

Cohort #3 Members



Sharonda Barksdale

After completing a Bachelor's of Science degree at Concordia University Irvine, Sharonda Barksdale returned to Los Angeles and worked for Los Angeles County Office of Education (LACOE) in the Foster Youth Services program. During her 11 years working with LACOE, Ms. Barksdale developed a relationship with El Camino College. In 2004, she began working as an independent contractor with the Foster and Kinship Care Education Department (FKCE). Throughout the years she worked a facilitator training certification and renewal classes for relative caregivers, foster parents and foster youth. This relationship developed and in 2006 Ms. Barksdale began working with the Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) Program through FKCE. The YESS program provided educational services for foster youth in the SPA 8 area through El Camino College. Ms. Barksdale went on to become the Program Assistant for the FKCE program here at the college while continuing to work for several community agencies. In 2016, Ms. Barksdale accepted a position with Hathaway-Sycamores with their Transition-Aged Youth housing program. After two years of working with transition aged foster youth, Ms. Barksdale returned to El Camino College as the Foster Youth and Homeless Liaison in The Financial Aid department.



Daniel Berney

Daniel Berney is a full time professor of dance at El Camino College since 2001. His previous full time dance faculty positions in education include Moorpark College and California State University at Dominguez Hills. Additionally Daniel has taught as an adjunct faculty member at Cerritos College and Santa Ana College. He received an MFA in Dance from the University of California at Irvine and a BA in Dramatic Arts with a tutorial emphasis from the University of California at Santa Barbara. Mr. Berney's master's thesis was published in the Olympic proceedings on swim training and rehabilitation for the dancer. Additionally he has pursued doctoral studies through New York University's prestigious School of Education. He is a longtime member of the ECC FYE program, is one of the pilot instructors of the ECC Connect (formerly Starfish) program and is excited to be chosen as a participant in this fall 2018 ECC Pride cohort!



Breeanna Bond

Breeanna Bond started at El Camino College in 2007 as a recent South High grad and the first in her family to pursue a college degree. After one semester, Breeanna became one of the founding Student Ambassadors, active in the Honor's Transfer Program, and a part of the Associated Student Organization. Obtaining her A.A. in Sociology with honors, Breeanna then transferred to UC Davis and as of August 2018 obtained her Masters in Public Policy and Administration from CSU Long Beach.

Currently, Breeanna is the advisor for single parents apart of the CARE Program and the ECC hiking club advisor. In her spare time, she likes to adventure through hiking, traveling, trying new foods, and reading.

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Robert Brobst

Rob Brobst served as Associate Director of Student Housing Facilities at Cal State University Fullerton for 5 years. Prior to that he was Director of College Facilities at Los Angeles City College. Mr. Brobst has experience in Business Management and will finish the Harvard Business School Executive Program later this year. Rob is married to Natalie, a Cerritos College Alumnus, with whom he shares two children, Joshua (16) and Jacob (8). Rob and his family reside in Long Beach, California. He loves to travel, watch the Steelers, exercise and cook.



Christopher Dela Cruz

Chris Dela Cruz joined El Camino College in August 2016 as a Student Services Specialist for the Student Development Office. His roles include advising the Student Equity Advisory Council, Associated Students Organization, Inter-Club Council, and student clubs, as well as, oversee operations of the Warrior Pantry. In addition, Chris serves as the Director of Public Relations for the California Community College Student Affairs Association (CCCSAA). He holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, San Diego and a M.A. in Postsecondary Educational Leadership with a Specialization in Student Affairs from San Diego State University. Prior to his service at El Camino College, Chris worked in numerous student affairs roles at Palomar College, UC San Diego, San Diego State University, and CSU Long Beach.

Outside of El Camino College, Chris enjoys playing ukulele, jammin' along on the drums, and watching sports. Chris is originally from San Diego, California where he lived approximately two miles from the United States-Mexico International Border. He currently resides in Buena Park, California with his wife Jenny and daughter Chelsea.



Maribel Hernandez

Maribel Hernandez started at El Camino College in 2005 as an adjunct counseling faculty and was hired full-time in 2015. She was one of the founders of the New Student Welcome Day event at ECC in 2006. Currently, she is one of the Puente Program coordinators and does counseling and teaches the Human Development courses. She is proud to also serve the Humanities division as the general counseling aspect of her counseling position. For fun, Maribel loves to go to the movies, dinner, and dancing. Also she loves to travel with family and friends.

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Analu Josephides

Analu Kameeiamoku Cruze-Josephides began his career with El Camino College two years ago and serves as the Reference Services Librarian. He received his Master's in Library and Information Science from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Analu has a Bachelor's of Arts in Hawaiian Studies with a focus on traditional Hawaiian society.

