

GROSSMONT COLLEGE



VIA RÁPIDA

**VIA RAPIDA MENTORS 2020**

# Alexandra Alcantara



**Major:** Political Science and History

**Bio:** I love enabling students to enjoy their endeavors throughout their educational careers. My passion for education has led me to study political science, history, and language in an effort to create change surrounding our country's education system and more. In my free time, I love being around animals, watching true crime documentaries, and singing.

# Alice Castro



**Major:** Speech Language Pathology & Audiology

**Bio:** I wanted to help the new students. I'm interested in different cultures, music, food, and movies. I like to cook, sing, go to church, go to the beach, and see friends. I'm Mexican and I love to speak Spanish and listen to Latino music. I am eager to help the new students with whatever they need.



# Briana Gonzalez



**Major:** Cardiovascular Technology

**Bio:** My educational goals are to get my degree & to get a career in the medical field. One of my hobbies is to run and workout. As my major is studying the heart, I like to make sure to keep my heart in good health. I chose to become a peer mentor to help guide incoming college students with their educational goals, whether it is to get an associate degree to transfer or to just get an associate's degree. I also want to inform students on what Grossmont College offers to guide them to their educational success.

# Brooke Stahley



**Major:** Computer Science

**Bio:** My major is computer programming, with an end goal of becoming a videogame designer. My favorite part of being a peer mentor is being able to help my peers do well in school, and working events that bring joy to everyone's day. In my free time I enjoy reading, drawing, hanging out with friends, listening to music, and playing video games.





# Brynn Norby



**Major:** Biology

**Bio:** Goals of working as a pediatrician & doing mission work as a physician. Mentoring is the perfect way to help students achieve their goals, and also make the most out of their learning environment. I find I do well when I have other friends in my class with similar goals because we can support each other and I hope to offer similar support to other students. My hobbies include spending my weekends & school vacations doing mission work at an orphanage in Tecate, Mexico, hiking with friends, and taking my dog to the beach, love to sing, yoga, cook, and read.



# Candace Armstrong



**Major:** Theater w/ Emphasis in Acting

**Bio:** My goal is to get an Associates & then transfer to UCLA. Being a peer mentor is a fulfilling experience. I love to help and be able to make a positive impact on the lives of new students who may feel lost, isolated, and stressed with the challenges of being a college student. Receiving positive feedback from family, friends, photographers, designers and strangers has inspired me to want to continue modeling as a full time career. When I'm not modeling I like to do makeup, read self-help books on the beach, draw, and spend time with my family and friends.



# Christian Gonzalez



**Major:** Communication

**Bio:** I'm a 3rd year student and my major is communication. I am very passionate about helping others and helping those who may be more reserved when seeking help. I aim to improve the lives of those around me and look forward to getting to know you and helping you navigate your first year of college. Some hobbies I enjoy doing is reading, being at the beach and hanging out with friends.



# Christina Buska



**Major:** General Biology & Sociology  
w/ Pre-med Emphasis

**Bio:** I currently serve as the president of The American Medical Student Association (AMSA) chapter at Grossmont College. I am majoring in Sociology of Science and Medicine with a premedical emphasis. This corresponds with educational/ career goals of attending medical school and becoming a surgeon. When I'm not on campus I'm either volunteering at Sharp Mary Birch or spending time with friends. What I find most rewarding about being a peer mentor is helping students overcome obstacles and succeed both academically and socially.



# Dominique Miller



**Major:** Mathematics

**Bio:** My career goal is to be a high school math teacher. I became a peer mentor because I have always found joy in being able to help others, and as a mentee I thought that being a mentor looked like a great job with a great environment and a great way to get involved. In my free time I enjoy creating art, baking, playing soccer, and spending time with my friends and family



# Emily Osorio



**Major:** Music

**Bio:** I plan to transfer to CSU Fullerton or Long Beach within the next couple of years. I'm hoping to come back, and teach Voice here at Grossmont. What I love about mentoring is seeing the students grow, find their place, and have fun. I love mentoring, because I just love to help others. I'm the VP of Service for the club Circle K, and the Divisional Membership Development & Education chair, and a member of the International Club. Things I like to do in my freetime are: working out, journaling, (almost anything) music, reading, spending time with my dog Ford, and my rabbits Oreo and Bambi.



# Gabby Galvez



**Major:** Child Development

**Bio:** I am from Mexico, married & I have two sons. While living in Mexico, I was an elementary school teacher for 23 years, now I have a dream of obtaining my certification in Child Development. I will love to be a peer mentor, because I love to help people. As a mother of two teenagers, I believe that I have the experience and the knowledge to help them. I believe that I am an open-minded person, so I can understand young people. My kids always said that I have the talent to talk with anybody at any place in the world. I hope we can learn from each other.



