



GROSSMONT COLLEGE EOPS (EXTENDED OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES)

# EOPS/CARE NEWSLETTER

GROSSMONT COLLEGE

## Contact Us

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 Building 60, Room 125

Spring 2015  
 M & T 8am-8pm,  
 W & Th 8am-5pm, Fri 8am-1pm  
 Summer 2015  
 M-Th 8am-6pm, Fri Closed

## IN THIS ISSUE

# Director's Welcome

by Mario Chacon

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As your new Associate Dean of EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs I'd like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the students, staff, and faculty who have welcomed me with such enthusiasm and good will!

Coming to the EOPS Program in many ways is a homecoming. It is like coming full-circle to where it all started for me as a young university student at UCLA. It was programs like EOPS that helped me bridge the preparation gap and give me the confidence to persevere. Without friendly mentors, role models, and a sense of community on campus I am not sure I would have made it through such a different environment than what I was accustomed to growing up in the Barrio of East L.A. Early on I recognized the value of such programs and feel blessed to now be in a position to advance the goals and objectives of each of our programs.

As I experience the excellence of our EOPS Counselor's and witness their genuine concern for each of our students I am filled with confidence that every visit you make to your EOPS Counselor will be a fruitful one.

Our staff is constantly assessing the effectiveness of program service delivery and making all necessary adjustments to maximize our human and fiscal resources to best serve you. As an Associate Dean responsible for the direction of EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs I could not be happier than to have inherited such a wonderful team of caring professionals.

I am very pleased that each of you made the decision to participate in such a successful program and take great pride in welcoming you to the EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs Office.

## EOPS Mission

EOPS is a California State funded program established to recruit, enroll and retain students. EOPS is designed to assist students who are identified as economically and educationally disadvantaged. Eligible students are provided with a wide range of support services to foster success at Grossmont College.

## Newsletter Purpose

Our hope is to create a sense of family and community for our students. We want to keep you informed about the resources and opportunities available to you. Any EOPS/CARE updates and news will be posted here. This is also an opportunity to bring a spotlight to our thriving students and staff.



## Staff Feature

We are featuring an EOPS Counselor who was directly involved in the Civil Rights Movement as a young man. Guess who he is sitting next to in the above picture?

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## Creative Corner

Get a sneak peak at the art pieces created by our very own EOPS students!

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# Important Dates & Deadlines

## COMMENCEMENT NEWS!

The Keynote Speaker will be our **EOPS Chair, Dr. Pearl Lopez**, and the Student Speaker will be our **EOPS student, Caleb Martinez**. EOPS represent!



## Spring 2015: Workshops & Activities

- **June 3, 2015 – Event\***  
Grossmont Commencement Ceremony  
5:30pm | Main Quad  
\*See exciting commencement news in caption above.
- **June 10, 2015 – EOPS Deadline**  
Last day to see an EOPS counselor for your third contact-required to maintain eligibility for services in the next school year.
- **FAFSA workshops**  
Stay tuned for dates and times
- **Student Success Workshops**  
Wednesdays 11-11:50a OR 12-12:50p  
*Purpose: Supporting your personal and academic growth at Grossmont College. Join EOPS for a student-centered, interactive discussion.*
- **EOPS Club**  
Wednesdays 2pm at ASGC Boardroom  
*Purpose: Creating a fun environment in which members cooperate together to foster their leadership, spread cultural awareness, provide services for the community and help with educational challenges.*
- For other student orgs and clubs go to:  
<http://www.grossmont.edu/campus-life/clubs-orgs/current-student-organizations-clubs.aspx>

## Program News

We are happy to announce the addition of a permanent Associate Dean and Program Specialist to our EOPS family!

### CARE students:

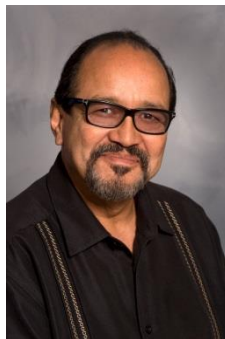
We would like to thank you for your patience during this transition process with our new hires.

