

#COCAlliances

Alliances, What are they?

*THE MISSION OF ALLIANCES IS TO BUILD
COMMUNITY AND A SENSE OF BELONGING.*



COLLEGE OF THE
Canyons

The Promise of Opportunity. Since 1969.

Why Alliances?

The Advantage

College graduation rates by family income and test scores

	Below-average test scores	Above-average test scores
Richest	30% complete college	70
Upper middle	19	50
Bottom middle	9	39
Poorest	6	26

"It took me 4 years to get up the courage to ask for help and go and find resources outside the classroom. *I feel like this system was not built for me, everything is about being this independent person, but for me culturally, I was not used to that. It is hard and it feels sometimes like it is working against me but I am going to try my hardest to navigate it.*" —EMP participant

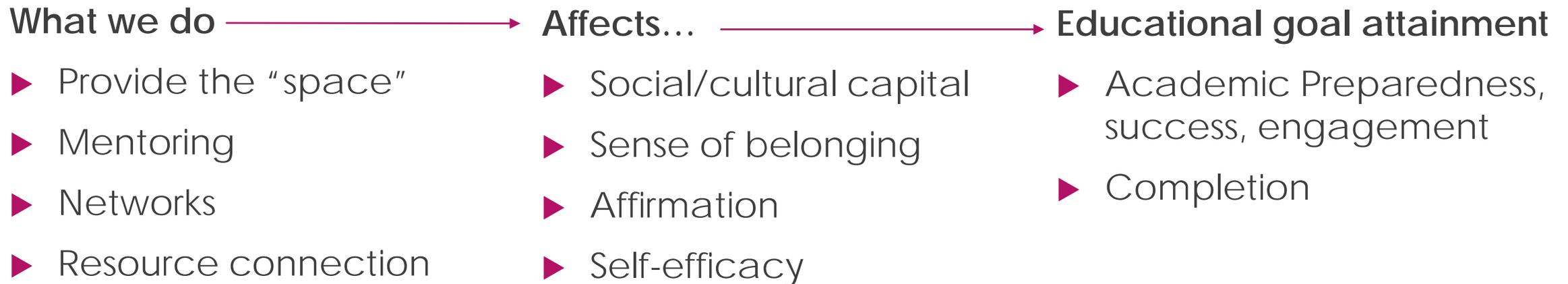
26% of students who are **"poorest"** AND have high test scores finish college compared to **70%** of students who are **"richest"** AND have high test scores.

This speaks to other factors (e.g. lack of resources) than the aptitude of the **"poorest"** students.

Why Alliances?

How did we arrive here?

Student Equity & Achievement Plan
Equitizing ACCESS, SUCCESS & ENGAGEMENT
Planning and discussions started Spring 2019



Alliances are not Clubs

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CLUBS

- ▶ Shared **interest in a topic** or identity affiliation
- ▶ **Outward facing**, events and partnerships
- ▶ Student-lead with support from advisor
- ▶ Formal charter process to establish a club
- ▶ Eligible for ASG funds
- ▶ Require faculty advisors
- ▶ Club participation is incentivized (points))

ALLIANCES

- ▶ Focused on **shared identities/ affinity** in a group of people.
- ▶ **Inward-facing**, open support groups
- ▶ Organized by faculty/staff, shaped by students, no governance structure.
- ▶ No chartering process
- ▶ Eligible for ASG funds
- ▶ Includes other employee groups as advisors/leads
- ▶ Participation is not incentivized
- ▶ Integrated into institution-wide support programs (e.g. student success teams)

African American/ Black Student Alliance

Every two weeks,
Wednesdays
1:30-2:30pm
First Meeting: Sept 9th



Lead/Advisors

Anthony Morris, Counseling Anthony.Morris@canyons.edu
Heaven Warner, Business Heaven.warner@canyons.edu
Joy Shoemate, Online Education Joy.Shoemate@canyons.edu