# Jaira Gabizona



**Major:** Chemistry

**Bio:** With my major being Chemistry, I understand the necessity for certain skills such as good time management and understanding one's limits when it comes to academics. I chose my major, because of my interest in beauty products such as skincare products and makeup products. I want to eventually learn how to create, or improve, the formula in either of the products. Aside from academics, I enjoy hanging out with people who can replenish my brain power after long sessions of studying and listening to new music that can accompany me throughout my day.



# Jayden Logan



**Major:** Business (Marketing & Photography)

**Bio:** In the future, I would like to find a position where I can help better connect buyers to businesses that have products/services they need. I would also like to own my own photography agency one day. I enjoy being a peer mentor because I enjoy helping people at one point in time I was that student who was lost and not really sure what to do. I really like meeting new people as well! I'm really interested in photography and cars. While I'm more interested in photography I enjoy just hanging out with friends, adventuring, and sitting at the beach as well.



# Johnney Abera



**Major:** Nursing

**Bio:** As a past Via Rápida FYE student, I wanted to pass my knowledge to new students in need of support, guidance, and resources. My motivation to care for people, and my fascination with science, has inspired me to pursue a career in nursing. When I have free time, I enjoy visiting Balboa, gaming, and going to the gym.

# Jonathan Yerkes



**Major:** Mathematics

**Bio:** My main three hobbies are music, sports, and videogames. What I enjoy about these things is that they always tend to bring people from all different walks of life together. I am always amazed whenever I go to a sporting event or a concert and see such a diverse group of people. When I graduated high school I wasn't sure what I wanted to do with my life. I took a few years off and eventually went back to school but it was hard for me. I didn't know what I wanted to do and I had a tough time motivating myself. Eventually I found my way to Grossmont and met an amazing math teacher who ended up inspiring me to become one. He's the one who recommended me to the Peer Mentoring program and it has been such a blessing. I really love working with the students and helping them through everything. This whole experience has been very humbling and I consider it a privilege to be part of this program.



# Justine Aquino



**Major:** Bioengineering

**Bio:** In the future, I hope to get accepted into medical school and start my career as an officer in the military. As a student, I try to participate as much as I can in school. I am currently the vice president of the Grossmont College science club and a participant in the Chi Alpha Campus Ministry. Outside of school, I help my mother run her care home for independent living and hike with my friends. My freshman year at Grossmont was a bit of a rough experience. Like many other students, I was not aware of all the opportunities here at Grossmont and had a hard time finding good colleagues. As a peer mentor, I hope to help incoming students avoid having the same issues I did and start college off right.



# Lizeth Ruvalcaba



**Major:** Political Science

**Bio:** I am a first-generation college student who was born and raised in San Diego. I enjoy helping others and hope to pursue a career which allows me to do so. I am majoring in Political Science and Spanish, and hope to transfer to UCSD or UCLA. When I'm not on campus, I like to spend time with my dog and friends, watch movies, and take road trips.



# Manny Garcia Tabullo



**Major:** Media Communications w/  
Audio Media Production Emphasis



**Bio:** I enjoy music and would like to have a career as an audio production engineer. Peer Mentoring for me is a chance to help others grow and achieve their goals along with making the transition from high school to college a little smoother. I am bilingual, so I listen to all kinds of music genres. I started playing music when I was in middle school and continued playing the snare drum at El Captain High School Marching band and was a part of the winter drumline. I enjoy going to the beach with friends and going to the movies listening to the beauty of audio around us, bringing everything to life and motivating me to push through the rough times. Taking everything one beat at a time, the possibilities are endless.

# Melissa Rojas



**Major:** Biology, Computer Science, & Math

**Bio:** I am a Via Rapida Peer Mentor as well as the Treasurer of the Grossmont College chapter of AMSA. I am a biology major who intends on branching out into Global Disease biology and pursuing a career as an obstetrician. My favorite part of being a peer mentor is always helping others and making a connection with future students. When I am not on campus, I like spending time with my four dogs, hanging out with friends, traveling, baking and reading.



# Mirfit Mohammad



**Major:** Child Development

**Bio:** I believe that the meaning of a real happy life can be found in helping others. I would like to help an incoming student become established in the community and to assist and provide them with the information they need to start their goal's path. Inspirational entrepreneur Oprah Winfrey stated, "A mentor is someone who allows you to see the hope inside yourself." and that's what I want to do. My hobbies are reading books, meditation, and learning about different cultures.

# Nick Coppo



**Major:** Journalism

**Bio:** My major is Journalism and my goal is to be a Sports Journalist. I wanted to be a peer mentor because I have had a great experience at Grossmont and want to share my knowledge and ways to get the most out of the community college life. My hobbies include going to the beach with my friends, fantasy football, and playing tennis. I play for the team here at Grossmont and have really enjoyed competing.