



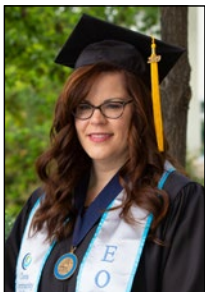
### DAMON RAPADA EARNS THE 2019 PRESIDENT’S AWARD



Mr. Rapada is a first-generation Latinx college student. He is an amazing student who has done so much for the college. He served as the Associated Student Government (ASG) Student Representative to the Board of Trustees and later as ASG President. He worked as a student assistant and played a major role in helping open the Valley Community Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Mr. Rapada delivered a wonderful

speech at the inaugural president’s breakfast last September. He is always willing to help, volunteer, and serves as a great role model for students. Last fall, he endured a challenge when his mother, a single parent, lost her job. He made a very mature decision and resigned as ASG president to get a job to financially help his family. During this time, he always stayed positive and knew the right thing to do was to support his family. Damon earned an associate degree for transfer in political science and will transfer to University of California, Davis this fall. Eventually, he plans to attend law school and become an attorney. We know Damon will represent the “Crush” well in his future endeavors. [Damon was recently interviewed about his experience at Clovis Community College.](#)

### DEANS’ MEDAL OF DISTINCTION RECIPIENTS ANNOUNCED



#### Anna-Marie Miller, Student Support Services:

Anna-Marie Miller has overcome many challenges including raising a child as a single parent while studying and working her way through college. Since the CalWORKS program gave her the opportunity to go to school, she has worked extremely hard and

will graduate with honors. She will transfer to Fresno State University to study history, after which she plans to become a history professor and a writer.



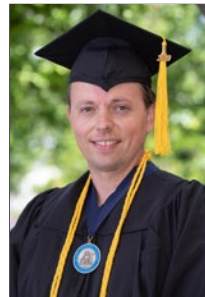
#### Arturo Sanchez, Humanities, Social Sciences, and Athletics:

Arturo Sanchez is a first-generation Latinx returning student who, despite overcoming many adversities, including homelessness, has earned three associate degrees in art 2-dimensional, AAT studio arts, and liberal studies; all while maintaining a 3.95 GPA and managing a local pizza restaurant. He plans to transfer to Fresno State or Fresno Pacific University to pursue Art.



#### Janay Jaqueline Sanders, Student Support Services:

Jaqueline Janay Sanders has been a student assistant in the Career Resource Center for the past year, quickly becoming a lead student assistant while providing valuable support to students and staff. She is graduating with an associate degree in sociology for transfer and plans to pursue a bachelor’s in social work at Fresno Pacific University. She plans to work as a social worker with a focus on public policy.



#### Reno Seckinger, Career Technical Education

Reno Seckinger, a first-generation college student and father of three, earned his associate degree in child development with a 4.0 GPA while managing his own tattoo business. He plans to transfer to Fresno State in fall 2019 and is contemplating either a path in education and/or construction management and architecture. The Child Development Center has greatly benefited from Reno’s contribution and willingness to share his love of art.



#### Sixin Zhai, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics:

Sixin Zhai is a first-generation student who, after moving from China and learning English, worked her way up to the highest level of mathematics and physics, earning associate degrees for transfer in both subjects, along with an associate degree in physical science and liberal arts & sciences, natural sciences with a 3.70 GPA. She plans to study material engineering at Cal Poly University and become an engineer.



## PROUD OF OUR “CRUSH” GRADUATES

The 4th annual commencement ceremony will be held on Friday, May 24 at 6:30 p.m. at CrossCity Church with over 200 students participating in the ceremony.

About 843 students may be eligible for degree/certificate conferral by President Lori Bennett. In many cases, graduating students earn more than one degree, which amounts to 1,712 applications for degrees and certificates submitted for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Students included in this group are:

- 45 Summa Cum Laude (4.0 GPA)
- 200 Magna Cum Laude (3.50-3.99 GPA)
- 298 Cum Laude (3.00-3.49 GPA)
- 43 Leon S. Peters Honors Program
- 10 veteran students

## CCC EXCITED TO PARTICIPATE AT THE CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TOWN HALL



President Bennett was delighted to attend the California Community Colleges Fresno Town Hall and College Fair at the Westside Church of God on April 30. Dr. Bennett led a session, “Improving Graduation & Completion Rates,” and heard from students, parents, and community members on how community colleges can better serve African American students. A big “Crush” thank you to Pastor Paul Binion for hosting the event and Gurdeep Hébert for helping plan the event. We were excited to have 2016 CCC graduate Arva Parker deliver an inspirational message. She recently graduated from Fresno Pacific University.

## FOOD SAFETY APPRENTICESHIP STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Food safety apprenticeship students were congratulated for their success in a [graduation reception](#) held at the Herndon Campus on May 9. Thank you to Fig Garden Packing and Wawona Frozen Foods for their support and partnership of this CTE (Career Technical Education) program.

## SIGNING DAY AT CCC



Congratulations to our “Crush” student athletes who earned and accepted athletic scholarships to play at 4-year universities! The 2nd annual “Crush” athletics signing day was held on May 10 and students, faculty, and parents were excited to wish our student athletes well.

### Women’s Soccer:

- Ariana Quintero, UC Davis, NCAA Division I
- Marie Tejada, University of Antelope Valley, NAIA
- Esmeralda Navarro, Holy Names University, NCAA Division II

### Men’s Soccer:

- James Hernandez, Fresno Pacific University, NCAA Division II

### Swim & Dive:

- Sara Barcelos, Masters University, NAIA
- Kristina Copeland, Colorado State, Pueblo, NCAA Division II
- Dante Ramos, Simpson University, NAIA

## THANK YOU TO THE SCCC FOUNDATION FOR FUNDING THIS AMAZING NEW SOCCER SCOREBOARD.



Other ceremonies to be held include recognizing students from the Central Valley Promise, CalWORKs, EOPS/TRIO, and Leon S. Peters Honors programs. Stories and pictures in the July report.