“DREAM 2013” was held February 5-8 at the Anaheim Convention Center. There were 1500 participants from 200 community colleges from all over the US (and even from a college in South Africa). Being scheduled the first week of our semester made it difficult for many individuals to attend, but we did have a small group of representatives from LAMC: AtD Co-Chairs Diana Bonilla (Counseling) and Cindy Luis (ESL), Louise Barbato (English) and Monica Moreno (Child Development). We were able to attend many very informative workshops on a wide range of subjects including: how to engage faculty and staff in AtD by building awareness and engagement with everyone on campus; deciding what interventions to implement based on data analysis; how to incorporate Reading Apprenticeship into First Year Seminars; how to scale up successful programs to include more students, and many examples of what other community colleges are doing to increase student persistence and success on their campuses. There were also many inspirational and informative speakers including Vincent Tinto and Joye Hardiman. On Thursday, President Monte Perez, VP Joe Ramirez and VP Michael Allen joined us for a meeting with our AtD Coaches Luzelma Canales and Omero Suarez. Overall, the conference was a great experience and really got us excited about increasing our involvement in AtD at LAMC to benefit even more students.

by Cindy Luis
Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Core & Data Team Meeting: Thursday, March 21, noon-1:00pm, CC1
- District Achieving the Dream Retreat: Friday, March 22, 8:30am-3:00pm at LAMC. All members of the core & data teams are encouraged to attend.
- AtD Coaches will visit our campus two days April 22-23

Accelerated English 28/101 Classes

In Fall 2012, the English discipline began piloting an accelerated English course, which allows students to take both English 28 and English 101 during the same semester. The materials that are presented in English 28 become the basis of the assignments required in English 101, so the content of both courses is closely linked together. Students who sign up for this pilot take six hours of English a week and agree to stay enrolled in both sections of English for the entire semester. The pilot program is modeled after a similar one which has been in place at the Community College of Baltimore, Maryland, and which has proven to be very successful. In addition to allowing students to accelerate their progress towards fulfilling their degree requirements, the pilot builds a strong sense of community between the student participants and their instructor. Students have been very successful in this program, and based on this success we plan to expand the number of accelerated offerings.

SUCCESS STORY

Adriana Alaniz Lopez recently shared with us her success story after completing the English Accelerated program of English 28 and 101 in one semester. She is in her fourth semester here at Los Angeles Mission College. She is a part-time student, who works full-time and who also wears multiple hats as a wife and mother of two boys ages 3.5 and 12 years of age. Adriana first came to LAMC after being out of school for 12 years. She didn’t take the placement exam because she had been out of school for so long she felt she would require remediation in both English and Math. She therefore started in Developmental Communications 1 and Math 105. After completing English 21 with Professor Cox and doing well in the class, Adriana was recommended by Professor Cox to enroll in the pilot accelerated program of English 28 and 101. Adriana stated that although this class was double the work, she enjoyed it very much. She stated that she liked how she could complete both English 28 and 101 in one semester and get those general education requirements out of the way. “It’s a lot of work but it’s an excellent program.” Adriana completed the class with a grade of an ‘A’. She attributes her success to staying focused on her work and assignments. “I would study 15 to 20 hours per week outside of class.” Although that semester was a difficult load because she was also taking Bio 3, she managed to earn a wonderful G.P.A. of a 3.69. “Professor Cox was very supportive with my learning process. She would always ask for feedback at the beginning of class for what was confusing to us and she would review problem areas. She was also very helpful to me in encouraging me to keep focused with my Bio 3 class.”

Adriana’s academic goal is to eventually obtain her Master in Nursing and specialize in Pediatrics. She hopes to transfer on to complete her Bachelors of Nursing at Cal State Los Angeles University. “My inspiration to keep going are my two sons. I want to set a good example for them. If I can do it, so can you,” she often tells her sons. She is currently in the process of applying to the STEM Program and looks forward to learning more about how that program can help her achieve her goals.

Adriana highly recommends this class to other students and as a result feels well prepared in her college writing skills. She was the recipient of the Dean’s Award last semester and this semester she will be receiving the President’s Award at the Honor’s Ceremony. We congratulate Adriana Alaniz Lopez and wish her the best in all her endeavors here at Mission College and in life.

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by Louise Barbato

by Diana Bonilla