### Summer Institute Program (SIP)

SIP is a transitional summer program for 1<sup>st</sup> year first generation and low income students coming into Grossmont College. Our 13<sup>th</sup> annual SIP program will take place this summer where our students will be taking college courses and participating in social activities.

For more info:

[www.grossmont.edu/eops/sip](http://www.grossmont.edu/eops/sip)



### Mario Chacon

Associate Dean, EOPS/CARE/CalWorks

He comes to Grossmont College with over 30 years of experience working in different capacities in Student Services both at the UC and at the California Community Colleges. Chacon brings many years as a counselor and administrator who has a personal commitment to inclusive leadership and humanistic student services. He has a Bachelor's Degree in History and a Master's Degree in Educational Counseling. In addition to his work in higher education, Mario Chacon is a well-known visual artist with several murals in the San Diego area to his credit, including two at San Diego's Historic Chicano Park.



### Maria Claustro

Program Specialist, EOPS/CARE

She comes to EOPS after serving as a Financial Aid Assistant at Grossmont College's Financial Aid Office. Maria has been with the Grossmont College family since January 2009 and prior to coming to Grossmont College served as a Financial Aid work-study student at UC Davis. Maria has a Bachelor's Degree in Philosophy and Sociology. In her free time, Maria enjoys spending her time in the outdoors with her husband and two young sons.



## Chair's Corner

by Dr. Pearl Lopez  
Chair, EOPS/CARE  
[pearl.lopez@gcccd.edu](mailto:pearl.lopez@gcccd.edu)



Dear EOPS/CARE students,

Congratulations on finishing the Spring 2015 semester! I hope your semester was successful and very rewarding. I am currently the Chair of EOPS/CARE. My job is to support our Associate Dean, Mario Chacon, in the department. I go to many meetings on campus and I also meet with students.

I have been working in EOPS for 11 years. I am not only an EOPS Counselor; I am also a former EOPS student! My counselor was Sylvia Montejano! I transferred from Grossmont College and went to SDSU. I graduated with my Bachelor's in English with a Certificate in Applied Linguistics. I am a first generation college student who came from a low-income family. School was definitely not easy for me. I often wondered if I was "college material". My EOPS counselors gave me so much encouragement!

I then went on to complete my Master's degree in Counseling. A few years ago I decided to take a shot at a Doctoral program at SDSU. I am proud to say I completed the program and received my degree in December of 2014!

I love working in EOPS/CARE. I know what this program did for me and I want to provide the same love and encouragement to students. Persistence and perseverance is the key. Never give up!

As Chair of EOPS/CARE, I will be working closely with the Associate Dean, Mario Chacon, to ensure that we provide the best possible services to you. Please do not hesitate to email us, call us, or meet with us to share ideas or concerns. We need your input to help us serve you better! I hope you have a wonderful summer!

## Staff Feature:

**Jim Tolbert**  
Counselor, EOPS/CARE  
[jim.tolbert@gcccd.edu](mailto:jim.tolbert@gcccd.edu)

### Civil Rights Movement History in our Midst

Not only is our very own EOPS Counselor, Jim Tolbert a former San Diego Charger playing 11 seasons starting in 1976 but a little known fact is, Jim Tolbert sat beside Dr. Martin Luther King during the height of the early Civil Rights Movement in Birmingham, Alabama while attending Miles College. Following is an excerpt from the Miles College website discussing Miles College's role in the launching of the Civil Rights movement in the early 1960s. Jim Tolbert appears in the picture below sitting to the left of Rev. Ralph Abernathy and Dr. Martin Luther King.



