Mission College was one of 33 educational institutions and philanthropic and community organizations who participated in the iCount: Equity through Representation symposium on September 13 – 14, 2015 at the U.S. Department of Education and the White House in Washington, D.C. This invitation-only event was created to bring attention to the need for data disaggregation to better represent and support the unique academic needs of a diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander student population in education. “AAPIs face the challenge of the model minority myth—an assumption of uniformly high achievement—when in fact AAPI communities often face barriers to education due to socioeconomic factors, refugee status, limited English proficiency, and poverty,” said Kiran Ahuja, executive director of the White House Initiative on AAPIs. “That is why we must work together to find ways to improve how data on AAPIs are collected and ensure we are highlighting and assisting underserved communities.”

During the symposium, the U.S. Department of Education has announced a series of commitments to encourage data disaggregation.

“We hope that the iCount symposium and the commitments we are making today will help advance the goal of equity for all students – and ensure that the needs of all students are counted,” said John King, senior advisor delegated duties of deputy secretary of education at the U.S. Department of Education. Their commitments include a) data disaggregation technical assistance for school districts, state departments of education, and boards of education; b) creation of a report in Fall 2016 on best practices for the disaggregation of race/ethnicity categories; and c) a dedicated AAPI community liaison.

Ken Songco, Director of Federal Student Services Grants, was invited to represent Mission College’s AANAPISI programs to share updates on the college’s efforts toward data disaggregation such as the creation of Institutional Business/Technology Analyst position to assist the college in creating systems to disaggregate data. During the symposium, attendees were split up by region and Ken facilitated a discussion with higher education institutions and K12 school districts from the California region to explore opportunities to collaborate locally and regionally on this topic. Ken was also asked to report out to the larger group the commitments the California region made towards promoting data disaggregation such as convening regional conversations with institutions on best practices in data disaggregation, identifying key stakeholders on the state level (i.e. CA Department of Education, CCCCO, CSU Chancellor’s Office) who would support data disaggregation efforts, and raising awareness of this topic with other institutions, local/state government colleagues, and community organizations.

This event, hosted by the White House Initiative on Asian American and Pacific Islanders in partnership with the National Commission on Asian American and Pacific Islander Research in Education (CARE), builds upon an inaugural 2013 symposium that highlighted the critical need for data disaggregation for AAPI students and provided the opportunity to share best practices for implementing systems at educational institutions.
EOPS Student Orientation

On August 25th and 26th, the EOPS program welcomed 119 new EOPS students during their New EOPS Student Orientation. It was a day packed with important student information, but we couldn’t miss the photo opportunity to capture some of our new EOPS students enjoying the day. Students were able to meet other new EOPS students, the EOPS staff and learn about important student services available at Mission and within the EOPS office. Before the end of the day, this new group of EOPS students received a survival kit that equipped them with school supplies necessary to start their Fall 2015 semester.

The Welcome Center has recently added new student ambassadors to its department. Stop by and meet them; they are fun, friendly, and overall outgoing! From left Diana Merino, Simran Kaur, and Jose Diaz.

AANAPISI Welcomes New Staff

Please help us in welcoming Thanh Do to Mission College! Thanh, the college’s new Institutional Business/Technology Analyst, graduated with a B.A. in International Relations and German at UC Davis and a Masters in Urban Planning at San Jose State University. She serves as a vital link between the College’s student success objectives and the West Valley-Mission Community College District’s technological capabilities. Working closely with all division areas, Thanh focuses on disaggregating data for analysis, closing critical gaps in connectivity of information systems and enhancing the college’s ability to effectively and efficiently monitor student progress. She joins Mission College with over 10 years of analytical experience in the private, public and non-profit sectors. Her technical experience includes overseeing the software implementation of a park management system for Happy Hollow Park and Zoo in San José, CA. Prior to joining Mission College, Thanh worked in Healthy Aging at the Public Health Institute designing concepts of healthier environments for vulnerable older adults in Santa Clara County. Her work also includes parks, recreation and neighborhood services analysis at the City of San José, older adult services and research at the City of Campbell and business operations at a bicycle and pedestrian consulting firm and the International Museum of Women.

In Memory of Carol Qazi

“Carol became a friend, a mentor, and the first American woman who believed I could pursue a professional career, and encouraged me to do it as the Hispanic woman I am. All of my education, passions for international work, and future achievements will be in memory of my dear senorita.”
- Rosa Sosa from Mexico (Attending Law School at Arizona State University)

A great soul has departed, but the memories shall never fade. Our loss is huge. May the soul that has gone, rest in peace. Keep faith and courage. I’m sorry for our loss, but I’ll never forget all what you’ve done for me. You taught me how to first drive in the United States. You picked me up from my apartment and took me to Santa Cruz when I had a painful homesickness. You supported me like no one can believe. And finally, I would never forget your word: “If I didn’t have you as a student, I would choose you as a daughter”
- Fatima N Ashram from Saudi Arabia (Academy of Art University Graduate)

“Still trying to process... I still remember how Carol encouraged and inspired me...”
- Valery Chen from China (UC Berkeley Graduate)

“She was the most loving human being, who was really passionate with her students a long way from home!”
“She was the mother for all international students.”
- Siv Tvermose from Denmark (Graduate Student at University of Copenhagen)

“All of us will always remember her touching thousand of hearts from around the world.”
- Nadia Dayan from Morocco (Former IIS Student)

“I will never forget your positiveness, energy, smile and your lovely big heart. Thank you my dear Carol for always understanding, listening, caring and loving me in your life.”
- Karen Davila from Peru (MC Student)

“Ipek Cicek from Turkey (MC Student)

Office of Student Activities

The Office of Student Activities jump started the Fall 2015 Semester with an awesome fun filled Welcome Week. We served at least 150 students per day with snacks, drinks and great ASG Recruitment materials.

