

FRESNO STATE

Wayfinders

Highlights of the Fall Semester 2016



Winter Wonderland Formal

Martina Island, Activities/Transition Assistant
Wayfinders Program at Fresno State

The Arc of Fresno and Madera Counties held their annual Winter Wonderland Formal on Friday, December 9th, 2016 at the Clovis Veteran's Memorial Building. Many individuals from the community attended the event and were dressed to impress! Graduate of the Wayfinders program Marissa Erickson even traveled all the way from the Bay Area to dance the night away with her boyfriend John Kellis. Attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner from Tahoe Joe's, mingling, dancing and pictures.

When our students were asked about their experience at the winter formal, many responded that their favorite part was the dancing. TJ Obi specifically recalls dancing to the "Cupid Shuffle". Another common response about the event was that it was fun getting to hang out with friends and taking a bunch of pictures. Jacob Mason and Kyle Grego stated that their favorite part was the food.

Above from Left to Right: Mikah Schlick, Leland McCallister, Dominique Stanton, TJ Obi, Jeffrey Mintz, John Kellis, Marissa Erickson, Nathan Lumpkin, Garrett Veerkamp, Andrew Figueroa, Anna Riley, Nick Saucedo, Kyle Grego, Patricia Alessi, Carolynn Martin, Jacob Mason, Ryan Garratt, Erika Herring, Paul Jung, Shari Kimball, Gabe Zaidman, Chris Liang and Aidan Mace.

Thank you The Arc for putting on such an amazing event! We look forward to participating in it again next year!!

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Domain Highlights

Activities

Ryan Wilson, Activities Coordinator

Wayfinders Program at Fresno State

The Activities domain has continued to grow this semester. We welcomed 4 new activity coaches to the team; Tarryn, Shawn, Travis, and Mark, who have all slotted in seamlessly and have helped no end to enhance the services we are able to offer to our students. The Activities domain has also been fortunate to have the assistance of Psychology Intern Andrea Alcaraz for the 2016/17 year.

On a sad note we did lose Vartanush this semester, as she left for pastures new. Vartanush will be greatly missed, as she had developed wonderful relationships with both students and staff.

We have had our busiest semester yet of students attending activities, from open-air concerts to self-defense workshops to a SF Giants v LA Dodgers game. One of our students' great loves is taking pride in supporting their Bulldogs at all major sporting events that Fresno State competes in. Back in November however it was our students turn to be on the receiving end of support, when the Fresno State Women's Volleyball team wanted to show their gratitude by inviting our students onto the court at half time to personally thank them. Students got to run out onto the court, while getting their names announced over the loud speaker to a chorus of cheers from the crowd. It really was a major highlight of the last semester.



Above: Students waiting in the tunnel at Save Mart Center to have their names announced at the Volleyball Game.

Academics

Stephanie Foster, Academics Coordinator

Wayfinders Program at Fresno State

The University Inclusion domain has had the wonderful opportunity to utilize the data collection system, THERAP, to help identify areas that our students are demonstrating independence, and areas where our students need higher amounts of support. Using this information, we have decided to practice a new binder protocol with all students to help improve independence with organization. We have adopted a system similar to the AVID program that uses clear systems and structures to teach the importance of organization in the classroom. All students will use this system for their Wayfinders workshops as well as all Fresno State classes. Students will be expected to keep and organize all class notes, handouts, graded tests/quizzes, syllabi, and assignments. Students will work with their University Inclusion coaches during tutorial sessions to ensure that the filing system is being followed, and that their binders are staying neat; if not, their coaches will offer suggestions for improvement and will work together through the process. With this new clear and structured routine, we are hopeful that each student will show growth in organization, leading them a step closer to being independent students!

Vocational

Leslie Shirakawa, Vocational Specialist

Wayfinders Program at Fresno State

Students are excited to change to a new job site as they continue to build their work skills and knowledge. Reflecting back on the Fall 2016 semester there were certainly some highlights.

Jeffrey Mintz has been working at Resources for Independence Central Valley doing community and advocacy work for individuals with disabilities. He applied and was selected for 1 of 2 internship paid positions with YO! Youth Organizing – Disabled & Proud. Congratulations Jeffrey!!

Travis Wohlstadter worked as an usher at Maya Cinemas and because of his exemplary work, the manager wants him to apply for a job their once he completes Wayfinders. Awesome job, Travis!!

Nick Saucedo worked for the Fresno State Plant

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Operations, Warehouse. He demonstrated motivation, safety awareness, and good judgment Nick was given the opportunity to drive the forklift under close supervision. Way to go Nick!!