**"Birmingham, Alabama  
the Civil Rights Capital of the World"**

"Miles College has as its brand civic engagement and activism. As a matter of fact, during the planning stages of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), when members were deciding what test city to implement the Civil Rights Movement, it was proposed to go to Birmingham, Alabama because the students at Miles College were already engaging in civic protests and boycotts against segregated public facilities. In essence, the Civil Rights Movement, in-part came to Birmingham Alabama, because of the activism of students at Miles College, helping to make Birmingham, Alabama the Civil Rights Capital of the world." (www.miles.edu/about)



### EOPS INVOLVEMENT

Mr. Jim Tolbert has served as an EOPS Counselor at Grossmont College since 1997.

We thank Mr. Jim Tolbert for his sensitivity to students of all walks of life and for his service to Grossmont College.



# Student Feature:

## Caleb Martinez

Student, EOPS



### [His]tory

Caleb was born in an Arizona Native reservation into a family that struggled with the systemic inequities of our society. His father, once a pastor, became addicted to gambling, alcohol and speed. He became physically abusive to Caleb and his family. His family became homeless after his father abandoned them taking their money. His mother moved them to San Diego where she worked two jobs to support the family.

Caleb and his older brother would get into trouble and found themselves in and out of the juvenile court system. His brother decided to get his life in order and began attending Grossmont College where he became an EOPS student. When Caleb was 15, his older brother was murdered and Caleb lost interest in everything, like football and school. At the age of 17, he unexpectedly had a daughter. His daughter's mother, who was using drugs, abandoned him and his baby daughter. Caleb was left to raise his child as a single father.

After losing his job at an insurance company due to the economic crisis, he decided to enroll back in school once his daughter started going to school for the first time. In Fall 2013, Caleb enrolled back in Grossmont College to continue his resilient journey as an underdog defying the odds stacked against him.

With a joyful heart, we congratulate Caleb in all his accomplishments. He is a product of the injustices in this society but a testament to what EOPS stands for. As Tupac Shakur once stated, "Long live the rose that grew from concrete." We believe all our students are roses who despite their rocky conditions continue to rise towards a sunny success. We are here to support you.

If you would like to help Caleb and his daughter in their transition to UC Berkeley, you can donate here:

<http://www.gofundme.com/GoCaleb>

### Caleb's Future Goals

- Attend law school to study constitutional law.
- Work for the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and defend civil rights.
- Return to the native reservation in Arizona and join the tribal council.

### Interview

#### **K: Why is student involvement important to you?**

*Caleb: It made Grossmont College more than a school for me; it created a community and a family. In high school my teachers had told me I would end up dead or in jail. I had graduated high school without taking a math class. Growing up on the streets I was part of a community with people who were not like me. At Grossmont, I had the chance in being involved in the construction of a community rather than its destruction. To be involved is for personal development. People are being developed by what you say. Not only does the college change you, you change the college.*

#### **K: What has it been like being a single parent and student?**

*Caleb: It is hard to make time for work, family, school and running a club. Being a single parent has been a weakness and strength. It has taught me responsibility and accountability because my daughter is looking to me to save and take care of her.*

#### **K: What are the obstacles you have faced?**

*College is a strange place to someone who has never been there. It took a semester for me to transition. My finances with my daughter have been hard from having to pay books to my car breaking down. Having had to juggle my personal life with my family and daughter has been difficult. What are you supposed to do when you have an exam and a daughter who has pneumonia? Other people's stereotype of me has been an obstacle. People see me as threatening based on what I look like and have treated me differently.*

#### **K: What do you attribute your success to?**

*Caleb: My daughter. She helped me see that there is more to life. I want to be different for her, and I want to be different than my father. She was born in a condition that was meant for her to fail. I want to show her that she can get out of that.*

#### **K: What does leadership mean to you?**

*Caleb: It means bringing out the best in people and showing them what they are capable of. It makes the leader and group better. It means highlighting others' skills for success.*





## PROGRAM



## STUDENT ASSISTANTS

Thank you to our student assistants for being the backbone to EOPS. Without your skills, we would not be able to run our program and provide services.