Last year Analu completed his fourth film project called Concealing where he played the lead as a schizophrenic husband and father who murdered his wife and convinces his daughter to help bury the body. Analu is a fan of acting in horror and suspense and hopes to accomplish more as he looks to his idol Sir Anthony Hopkins for character building.

Analu is currently working on a historical publication and has published both scholarly articles and research manuals focused on indigenous librarianship, land research, history, and genealogy. Analu is trained in the art of Hawaiian genealogy and was the past Genealogist and Cultural Historian for the State of Hawaii. He was one of many indigenous peoples globally who contributed to the document, "Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday, September 13th, 2007.

Analu says, "I can have my cake and eat it too" on being both a librarian at El Camino College and an actor in Hollywood.



Lillian Justice

I was born and raised in Boston, MA. Yes, it is true; most people don't believe me because I don't have 'the accent'. My Bostonian accent comes out when I am excited! I had to adapt to a more 'Southern California way of speaking' when I began teaching fourth and fifth grade in Barstow, CA and my students looked at me funny when I said certain words (Ansa, Bubbla, Jimmies, Ova, Wotta, Tonic, and Ideear to name a few LOL). Although, I have now lived in California more than my years in Boston, I am still a true Boston sports fan: Celtics, Pats, Red Sox and Bruins... 'Don't Hate LOL!

I started my career in high education as an FWS worker at Barstow College over 20 years ago. I worked my way up to as A&R Technician II. I was at Barstow College for 10 years as a classified employee. I held several positions through my tenure at the college (A&R Tech II, Tutoring Coordinator, Transfer Center Coordinator, and Financial Aid Director as well as CSEA Union President for 5 years). In 2008, I was hired as an Associate Registrar at Long Beach City College, by our very own VP of Student Services, Ross Miyashiro (no relation to VP of HR, Jane Miyashiro). I was an Associate Registrar for 4 ½ years. I was hired as the Director of Enrollment Services (which includes the areas of A&R, Fin-Aid, Articulation, and Veteran Services). I remained at LBCC until December 1, 2017 and started my current position as Registrar at El Camino College December 4, 2017. Although my time here at El Camino has been short I love being here. I hope my presence here demonstrates I am about collaboration and positivity. I believe it takes a village to run the college and we all have to participate. Go Warriors!

In my spare time, I like to read, draw, hangout on the lake, and ride motorcycles. I have two 5 year old fur-babies, miniature labradoodles, Winnie and Louie.

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Crystle Martin

Crystle Martin has been at El Camino College since January 2nd, 2018. She has a PhD in Education and a Masters in Library and Information Science. Her PhD explored information literacy skills developed by late high school and early college age youth in the video game World of Warcraft. She loves to play video games, cook, and hike with her husband, and enjoys hanging out at home with their two cats, Archimedes and Rebel.



Lesley Meza

Lesley Meza joined ECC as an adjunct counselor in January 2015, and she accepted the full-time tenure-track position in January 2016. She works in both areas of Career and Transfer Counseling.

She double majored in Global Studies and Spanish at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She obtained her master's degree in College Counseling and Student Services as well as a Career Education and Counseling certificate from California State University, Northridge. She plans to continue her education by pursuing a Doctorate in Education in the near future.

She loves to travel. She studied abroad in Madrid, Spain for a year during her undergrad, and she was a Peace Corps volunteer for over 2 years in Ecuador. She is always seeking out new adventures and travel destinations. She also enjoys being a "tourist at home" and seeks out new places and activities in the area. She welcomes any suggestions about new places to explore both locally and abroad.



Tiffany Miller

Tiffany Miller is the Program Director for Career Pathways at El Camino College. Career Pathways is a grant funded office that designs comprehensive, for credit programs for secondary students, college students, and community members looking for employment or transfer opportunities in high demand, skilled careers. We partner with secondary schools, universities, local employers, community based organizations, adult schools and workforce development agencies to specifically design pathways around areas of high employment need.

Tiffany has worked for the El Camino College Career Pathways program since 2015, starting off as a part time program professional II, assisting with the training of faculty and recruitment of students. Two months later, Tiffany was promoted to Interim Director, where she oversaw million dollar grants from the Chancellor's office. Tiffany became the permanent director is 2017 and continues to oversee a variety of grants that include the Adult Education Block Grant, the Career Advancement Academy, Career Pathway Trust Grants, Perkins CTE Transitions and funding from Chevron.

Prior to El Camino College, Tiffany worked at various nonprofit organizations throughout Los Angeles, assisting youth and young adults with obtaining access to education, vocational trainings, work experience and leadership development. Tiffany received her Masters in Liberal Studies from the University of Southern California (USC) and BA in African American Studies from the University of Wisconsin, Madison with certificates in Women's Studies and Jewish Studies.