Latinx Alliance

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- ▶ Did you know COC is an HSI- Hispanic Serving Institution?
 - ▶ Logo contest
- ▶ We bring Resources to you

"This has been great, you all sharing your experiences with me, I'm nervous for my job interview but you all have "made it" already thanks for letting me ask questions."
-Alliance participant via zoom

Leads/Advisors



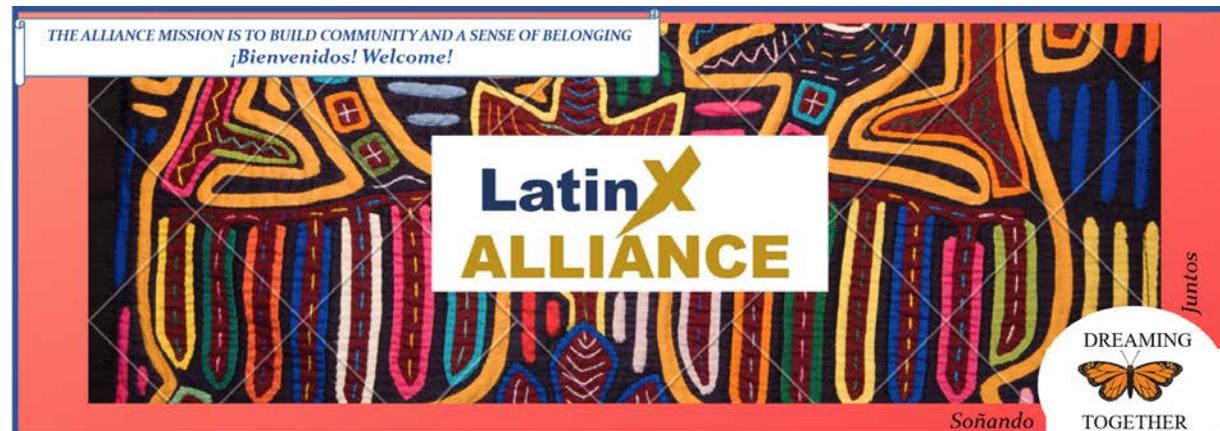
Dr. Hernan Ramirez
Sociology Instructor



Dr. Juan Buriel
English Instructor



Dr. Vida Manzo
Sr. Research Analyst



Latinx Alliance

Zoom meeting ID : 981 3299 4462

Thursday Sept. 8th 11 AM-
Thursday Sept 24th 5PM-
Tuesday Oct. 13th 12 PM-
Thursday Oct 29th 1PM-
Tuesday Nov. 10th 11AM-
Tuesday Dec. 1st 5PM –

► Social Support during COVID19

Student 1: Hope you are all healthy and well. I am also new, nice to meet everyone.

Student 2: My cousin tested positive last week. Thankfully I was tested this week and today I got my results and they were negative

Lead 1: I'm glad you were able to get tested, Student 2

Lead 2: Yes we are happy about that Student 2!

Student 3: I have a few people in my family that has Covid. One just had a baby, her family caught it. Another is my grandma who is a nurse at Holy Cross, she recently just went back to work because she fought it off and had it for a month. Another is my fathers friends daughter who is a few months old who is fighting it at this moment as well.

Lead Student 3 , same here - glad to hear you're good. Hopefully your cousin gets better soon.

Lead 2: I'm sorry Student 3! I hope you and your family will be safe and healthy.