## SERVICES

Our services and resources have helped our students pursue their academic goals. In Fall 2013, the course retention rate for EOPS students ("Black non-Hispanic" 82.5%; "Hispanic" 87.5%; "Two or More [ethnicities]" 92.3%) was significantly higher than non-EOPS students ("Black non-Hispanic" 76.7%; "Hispanic" 82.8%; "Two or More [ethnicities]" 82.9%).

## FAST FACTS

# 90.2%

EOPS "Hispanic" students persisted from Fall 2013 to Spring 2014 in comparison to 71.3% non-EOPS "Hispanic" students at Grossmont College.

# 83.3%

EOPS "Black non-Hispanic" students persisted from Fall 2013 to Spring 2014 versus 61.3% non-EOPS "Black non-Hispanic" students at Grossmont College.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Katherine Vilchez  
EOPS/CARE Counselor

Katherine.vilchez@gcccd.edu



Ulises Alarcon (left) posing with Dr. Pearl Lopez (right) at his SDSU graduation on May 16, 2015 as a Psychology major. He is our former EOPS student who started at Grossmont in our Summer Institute Program (SIP). Congratulations Ulises!



Bill Rapolla, Sr. Count Clerk  
EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs

## 2014-2015 Highlights

### Number of students served at EOPS/CARE:

Fall 2014: 780 EOPS / 96 CARE  
Spring 2015: 715 EOPS / 84 CARE

### Amount of money given in grants:

Fall 2014: \$60,400 EOPS / \$18,000 CARE  
Spring 2015: \$70,000 EOPS / \$14,000 CARE

### Amount of money given in EOPS/CARE book vouchers:

Fall 2014: \$46,000  
Spring 2015: \$47,000  
Summer 2015: \$10,000

This year, with CalWORKs, we were able to enhance our services through the Student Success and Support Program (SSSP) as well as through the Student Equity Plan and have added additional Part-Time Counseling and Outreach Staff. With this new staff we are able to expand our hours of operation with more available counseling appointments for students and increased outreach activity on campus and in our community.

- 3 new Part-Time Counselors in EOPS
- 5 new Part-Time Counselors in CalWORKs

CalWORKs Counseling Services is our neighbor program that supports students who are parents in need of financial ailment for their families. During Spring Semester they added an additional office space available for CalWORKs and coming soon they will have a Full-Time Counselor assigned to CalWORKs in addition to the existing Part-Time Counseling Staff.

We are very pleased to be fully staffed and look forward to refining our processes and delivering continued quality service to each of our student participants.

### Events

October 6-8, 2014  
45<sup>th</sup> Annual EOPS Conference  
3 EOPS students attended

November 7, 2014  
EOPS Student Leadership Conference  
10 EOPS students attended

December 5, 2014  
CARE Holiday Party

December 8, 2014  
First Day on the Job for New EOPS Program Specialist, Maria Claustro

February 2015  
New EOPS Counselors hired

February 21, 2015  
Grossmont College Open House  
EOPS students and counselors tabled

March 26-28, 2015  
AACU Diversity Conference  
2 EOPS student assistant attended

April 14, 2015  
EOPS student Caleb Martinez awarded "Club President of the Year" award by Grossmont Inter-Club Council

May 15, 2015  
Grossmont Student of Note Ceremony  
7 EOPS Students awarded

May 19, 2015  
EOPS Graduation Party

June 3, 2015  
Grossmont Commencement Ceremony  
EOPS Director Dr. Pearl Lopez and EOPS student Caleb Martinez are the selected speakers

# Health and Wellness

As a student, there are many responsibilities you have to balance: school, work, family, and many other duties. It is a normal part of life to experience stress. However, excessive stress can be harmful to your health. We have included some tips on how to cope with stress and help you take care of yourself. Just like you have to study in order to perform well on an exam, it is **crucial** you take care of your health in order for your mind and body to perform well.