Outside of work, Tiffany can be found playing euro style worker placement board games, reading science fiction, and playing hide and seek her with her two children.

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Rosie Miranda

Rosie began her educational journey as a community college transfer student. She completed her Bachelor's degree in Psychology from CSU, Dominguez Hills and earned her Masters of Science in School Counseling / PPS Credential / Graduate Certificate in Community College from CSU, Long Beach. Currently, she guides students through the transfer process and works with the general student population.

Prior to joining El Camino College, Rosie worked at Cerritos and Cypress College as a Student Support Services Counselor where she provided counseling services to former foster youth, Dreamers/AB-540, EOPS first generation, probation, and students reaching financial aid limits. Additionally, she worked at CSULB as the Student Support Services Coordinator / Advisor to the Single Subject Credential Program and was a former high school College & Career Counselor. Rosie has taught counseling courses as part of a learning community in the areas of Success in College and Career Exploration. Furthermore, as a post-graduate, she co-taught courses in Research Methods in Psychology and Social Psychology. Outside of work, Rosie enjoys small getaways such as camping, beach, and nature hikes, whenever possible.



Ann O'Brien

Ann M. O'Brien is the Executive Director of Marketing and Communications for El Camino College and has served in this capacity since January 2018.

Ann earned her AA degree from El Camino College and transferred to California State University, Northridge where she earned a Bachelor's degree in Journalism. Prior to joining El Camino College, Ann served as Director of Marketing and Communications for Torrance Memorial Medical Center, where she honed her media relations and marketing experience for 19 years.

Ann is currently a member of Association of Community College Administrators, Public Relations Society of America, National Council for Marketing and Public Relations and the Community College Public Relations Organization. She also sits on the El Camino College Foundation Board.

Married with two sons, age 10 and 13, Ann enjoys running, swimming in the ocean, yoga, and camping in Bishop Creek, California.



Nayeli Oliva

Nayeli Oliva, Interim Director of Student Equity. Nayeli earned her bachelor's and master's degree in Public Administration from CSU Dominguez Hills. Her career background includes seven years at ECC, first with the Graduation Initiative Program and later with the Student Equity Program. She has experience in personnel management, budget administration, and program evaluations. Moreover, she has developed and maintained complex budgets, and analyzed statistical reports for State and Federal funded programs. She has also been part of the development and coordination of successful programs such as the Knowledgeable, Engaged, and Aspiring Students (KEAS), Reading Success Center, Student Equity Re-envisioned, and MANA. When Nayeli isn't working, she likes to spend time with her family and enjoys baking.

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Veronica Palafox

Veronica Palafox is a first generation college student born and raised in Pacoima, CA. She earned her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Cal State Channel Islands in 2012 and a Master of Arts in Higher Education & Student Affairs from the University of San Francisco in 2014. Veronica joined El Camino College in August 2016, and in her current role at El Camino College, she assists students through the steps to enrollment and works closely with area high schools to create a college going culture. Prior to El Camino College, she worked in career services, student leadership & development, retention, and recruitment.

In her free time, she enjoys traveling the world, gardening, hiking, spending time with family, and watching sports. She is also an avid runner and completed her first full marathon in 2018.



Jessica Pino

My name is Jessica Pino and I am the Student Services Technician for the EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs programs at El Camino College. I have been working here for just about 10 months now. I graduated from California State University, Long Beach in 2017 with my Bachelors of Arts in Geography, a Certificate in Urban Studies and a Minor in Event Planning and Management. I will be returning to CSULB this Fall to continue my education. I will be pursuing a master's degree in counseling with the SDHE program. I am tremendously excited about this new journey.

I have about 5 years of experience working with underrepresented, first-generation students pursuing higher education through various employment opportunities as a student worker. I began as a tutor/office aide with the Upward Bound Math & Science Program at Compton College from 2013-2017. I worked alongside high school students helping them with their classes and the college search process. I also participated as a residential advisor for the program during the summers of 2014-2017 where I was able to live alongside these students and assist in their adjustment to roommate and community living at a 4-year university. Concurrently while working with the UBMS program, I got a second job as a campus tour guide with Outreach and School Relations at CSULB from 2014-2015. After this job, I was fortunate to land a job as a Peer Advisor with the EOP program at CSULB for 2.5 years. I was trained to provide academic advising to all EOP students regarding class scheduling, major exploration and much more. Right before getting hired here at ECC, I was also fortunate to have landed the SOAR Assistant Coordinator position with the EOP program for the summer of 2017. I assisted the EOP SOAR Coordinator in tracking and monitoring new incoming students, confirmed class schedules and approved English/Math placements. All these job opportunities have helped me learn and understand the importance of student support services.