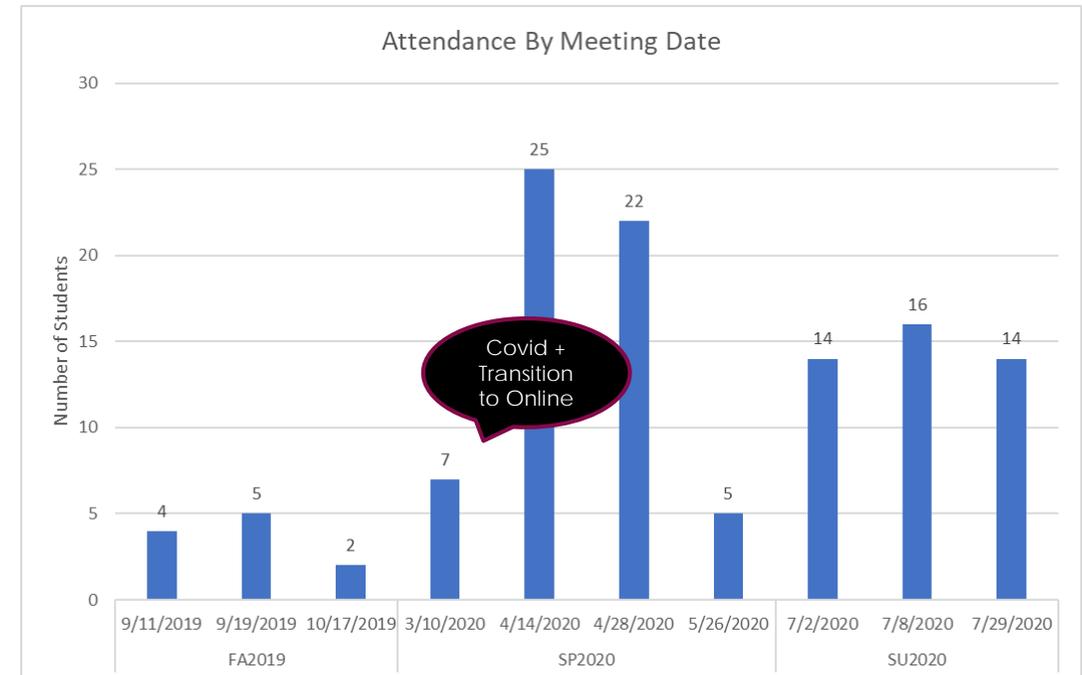
Student 4: My sister's boyfriend tested positive, so our entire household had to get tested as well. Luckily, we all tested negative. It's so scary and my thoughts and prayers are with all of you and those close to you who have the virus.

Lead 3: Student 4, I'm so sorry to hear about the members of your family are afflicted with Covid. Hopefully they will get through and the rest of your family will stay safe.

Since fall 2019

► 93 students participated

► 124 service counts(repeat participants)



VALOR- Veteran Alliance Organization

Lost in translation

- ▶ Military members have a shared culture, language, and values
- ▶ 24x7 support

You're not from around here

- ▶ Santa Clarita has few military ties

It's not you, it's me

- ▶ Student veterans have unique challenges
- ▶ May not be comfortable sharing with civilians

VALOR
Veteran's Alliance
Organization

Lead/Advisor: SB Tucker
Faculty, EMT/ Health Science

SB.Tucker@canyons.edu

Trans Alliance

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- ▶ Weekly meetings with trans and nonbinary students and community members
- ▶ Focus on support group topics, such as: coming out as trans, self care, and parental acceptance

Issues of Importance for Trans Alliance Members:

- ▶ Respect for Identity
- ▶ Belief in a Positive Future
- ▶ Concern for Privacy and Safety
- ▶ Advocacy for a More Inclusive Institution

If you're new to working with Trans and Nonbinary Students...

- ▶ Be kind and supportive
- ▶ Learn names/pronouns and use them correctly
- ▶ If you make a mistake, apologize gracefully



Erin Delaney, English Professor
Erin.Delaney@canyons.edu

First-Generation Student Alliance

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Fall 2020 meetings to be held via zoom First meeting: Sept 8th 11-12pm

32% of COC's students are considered first-generation

- ▶ A first-gen student is a student who does not have a parent that graduated from college with a bachelor's degree

The alliance aims to support COC's first-gen students by:

- ▶ Building community and connection among students
- ▶ Increasing awareness of campus resources
- ▶ Providing mentorship

You can support COC's first-gen students by:

- ▶ Being mindful of each student's individual education path
- ▶ Being sensitive to different levels of experience with higher ed.