## Signs of Excessive Stress

- Tension
- Irritability
- Anxiety
- Difficulty sleeping

## Sources of Stress

- Finances (debt, spending conflict, etc.)
- Work (long hours, deadlines, etc.)
- Home (conflict with children/spouse, etc.)
- Feeling a loss of control over one's life
- and many more stressors



## Stress and Coping Self-Test

<http://www.jdabrams.com/documents/wellness/SelfTest-Stress.pdf>

## 52 Proven Stress Reducers

Borrowed from Texas Woman's University, 2006

<http://grossmont.edu/student-services/offices-and-services/eops/files/Stress%20Reducers%20Article.pdf>

# Creative Corner

This space is dedicated to spotlight the different art pieces created by our EOPS/CARE students.

Pictures taken by Fadi Yousif



Picture 1 shows freedom and life without limits. It shows the beauty of the sky and how the bird is not afraid of flying to the unknown.



Picture 2 shows the beauty of nature and how all of its amazing components work together to make a perspective to enjoy looking at.

Poem written by Dhaha Nur. It is a composition of her thoughts regarding life from her point of view.

### Superficial

They say honesty is the best policy  
To be honest who complies with laws  
Man by nature is flawed  
Before crossing that point, pause!  
There are always brighter days!  
Beyond the horizon can u see its rays?  
Its coming, are you willing to wait?  
True we live, and die.  
Yet are we living to die or death is a gift, and  
we're blessed to live?  
Living life lifted, uplift your life to live it  
Happiness is conceivable  
Reality isn't always approachable  
Pain was never permanent  
Change isn't always relevant  
All that's heaven sent is the precedent  
Hope you understand what I meant  
So many Difficulties unspoken  
Defined only in broken dictionaries  
Even a legends itinerary includes stops  
Brakes to re-fuel thoughts  
History has spoken  
Given it's own token to time  
Credit over due, although the credit that's  
been given was never due  
Life's propositions can't be accounted for  
I wonder what more is in store  
Trying to capture life inside a frame  
They say beauty is in the eye  
of it's beholder  
Well then behold the beauties of life  
before it's all over  
The truth is evident, it just needs acceptance,  
so reach for the heavens  
If you fall short you'll still be amongst the  
stars. Beyond isn't far!  
Time flows with it's own current,  
Currently the present is what's important,  
Worth is never comparable  
Wealth is forever shareable  
So many souls sold

For a price less than gold  
As u watch these stories unfold  
Maybe some where fooled  
Others pulled by passions  
Yet these truths keep happening  
Giving fuel to an inspirational fight  
Still Sedated by inclinations  
Look at the hourglass,  
When the last drop of sand drips  
The last tick goes tock when the clock stops  
Just fathom why life went by so fast  
Dazed by others dreams  
Can you hear the oceans of heartbeats?  
The tremors of mountains of grief  
Love as it grows like a seed  
Even with all this strife  
Day by day night-by-night  
Feelings leaks, memories tatter and crumble  
Like mountains that where once humble  
Ideas moving like clouds  
Pride doesn't bring clout Yea but guess what  
Proud to be what I'm all about!!!  
Live a life that I Quote:  
"Let them do as they please  
Let them live lives they wish lead  
Let them be. Let them be!  
Well let's turn the hourglass back  
And look at the facts  
Difficulties are unspoken  
Only Defined in broken dictionaries  
Well, Even a legends itinerary includes stop  
Brakes to re fuel thoughts  
Fuel for an inspiration flight  
Wisdom means to listen  
Death is a given and Discontent is a prison  
Love is hidden within visions  
Humans will always be sinning  
Driven by desires, but the best are those who  
choose to change  
But its your choice,  
you'll only listen to your own voice  
Pick the right path, Where SUCESS is  
Where you'll be blessed with bliss  
Where success lies  
SUCESS that's further than the death we die!