Welcome to our new work sites: Joni and Friends, Future Ford of Clovis, Fresno State Collegian Newspaper, Fresno State Technology Services, and Sears.



Above: Nick Saucedo driving the forklift at Fresno State Plant Operations.

Below: Leland McCallister and Travis Wohlstader in their Halloween costumes at Maya Cinemas.



Residential

Jasmin Rocha, Residential Coordinator

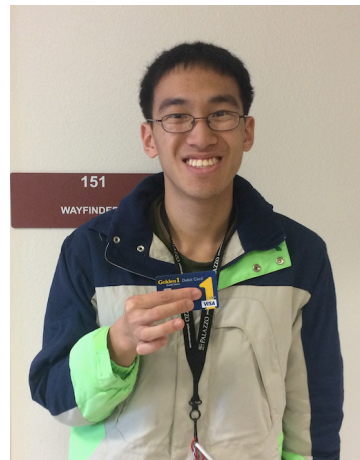
Wayfinders Program at Fresno State

Freshman students have done a phenomenal job in learning and mastering tasks in the residential domain within the last semester. A few of their accomplishments include:

- 6 freshman students are permanently holding onto their debit cards.
- 62% have mastered their kitchen chore
- 62% are grocery shopping independently using public transportation
- 100% are performing meal planning and food inventory on a weekly basis
- Students are utilizing public transportation services such as the FAX bus and UBER to obtain transportation services to medical appointments, grocery shopping and going to the train station.

Senior students have embraced wanting to show freshman students the ropes in regards to mastering chores and cooking. Special mention goes out to Sam Michael and Travis Wohlstader for volunteering to become senior cooking mentors to freshman students! They have offered to show freshman students how to prepare recipes during their cooking classes.

A special thank you goes out to the entire residential team for their hard work and dedication. With each passing semester we are noting that students are mastering their tasks at quicker rates. This could not be possible without the care and attention each residential staff member provides when working with each student.



Left: Chris Liang, one of the six freshmen students holding onto his ATM card.

Wayfinders After Hours With Melissa “Kodie” Scheidt

Staff Member Question & Answers



Melissa "Kodie" Scheidt, Resident Assistant/Lead Coach at Wayfinders at Fresno State with student Patricia Alessi.

Q: Whom would you want to play you in a movie of your life?

Kodie: "Jodie Foster"

Q: Where is your favorite place to be?

Kodie: "Other than snowboarding, with our students."

Q: Where is your favorite vacation destination?

Kodie: "Anywhere where there is snow."

Q: What is your favorite movie?

Kodie: "Titanic & Point Break (2015)"

Q: What was your favorite toy as a kid?

Kodie: "My skateboard"

Q: If you could join any past or current music group, who would it be?

Kodie: "Jeremy Camp"

Q: What is the most unusual thing you've ever eaten?

Kodie: "Octopus"

Q: Use 3 words that describe you best.

Kodie: "Outgoing, empathetic & super friendly"

Q: Do you have a special talent?

Kodie: "I can touch the back of my head with my left hand behind my back."

Q: What is on your bucket list?

Kodie: "To jump off of the Stratosphere in Vegas."

Where Are They Now? With Marcus Espino

Previous Wayfinders Student Question & Answers

Q: Where do you live now and what have you been doing since you left Wayfinders?

Marcus: "I'm currently still living at Palazzo and going to the College to Career program at Fresno City College. My major is Child Development and I am also taking Math & Work Awareness classes. This semester I will be taking English & Spanish classes."

Q: What do you miss most about Wayfinders?

Marcus: "I think it is just hanging out with the students and coaches."

Q: Do you still keep in touch with anyone past or present at Wayfinders?

Marcus: "I keep in touch with Travis, Andrea and Jeremy, and I am living with Devin."

Q: What was the greatest thing you learned while at Wayfinders?

Marcus: "To figure out stuff on my own and learn how to live on my own."

Q: What advice would you give to our new students about to start at Wayfinders?

Marcus: "Keep up to date with all your assignments, do a good job in the Wayfinders classes and HAVE FUN!"

Q: Where do you see yourself in 5 years time?

Marcus: "I would like to be working at a daycare and to be living by myself in Fresno"



Left: Marcus and his father Rick Espino

Meet Our Newest Case Manager, Donna Martinez!



