on as the last person to get an autograph. Happily clutching her autographed book, Amy then got on line for a chicken sandwich. The chicken ran out, so she reluctantly lined up for tri-tip. She chatted with a guy next to her, an El Camino College alumnus. The sandwich wasn't great, but she is coming up on her 15-year wedding anniversary with the guy.

Amy became the Dean of Natural Sciences in 2015. Her favorite task is to help announce the 1000+ names of graduates in Murdock Stadium every year. She lives with the tri-tip guy, their two middle schoolers, and a cat named Cary Grant.



**Brian
Krause**

ECC has been an instrumental part of my journey. I struggled in high school and felt college was not for me. At the age of 25, I was tested for learning differences at the Special Resource Center (SRC). This is where I found the tools and support needed to become a successful student. I obtained my A.S. degree in Computer Information Systems with honors in 2000.

I worked for nine years as an hourly worker before becoming full-time in 2003. I have worked in Disability Services for nearly 25 years evaluating and training students on the latest educational tools and technologies. I have a strong aptitude for making ""techy"" language understandable and relatable. I have represented ECC at statewide and international technology conferences.

My wife Kendra and I have been married for 16 years (together for 25 years). We enjoy celebrating our birthdays and anniversaries at the ""Happiest Place on Earth."" We also love spending our summer vacations in West Maui where I have been going since I was eight years old. Fun fact: I also enjoy playing the Ukulele.



**Sheryl
Kunisaki**

Sheryl Kunisaki began her career at El Camino College as an adjunct ESL and English instructor. She is currently the Assistant Director of the Learning Resources Center. Her college career began at Weber State College in Ogden, Utah. Later she transferred to the University of Washington where she received a B.A. in English with an emphasis in creative writing. After graduation, she lived in Tokyo, Japan because she wanted to learn Japanese. After four years, she returned to the US and attended CSULA to obtain an M.A. in Teaching English as a Second Language. For fun, Sheryl enjoys yoga, cross fit, and Japanese flower arranging.



**Monica
Lanier**

Monica Lanier originally started at ECC as an adjunct counselor in 2005. She left after a year, but returned as an adjunct in 2013 and became a FT General Counselor in 2015. Monica has 18 years of counseling experience including working at LA Harbor, LA Southwest, West LA College and Culver City High School. She earned a BA degree in Linguistics from USC and a MA in Educational Counseling from LMU. Most of her free time is spent taking her son and daughter to baseball and softball. She also enjoys painting and going to craft fairs.



**Tiffanie
Lau**

I earned my Master's in Rehabilitation Counseling from Boston University. I worked at Santa Monica College for 10 years as a Learning Disability Specialist. I began working part-time at ECC in 2015 and was hired on full time for Fall 2018. I enjoy helping people and telling people what to do, so this job is perfect for me.

I am married with 3 children, ages 11, 10, and 5, and 1 rabbit. I try to garden but end up killing whatever plant I try to grow. I enjoy eating, binge-watching tv shows, and traveling. Hawaii and Yosemite are among my favorite places.



**Marisa
Lopez**

Marisa R. Lopez has served as an Administrative Assistant in the Purchasing and Risk Management Division at El Camino College since August 2016. Some of her recent accomplishments include helping source an affordable medical insurance plan for ECC's International Student Program participants and coordinating architect responses for the new Arts Complex and Behavioral & Social Sciences Building. She looks forward to completing her CSRM (Certified Schools Risk Manager) designation to add value to the Risk Management program at El Camino College.

A graduate of California State University at Long Beach and Santa Monica College, Marisa worked her way through high school and college in the restaurant industry, to which she credits her love of business concepts in addition to eight years managing real estate investments. As a result, she applies a student-as-customer approach to her work at El Camino College.

Marisa and her all-star husband share two hilarious children. Their favorite family activities include swimming, bowling, and grocery shopping!



**Coleen
Maldonado**

I joined the El Camino family in March of 2018 and have to admit sometimes I still feel "new". When I applied to El Camino College I was looking for the following opportunities: (1) to do work I am passionate about and believe makes a positive difference in the lives of students; (2) a chance to use my strengths and talents; (3) to work in a team environment; (4) to work at a college that supports new ideas and campus wide collaboration; and (5) to be an active member of a college community. I count myself lucky to have found those here at El Camino College.