# Counselors



**Dr. Pearl Lopez, EOPS/CARE**



**Jim Tolbert, EOPS/CARE**



**Sylvia Montejano, EOPS/CARE**



**Raquel Sojourner, EOPS/CARE**



**Michael Perez, EOPS/CARE**



**Jamila Schmidt, EOPS/CARE**



**Brian Woolsey, EOPS/CARE**



**Gabrielle Gosselin, EOPS/CalWORKs**



**Ava Gill**  
Guardian Scholars



**Scott Barr, CalWORKs**



**Hadasah Jacobsen, CalWORKs**



**Gerardette Nutt**  
CalWORKs Program Specialist

## NEW COUNSELORS



**Lorena Malo, EOPS/CARE**

I enjoy the Arts, interior design, understanding other cultures, arthouse films, documentaries, 92.5 Radio, and walking my little dog---Lucy. I hold two California credentials, in Bilingual Cross-cultural Education and Pupil Personnel Services. I earned a Bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts and a Master of Arts in Education Counseling. I speak Spanish fluently. My counseling career began at an EOPS program in Imperial Valley College back in my 20's. As a first-generation professional, my work has entailed providing services to first-generation college students from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds. Their on-going personal challenges and extraordinary resilience keep me on-track -- exploring innovative pathways in support of their personal and academic success. Presently, I am completing my 15<sup>th</sup> year of service at SDSU.

**Sam Shooshtary, EOPS/CARE**

I graduated from Bonita Vista High School, Grossmont College, University of California, San Diego (UCSD), and continued my education and graduated from The University of San Diego (USD). Being a low income first generation college student I at times had to work a few different jobs to help pay the bills. I was very fortunate to have been accepted to the Grossmont College EOPS office the second semester I attended college. If it was not for some of the counselors who are now my colleagues I would not have made it through school. My EOPS counselor patiently pushed me to focus on school and helped me get a work-study job at Grossmont which has now given me the privilege to work in the community college setting for over 18 years in many different capacities.



**Katherine Vilchez, EOPS/CARE**

I was born in Peru and migrated to the Bay Area with my family when I was a child. In 2008 I moved to San Diego for college where I attained by Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Spanish Literature. In college, I fell in love with activism because it gave me a sense of dignity and the courage to stand up for myself. Love is the root of my career and my drive to empower others. I am in the final year of the Community-Based Block Program (CBB), a Master's program for multicultural clinicians, at SDSU. I'm fluent in Spanish and love to dance! I believe we're all loving people who have been wounded in this complex society and seek to help others as a way to help ourselves.



**Amber Alatorre, CalWORKs**

I was a teenage mother and a first generation college student when I began my academic career and I am a success story. After transferring to SDSU from Southwestern College I obtained my BA in Sociology. I went on and completed SDSU's Community Based Block (CBB) and attained my MA in Education with an emphasis in multicultural counseling. I have broad experience that I gained in 13 years as a Classified staff person in various student services including DSPS, EOPS, CalWORKs, and Admission and Records. Currently, I am also an adjunct counselor at San Diego Mesa College. Higher education has helped me persevere, discover my passion and soar! I am passionate about helping students and feel honored to be a part of their educational journey. I am proud to be a mother of three, a SDSU Alumni and part of the EOPS/CalWORKs family at Grossmont College.



**Yohany Corona-Batalona, CalWORKs**

I come to Grossmont College from the Education and Social Services field working with non-profits serving the community. I have also worked with San Diego State University's EOP Department in various capacities and am very excited to be coming into the community college world. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology with a minor in Spanish and a Master's Degree in Multicultural Education with an emphasis in Counseling and Social Justice. In my free time, I love spending time with my family, in particular my almost one year old daughter who keeps my husband and I busy all the time.

**Christine Ho, CalWORKs**

I am passionate about supporting students in working toward their academic, professional, and personal goals. I also work as an adjunct DSPS Counselor at San Diego Miramar College and have worked with the Suicide Prevention Program at San Diego City College's Mental Health Counseling Center. I previously worked as a psychotherapist in outpatient community mental health and continue to expand my knowledge in the mental health field. I hold a Communication Studies BA from UCLA and a Master's in Social Work (MSW) with a concentration in Mental Health from USC. I am registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences as an Associate Clinical Social Worker (ASW) and plan to gain licensure this Summer as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). For fun, I enjoy running, hiking, and camping. I also love to travel and experience new cultures.