In my downtime, I enjoy reading devotionals early in the mornings, watching Netflix and being with my friends. I tend to be a very organized person so I also enjoy cleaning my room and re-organizing my closet just for the heck of it. My professional goal is to eventually become a counselor at a Community College so that I can help students achieve their educational dreams.

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Joshua Rosales

I grew up in the San Gabriel Valley, where I lived until I went off to college. After graduating from Princeton University with my A.B. (that's how they say it at Princeton- it's a Latin thing) in Sociology, I earned my M.A. in Social and Demographic Analysis at UC-Irvine. Between those degrees, I held a number of jobs but found my way into institutional research about 14 years ago.

I joined El Camino eight years ago and have since worked with Academic and Student Services Program Review, Assessment of Learning, Enrollment Management, Guided Pathways, Accreditation, Compton Center/Compton College, and several other initiatives on campus.

For fun, I like to play basketball, spend lots of time with my kids, and travel with my wife.



Nailah Smith

My professional journey in education began at the elementary school level where I served as a teacher for the Los Angeles Unified School District for over 10 years. As I nurtured and taught the children in my classroom, I also learned first-hand how legislation and resources impact schools and the students we serve. This inspired me to earn my Juris Doctor degree. My law degree afforded me the opportunity to work as a Registrar, Assessment Coordinator, and ADA Compliance Officer for the University West Los Angeles School of Law and later for LA County as an Eligibility Worker. In these capacities, I was able to apply the law to maximize opportunities for increased access and achievement.

In January 2017, I joined El Camino College. Here, at El Camino, I feel my professional roles have come full circle as the community college sector serves students of all ages, abilities, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds and experiences. In my position as the Assessment/Testing Supervisor, I am able to work collaboratively with many campus entities towards a common goal of student support for student success. In my personal time, I enjoy reading, party planning and decorating, cooking, and spending time with family and friends. As a life-long learner, I am looking forward to growing personally and professionally with service at the forefront of all my endeavors.



Claudia Striepe

Claudia Striepe was hired as a full-time Instruction librarian in 1998, so has had 20 funfilled years at El Camino College so far.

She served a term as Academic Senate co- President with Chris Jeffries, and held many other positions on Senate including secretary and VP Faculty Development. Currently she is serving as co- Chair for the Accreditation 2020 process with Dr. Natividad.

Being a librarian, predictably, she enjoys reading! She also enjoys camping, wine tasting, and all forms of travel - most recently enjoying the summer in the Yucatan province of Mexico, enjoying the beaches, and exploring the Mayan ruins and cenotes.

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Vladmir Vasquez

Vladimir Vasquez is the newest member of the ECC Information Technology Services management team, serving as the application development supervisor. Vladimir comes to ECC after a position at UCLA as an internal applications manager in the university's information technology services department. He also has career experience at the Los Angeles Unified School District as a programmer/analyst, as well as positions in private industry. Vladimir earned a bachelor's degree from UC Irvine and a master's degree in engineering management at CSU Northridge.

A fun activity I enjoy doing with my wife and daughter is visiting all 21 California Missions that St. Junipero Serra helped founding during the Spanish colonial era. So far, we have visited 9.



Nina Wong

Nina Wong is a native to the South Bay area and has worked in higher education for the past 7 years. She joined El Camino College in 2017 in the Admissions and Records office and will begin her new position as ECC's Clery Act Compliance Coordinator with Campus Police in October 2018. Nina is newly married to her husband Benjamin and they both enjoy eating at new restaurants, drinking boba milk tea, practicing yoga and traveling to new places together. They have set a life goal of visiting all the Presidential Library museums in the United States! Additionally, she loves Pembroke Welsh Corgis and wishes to be a dog mom one day.

Nina obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree from UCLA and a Master of Public Administration degree from CSU Fullerton.



Lauren Zale

Lauren grew up just outside of Philadelphia, PA and moved to southern California in 2002 to attend Cal State Long Beach. Prior to joining El Camino's Community Advancement Division in 2016 as an administrative assistant, she worked in the high performance racing industry for eleven years. She is happy to be part of ECC's collaborative environment, and enjoys the challenges and opportunities it provides.

College football season is her favorite time of the year, when every Saturday is devoted to watching football and yelling loudly at the TV. Although her team is Penn State (We are!), she has also joined the Florida State University fan base by way of her boyfriend, Matt, with whom she lives in Long Beach. In the off-season, they also watch ice hockey and soccer.

Lauren balances her very healthy appetite – especially for dessert – with plenty of activity. In her free time, she enjoys walking, Pilates, swimming, and spinning, but long-distance running is her go-to exercise. Her longest run was just over 28 miles!

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