

ALEXANDRIA ATTANASIO VEGA

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EDUCATION

MA San Diego State University, Educational Counseling August 2021
Graduate Certificate Trauma Informed Care and Restorative Practices

BA California State University, Fullerton, Sociology June 2012
Concentration in Race, Class, and Gender
Graduated Summa Cum Laude

BA California State University, Fullerton, American Studies June 2012
Graduated Summa Cum Laude

COUNSELING EXPERIENCE

Project RISE Counseling Intern

May 2021-August 2021

- Provided support to formerly incarcerated students during initial enrollment with continuing education programs and transition periods to credit programs offered at our institution.
- Assisted with course and program selection for students transitioning to credit programs.
- Assisted with financial aid, emergency grants, and scholarship applications for this student population.
- Connected students with campus and community resources to provide additional support for success, such as career services, mental health counseling, and food pantry resources.
- Maintained case management notes and program enrollment database for monitoring student progress.
- Assisted with faculty and staff training efforts to create a welcoming and supportive campus culture for formerly incarcerated students.
- Served as financial aid liaison for currently incarcerated students applying for the California College Promise Grant.
- Assisted with in reach and outreach efforts, including campus advertisements, call campaigns, and a college preview event hosted virtually for a local juvenile facility.

- Established a partnership with the SCC Foundation Office to increase donations made to support students in the Project RISE program.

STUDENT SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Financial Aid Student Services Specialist & Scholarship Lead February 2021-Present

- Coordinate approximately \$115,000 scholarship funds for the entire campus and manage all student applications.
- Assist students with financial aid applications, financial aid appeals and financial aid verification process.
- Advocate for equity based and student-centered practices and policies for financial aid and scholarships.
- Develop a blind review process to reduce implicit bias by removing student names and identifying information.
- Establish student-centered practices and policies to reduce barriers to access and accessibility to scholarships.
- Provide video tutorials, one-on-one assistance in person and via zoom, collaborate with student services to support identified equity groups with the application process, ensuring ADA accessibility to all online applications.
- Ensure compliance with federal laws, state regulations, and best practices as it relates to the scholarship application through fund disbursement process.
- Led the implementation process for a new online scholarship platform to create an easier interface for student applicants and a streamlined reviewing and awarding process.
- In partnership with SCC Foundation, increase meaningful donor and student engagement in remote environments.
- Responsible for scholarship committee efforts including training for new staff, hosting professional development opportunities, and establishing equitable committee selection protocols.
- Reconcile student aid reports, review account balances, and distribute funds to recipients.
- Import and award the California College Promise Grant applications to cover the cost of tuition and fees for eligible students and protect classes from being dropped for non-payment.
- Serve as financial aid liaison for special student populations and equity groups on campus.
- Facilitate Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Act Application (CADAA) workshops to assist students, parents, and guardians with the application process.

- Responsible for the design and reorganization of the Financial Aid, Scholarship and Job Placement website.
- Serve as lead for remote student engagement, creating and managing Zoom sessions, Cranium Café appointments, online RSVPs, and virtual drop in events.
- Create and administer the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) student application including data for federal reporting.

**Student Services Specialist & Veterans Certifying Official
September 2012 - February 2021**

- As Certifying Official, verified student enrollment, academic standing, and graduation data to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to ensure student veterans and dependents of veterans received their GI Bill® entitlement
- Advised students on certifiable coursework, degree plans, and transferable programs with veteran students and dependents of veterans using VA educational benefits at the college.
- Evaluated the veteran student priority registration eligibility requirements and maintained eligible student records in accordance with state regulations and campus policies.
- Organized and conducted new student orientations, workshops, and specialized campus events
- Provided hands-on VA educational benefit onboarding, direct academic services, mental health, and life balance skills to students.
- Assist with outreach and in reach efforts for veterans and dependents of veterans.
- Educate students about campus policies, federal and state regulations in relation to VA educational benefits and student educational goals to increase student self-advocacy and independent critical thinking skills.
- Established the SCC Chapter of the Student Veterans of America Network to create leadership and professional development opportunities for veteran students on campus.
- Advocate for veteran students on campus and assisted with the Vet Net Ally training program to train veteran-friendly practices and awareness to campus faculty and staff.
- Developed and maintained professional relationships with community support services and campus resources to establish a network of holistic support for veteran students.
- Participated in monthly collaboration meetings with regional Cal State, UC, and Community Colleges to ensure best practices and establish key community connections to best serve student veterans.

- Tracked and analyzed student data for certification, campus inquiries and academic progress reports.
- Implemented online student support services, remote appointments, and live-chat features as an integral remote connection to students during global pandemic.
- Created and maintained departmental website and email database, integrating technological tools to better connect to students, faculty, staff, and key community partners.
- Participated annually in mental health seminars and student veteran trainings to refresh skills and stay abreast in up-to-date information related to the student population served.
- Served as the SCC Veteran Club Advisor to serve as a mentor to student veteran leaders and foster a wider campus connection with student veterans, peers, faculty, and staff.

CAMPUS COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

SCC Financial Aid Satisfactory Academic Progress Committee
2021-2022

SCC Student Conduct Hearing Board
2022

PRESENTATIONS

SCC Faculty and Staff Professional Development, “Financial Aid and Scholarships Supporting Students” Professional Development Week, February 2021.

SCC Faculty Committee Training, “Scholarship equity, access, and compliance,” January 2021

SCC Faculty and Staff Professional Development, “Scholarships Committee Training” Professional Development Week, February 2020.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Rancho Academy
Rancho Santiago Community College District
Faculty mentorship and professional development.

USC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training

University of Southern California

Professional training for equity, access, and anti-racism in the community college system.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

California School Employees Association Chapter 579

2013-Present

National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

2020-Present

COMPUTER SKILLS

MS Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Publisher, Forms

Programs: Ellucian, SharePoint, Cranium Café, SARS Anywhere