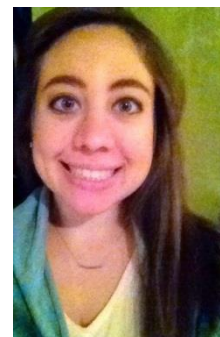


**Heather Liggins, CalWORKs**

I am a native San Diegan who grew up in the South East area of San Diego. After graduating from high school I attended Grossmont College- as well as three other community colleges, before earning my Bachelor's in Criminal Justice at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. I later attended San Diego State University earning my Master's degree in Counseling with an emphasis in School Psychology and my Educational Specialist Degree in School Psychology. With a knowledge base relevant to education and psychology, I have successfully worked with many linguistically and culturally diverse students to help them succeed academically, socially, behaviorally, and emotionally. I also consider myself a life learner and have challenged myself to learn more about cultures other than my own. After working as a School Psychologist in the K-12 system, I have now transitioned to the community college system through the SDICCCA program. I am wife and a mother to three beautiful children (one daughter and twin boys).

**Nadia Sayeh, CalWORKs**

I have a great passion for helping students along the path to obtaining their goals, as they balance their academic and personal lives. I've worked as a Mental Health Counselor at San Diego City College and as a therapist at local in and outpatient clinics. I also currently work as a Wellness Counselor at San Diego City College. I have a bachelor's degree in Psychology with a minor in Public Health from the American University of Beirut and a master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Alliant International University. I am registered with the California Board of Behavioral Sciences as an Intern in Marriage and Family Therapy and am currently working toward licensure to become a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I speak Arabic and Spanish. In my free time, I enjoy the outdoors, travel, and art.







In this painting, the woman is a replication of "Lady Justice", a historical symbol associated with the values of equality and fairness. She has been altered with traits of an indigenous woman of color who embodies the struggle of many underrepresented communities. The scale she is holding has EOPS and CARE students sitting on it. In the center of the scale is the official EOPS symbols, the Indian-head nickel and the twisted nails. The bridge behind the woman is a signature symbol of San Diego. The sun rising from behind the clouds is a representation of hope. The rose at the bottom of the painting is inspired by rapper Tupac Shakur's poem "The Rose that Grew from Concrete" where he encourages his audience to admire the rose that managed to grow in an infertile condition and praise it for its resiliency. Professor Jeff Duncan Andrade uses this metaphor to encourage teachers to treat their students like this rose. Our EOPS students have risen from harsh and painful realities in their life. Instead of judging a student for having faults, like one would judge that rose for having damaged petals, we should praise the student for surviving and rising above their obstacles. This art piece represents the hope, equality and justice that EOPS programs strive for everyday with their students.

## Hope, Equality and Justice

This art piece was created by Mario Chacon, Grossmont College EOPS Associate Dean.

It is to be featured at the California Community Colleges Extended Opportunity Programs & Services Association

(CCCEOPSA) Conference this

October 2015. The

EOPS/CARE programs emerged from the Civil Rights

Movement. They were created

in response to the events

occurring in 1969, such as the

Watts Riots in Los Angeles that

occurred due to racial injustice

and police brutality. EOPS and

CARE were one step in

addressing the educational

inequality in these

communities.

# EOPS / CARE NEWSLETTER

Grossmont College  
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Template provided by Microsoft Corporation.

GROSSMONT  
COLLEGE



**GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS:** Greg Barr, Bill Garrett, Edwin Hiel, Debbie Justeson, Mary Kay Rosinski **Student Members:** Jocelyn Estrada, Zack Gianino **Chancellor:** Cindy L. Miles, Ph.D.  
**Grossmont College Interim President:** Tim Flood