My work and academic research is focused on developing new and improving existing K-16 school-to-college partnerships having co-authored a book chapter and several research reports on the topic. I received my Doctorate of Education in Organizational Leadership from the University of LaVerne. The highlight of my 20-year career has been helping to negotiate and co-author the original Long Beach College Promise partnership.

On the personal side of life, I have been blessed to be married for 31 years and have three adult children - a 30 year old artist, 28 year old future Spanish teacher in grad school and a 23 year old fire fighter. I love to garden, go camping, do yoga, and read for fun.



**Luis
Mancia**

My name is Jose Luis Mancia; however, I go by Luis. The reason is that my family always referred to me as Luis to the point that it sounded strange to me when people call me Jose. I was born in El Salvador and I came to the U.S. as a result of the civil war in the early 1980s I joined ECC in December of 1997 as a Financial Aid Advisor. I coordinate the Federal Work Study Program and until recently I was the Interim Financial Aid Supervisor. The best part of my job is seeing students' joy when they graduate. I enjoy a good work out, especially playing basketball and during the weekends I enjoy working on projects around my house. I am a bit of a Jack of all trades.



**Darcie
McClelland**

Darcie McClelland joined the ECC team in fall 2016 as a full-time biology faculty member. Eager to take on a more active leadership role, she began working with the Academic Senate and was appointed as their VP of Educational Policies in January 2018. In July 2019, she began her Academic Senate President term and is excited for the unique opportunities and challenges this new leadership role will present. Darcie also enjoys mentoring student research projects focused on DNA Barcoding of various animal species.

Prior to joining ECC, Darcie received a BA in Biology from University of San Diego and a PhD in Cell, Molecular, and Developmental Biology from UC Riverside. She served as the Executive VP of UC Riverside's Graduate Student Association and the Graduate and Professional Student Chair for the UC Student Association. After earning her PhD, she worked as an adjunct at Chaffey College and a Postdoctoral Teaching Scholar in the Dynamic Genome Program at UC Riverside, a program that focuses on providing research experiences to first year undergraduates to promote success of traditionally underrepresented students in STEM. Darcie is a 2015-2016 National Academy of Sciences Life Science Education Fellow.

A former NCAA softball player, Darcie enjoys coaching pitchers at Rosary High School where she played. She is an avid kickboxer and enjoys hiking with her dogs, Simba and Sasha. Darcie is also a diehard Pittsburgh Steelers fan and enjoys tasting and collecting wine.



**Veronica
Mendoza**

Veronica Mendoza started at El Camino College in 2008 as a temporary hire for Community Education Kid's College program. She fell in love with the work that Community Education does for the community and since 2009 has been the Student Services Technician for the department. She continues to enjoy playing a role in making positive changes in the lives of the students.

Veronica also serves the community as a leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop, assistant coach of her daughter's FIRST Lego League team and money earning chair for her son's Boy Scout troop. She also enjoys camping with her husband and two kids as well crocheting, various art projects, gardening and weekly family game nights.



**Andy
Nasatir**

Andy came to El Camino college in 1998 as the Assistant Bookstore Director. He served as the Bookstore Manager at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College from 1989-1998. Before that he was night manager for Alpha Beta, a consultant to the health food industry, a political consultant and a longtime volunteer for Valley Helpline.

Andy graduated from CSU-Northridge with a degree in History and received a Masters in Public Administration from CSU-Dominguez Hills.

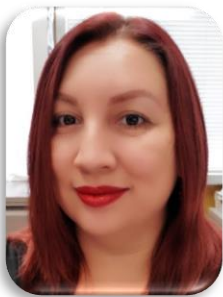
Andy considers his 25 year marriage and his employment at El Camino as bathing in the fountain of youth; every day is new and full of promise!