We moved into the semester with a great, informative OrgSync Training that took place on September 16th and 17th. OrgSync sent a trainer to give eight practice trainings within the 2 day period to over 100 students, staff and faculty combined. The trainer showed how to retrieve and take advantage of the many opportunities of the OrgSync Portal program. Students, staff and faculty went away with some great ideas of how they will put the system to work for them. Two selected attendees were very happy to win one each of the VP Office of Student Services drawing prizes from Amazon; a gift card for $100.

We also celebrated Constitution day on September 17th by handing out pocket size constitutions and candy at the Campus Center information desk- the students loved this!

The ASG (Associated Student Government) and ICC the (Inner Club Council) presented their semi-annual Club Day’s event on September 30th October 1st. All clubs and new potential clubs had informational tables set out for new recruitments. This is a great opportunity for clubs to spread the word out about their club.

ASG Sponsored Mr. Rossi, attorney at law started his twice a month visits to talk to students and give them free legal advice. Students can make an appointment or just drop by. Students truly enjoy this because they can speak to an attorney in a safe and confidential environment.

Mr. Rossi visit dates, times and location:
12:00-1:30pm
Campus Center room 225
November 10th and 25th

Transfer Day:

October’s Transfer Day was a success! With over 55 colleges represented, Mission College continues to be a hub of transfer and career opportunities, including Engineering, English, Arts, Hospitality Management, Nursing, and S.T.E.M. disciplines. An SJSU Veteran’s admission officer helped our Valor program students, while UC Santa Cruz discussed their $20,000 transfer scholarship, and many offered the Western Undergrad Exchange grant to cover out of state tuition fees. A number of Mission teachers brought classes to the event, including Engineering instructor Kate Disney, and Susan Ziesler of the English department. As one of their “highest ranked transfer colleges”, Cal State East Bay recognizes Mission as an important step in Bay Area student futures.
Mission College Community:

We are thrilled to share that Student Success Month in October was a SUCCESS! We hope to build on what we have done and aim for even greater numbers and further reach in future Octobers to come!

Below is a summary of what was accomplished. We can’t thank the entire college community enough for your support and participation in celebrating and embracing the meaning and power of achieving success.

Sincerely,
Thuy & Rebecca, Counseling Faculty

Throughout the month, we received warm and positive comments from the campus community including:

• Those success stories that you are working on are a morale booster, and the whole college is benefiting from them.
• Just wanted to let you know that these Student Success stories are great! Thanks for putting them together and letting the college community in on the “secrets” to success at MC and beyond!
• Love these stories!

Many of these loving comments came our way.

In terms of the quantitative impact of our outreach efforts:

• 226 students spun our “Wheel of Success” to win school supplies and learn more about programs and services at the college including 3SP mandates.
• Over 2,300 students were reached via social media (the Success Stories sent to all users were posted and shared with the online community).

Our “Pathway to Success” Workshop on October 28 touched 47 students total who learned more about Academic Standards at the college and how to maintain satisfactory academic standing.

On October 19, 2015, the Academic Support Center joined in the Student Success Month activities to advertise the Tutoring Center and its programs to faculty and students. Ten tutors and ASC staff participated in the event, manning a table in the lobby of the Gillmor Center from 11AM to 3PM.

The tutors provided faculty and students the information about our open hours, the tutoring subjects and schedules, how to use drop-in tutoring, and scheduling online appointments. They also prepared tutoring application forms for those who wished to sign up tutorial services immediately. Approximately 180 students showed interest in learning more about the center and our services. ASC experienced an increase of enrollment in tutorial program during the next few days.

A total of 29 students took advantage of the Transfer Workshops that took place throughout the month to help them with a seamless transfer process to the 4-year university!

Special thanks to the following individuals/groups that made this month a true success:

• President Daniel Peck (particularly for his endorsement and official recognition of October as Student Success Month)
• Vice President of Student Services Dr. John Mosby
• Dean of Student Services Richard Alfaro
• Director of Student Development Rachael Goldberg and Associated Student Government (the Wheel of Success was a bit hit)
• Student Services Office Supervisor Zita Melton
• Senior Administrative Assistant My Loi
• Academic Support Department Chair Chia Greene
• Director of Marketing Carl Jones
• Webmaster Ken Oda
• Program Specialist/Graphic Designer Shoba Singh
• Facilities Custodian Gary Lobach
• All our students, faculty, staff and administrators who agreed to share their Success Stories
• Basic Skills Committee
• Counseling department

Students who participated in the “Wheel of Success” activity were entered in a drawing for gift cards to the bookstore. The winners are:

• First prize $50: Phuong Huynh
• Second prize $30: Minyan Yu
• Third prize $20: Alara Tiernan
Mission Statement

Mission College’s first priorities are students, their learning, and their success.

Our College serves the diverse educational, economic and cultural needs of the student population of Santa Clara, the Silicon Valley and our global community by providing associate degrees, transferable, career and basic skills courses and programs, as well as opportunities for life-long learning.

Through participatory governance in support of our first priorities, Mission College systematically commits to evaluating and improving educational programs, technological resources and student support services by making informed decisions, allocating resources, and establishing institutional policies and procedures.