Stephenie Tesoro, MA, Grant Writer
Stephenie.Tesoro@canyons.edu
Alma Mater: UC Berkeley

Desiree Goetting, MS Professor, Biology
Desiree.Goetting@canyons.edu
Alma Mater: Cal Poly Pomona

Gender & Sexuality Alliance*

- GSA will be meeting virtually every Wednesday from 2-3PM.
- GSA plans on working on a 'speaker series' for the Fall semester, and hopes to use our grant funds for that.
- GSA made a Zine titled, "Queerantime Zine" this past May, and we still hope to share it campus wide and plan on making another one next spring



Lead/Advisor: **Katie Lookholder**, Sociology
Katie.Lookholder@canyons.edu

Autism Social Alliance*

Meet **3:30 Wednesdays**,
Meetings have been remote during
Covid-19 Precautionary period

- ▶ Purpose: build an alliance between students who are on the Autism Spectrum, those who are interested in learning more about the Autism Spectrum, peer counselors and college staff.
- ▶ Members plan and engage in teaching the staff, students and community about Autism Spectrum issues.
- ▶ Outdoor and indoor activities, socialize, and learn in an accepting nonjudgmental environment .Activities also include Support and Holiday Celebrations
- ▶ COC Alumni are welcome.



Lead/Advisor
Larry Schallert, Assistant Director, Student
Health & Wellness
Larry.Schallert@canyons.edu

Forthcoming Alliances

Undocumented Student Alliance

Contacts: Esther Villegas-Sandoval & Marilyn Jimenez



If interested in joining/leading, please contact:

Esther.Villegas-Sandoval@canyons.edu

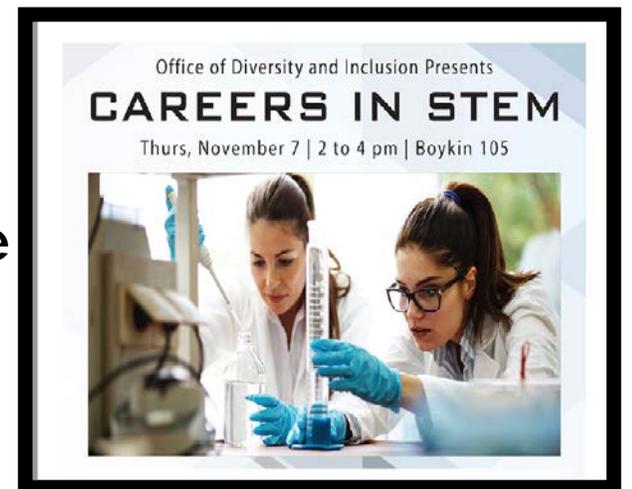
Marilyn.jimenez@canyons.edu

Women/ *Minoritized Students* in STEM Alliance

Teresa Ciardi

If interested in joining/leading, please contact:

Teresa.Ciardi@canyons.edu



How to become involved?

- ▶ Access Alliances to learn about serving students from various backgrounds
- ▶ Be a guest speaker in Alliance meetings (e.g. counseling, STEM faculty member)
- ▶ Help co-lead an Alliance
- ▶ Promote and add resource to syllabus (provide examples)

Syllabus Suggestion

Alliances at COC are intended to provide social and academic support for students. Through these alliances, students can learn more about campus resources and have access to mentors. We offer the following alliances: African American / Black Student Alliance, Latinx Alliance, Trans Alliance, Gender Sexuality Alliance, First-Gen Student Alliance, Autism Social Alliance, and Veteran Student Alliance, [click here](#) for additional information. I can also put you in contact with the faculty/staff leads for the alliances.

Thank you for your time.

Questions?

www.canyons.edu/equity

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