**Polly
Parks**

Polly Parks was hired at El Camino College in 2017 to teach Biology and Microbiology. She grew up locally in San Pedro and then went to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo for undergraduate studies majoring in Biology. From there, she moved on to her Master's degree in Biology at San Diego State University. While at SDSU, she fell in love with teaching and began working at multiple community colleges in San Diego right after graduation. While in graduate school, she started pursuing professional development opportunities to learn more evidence-based teaching strategies that she implements in her classroom. She is highly dedicated to student success and reducing equity gaps, especially within the sciences. When ECC opened a full-time position, Polly saw this as an opportunity to move back home and serve the community that raised her. Once hired, Polly jumped right into various campus activities such as advising the Environmental & horticulture club, joining the Professional Development committee, and acting as the Guided Pathways liaison for the Natural Sciences division. She has thoroughly enjoyed meeting (and continuing to meet) all of her new ECC colleagues and working together to help support our wonderful students.

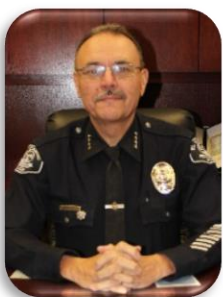
In any spare time, Polly enjoys hiking and camping with her husband and dog. She also loves watching and traveling to see her husband compete in Ironman distance triathlons all over the country and world.



**Mayra
Thrush**

El Camino College has been an important part of my life for the last 18 years. Began as a student taking ASL classes in 2001 and earned my AS degree in Sign Language Interpreting in 2004. This same year, I started my first "casual" job, working part-time at the Special Resource Center and part-time at the Health Sciences Division Office as a front desk clerk. Two years later, the Senior Clerical Assistant position opened up in the SRC and I became an official classified employee. Working here, I realized my love for helping those in need, so I decided to go back to school to pursue my B.A. in Human Services. I graduated from CSUDH in 2016. This same year, I moved onto a new position within the SRC as a DSPS Instructional Services Advisor.

I started working for the Special Resource Center when I was only 23 years old, so it has been fun reaching most of my adult milestones here, and sharing them with my peers. I am now married and have two beautiful children; my little guy, Ian (soon to be 5) and my baby girl Olivia (1 ½). I love to travel and make it a priority to vacation yearly to create lifelong memories with my little family.



**Michael
Trevis**

Mike Trevis has served as Police Chief for El Camino College for over ten years. He has a total 45 years of law enforcement service having served as Chief of Police for two cities and two Districts. Mike has a Bachelors degree in Public Administration and a Masters in Business administration. He has completed coursework towards a Doctorate in Public Administration at the University of La Verne. Mike has been married to Marylou for 43 years and they one daughter. Mike collects police insignia for a hobby.



**Viviana
Unda**

Viviana Unda earned her Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of California Los Angeles, her M.A. in Linguistics, her Spanish teaching credential, and her undergraduate degree in Spanish Linguistics and Literature from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Within the U.S., she worked at the Los Angeles Unified School District, and in different UCLA schools. In Chile, Viviana worked in public and private K-12 and higher education institutions as a teacher and research consultant.

Between 2011 and 2015, Viviana served at Universidad de Las Americas-UDLA, Chile as Academic Director of the Spanish teaching program, as editor in chief of the university educational model, and as Research Director, in charge of creating the new research unit.

As Executive Director for Research Network Collaboration, Viviana's role was to support research collaboration initiatives among Laureate Education institutions.

Viviana joined El Camino College in April 2019 as Director of Institutional Research and Planning. She is proud to serve ECC's students and community through planning and institutional research that support evidence-informed decision-making processes.

In her spare time, Viviana likes crafting. It is her second passion after working on higher education. She also loves walking and travelling to new places with her husband and daughter.



**John
Yeressian**

John Yeressian is an ECC alumnus and has achieved both an A.A. and an A.S. degree, followed with a B.S. in Business Administration and an MBA. He is a licensed real estate broker and has been teaching at El Camino College a little over 3 years now as well as at Compton College and has guest lectured at USC, UCLA, and Stanford among others colleges. His previous experience includes working for the federal government under two different presidential administrations in various agency roles. He is a commissioner for the California state assembly and was past president of the L.A. County Board of Real Estate. He runs a successful real estate company as well as a wholesale distribution business that was recently named in Fortune Magazine as one of the fastest growing small businesses in the United States. Above all, he enjoys being a part of the ECC Warrior community and sharing his knowledge of success with aspiring students.

During high school, John spent some time living and going to school in Australia, Japan, and Europe. He is an avid camper and enjoys the fact that he cannot get a cellphone signal while camping thus forcing him to just enjoy nature.