Donna Martinez, Case Manager at Wayfinders at Fresno State

Donna graduated from CSU Fresno with a Bachelor's degree in Recreation Administration with an emphasis in Community and Youth at Risk. She is currently finishing her Master's degree in Marriage Family and Children Counseling in conjunction with a Pupil Personnel Services Credential at CSU Fresno. She has been working in the education sector for the past 10 years, particularly with student services since 2009 when she became the Scholar Coordinator for the Hispanic Scholarship Fund. She has over 1,000 hours in volunteer experience in various organizations in the Fresno area, which has allowed her to become knowledgeable of various resources. Originally, from Santa Maria, CA Donna came to Fresno to complete her educational endeavors and now has made it her home. Donna's life perspective is "Dream big, Work hard, and Stay humble" - Cesar Conde.

Donna is our second Case Manager who provides direct support to students enrolled in the Wayfinders Program. In order to promote independence and self-efficacy, the Case Managers support students in utilizing natural supports and other resources to fulfill their activities of daily living. In addition, Case Managers ensure students are following program protocol in regards to travel request, conduct, etc.

As a method to monitor and promote student progress across all program domains, Case Managers collaborates with Domain Coordinators, Staff, and the Executive Director to implement systems and action plans to address and support student goals and needs.

Lastly, Case Managers are the initial contact for the Regional Center Service Coordinators and student parents/guardians. A major responsibility of Case Managers is to schedule student 30 Day and Quarterly Progress Meetings. Additionally, Case Managers works with the Domain Coordinators to compose comprehensive Quarterly Reports that outline individual student progress, areas of improvement, and goals.

Opportunities

There are various opportunities for students at Fresno State to get involved in this program.

We are currently accepting applications for Peer Mentors!

Peer Mentors are volunteers who work with the students in the Wayfinders program. They can help to improve a Wayfinders student outcomes related to:

- ✚ Motivation and self-esteem
- ✚ Friendship
- ✚ Communication and assertiveness skills
- ✚ Problem solving and decision making
- ✚ Conflict resolution
- ✚ Coping and Adjusting
- ✚ Resiliency

To apply, go to

<http://www.fresnostate.edu/kremen/wayfinders/documents/peermentorapplication.pdf>

Fill out the form and email it to:
wayfinders@mail.fresnostate.edu

Or drop by our office in ED 151 in the Kremen School of Education & Human Development building and pick up an application.

For employment, other volunteer, and internship opportunities, contact the domain coordinator/specialist of the particular domain of the Wayfinders Program.

Residential Domain

Jasmin Rocha
jasrocha@csufresno.edu

Vocational Domain

Leslie Shirakawa
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Academics Domain

Stephanie Foster
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Activities Domain

Ryan Wilson
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MLK, JR DAY HOLIDAY – No CLASSES, CAMPUS CLOSED

JANUARY 16TH, 2017

SPRING COMMUNITY SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES FAIR

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FRESNO

SATELLITE STUDENT UNION

JANUARY 25TH, 2017 10AM - 1PM

WAYFINDERS VALENTINES DAY DANCE

FEBRUARY 11TH, 2017

PRESIDENTS' DAY HOLIDAY – No CLASSES, CAMPUS CLOSED

FEBRUARY 20TH, 2017

CESAR CHAVEZ HOLIDAY – No CLASSES, CAMPUS CLOSED

MARCH 31ST, 2017

TRAVEL DAY SPRING BREAK

APRIL 7TH, 2017

SPRING BREAK

APRIL 10TH – APRIL 14TH, 2017

STUDENTS RETURN FROM SPRING BREAK

APRIL 16TH, 2017

KREMEN SCHOOL OF EDUCATION CONVOCATION CERMONY

SAVE MART CENTER

MAY 19TH, 2017 6PM - 9PM

MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY – No CLASSES, CAMPUS CLOSED

MAY 29TH, 2017

END OF THE YEAR TRIP

JUNE 27TH, 2017

FAREWELL RECEPTION & TRAVEL DAY FOR SUMMER BREAK

JUNE 30TH, 2017

STUDENT BIRTHDAYS

NICK SAUCEDA - FEBRUARY 12TH

NICK CAMPBELL - FEBRUARY 21ST

ERIKA HERRING - MARCH 4TH

DOMINIQUE STANTON - MARCH 15TH

ANNA RILEY - MARCH 30TH

PAUL JUNG - APRIL 6TH

JORDAN GWARTNEY - APRIL 8TH

ERICKA ANGELES - APRIL 15TH

JACOB MASON - APRIL 18TH

PATRICIA ALESSI - MAY 4TH

SHARI KIMBALL - MAY 5TH

XIOMAR SHIRLEY-HALL - MAY 10TH

JEFF MINTZ - MAY 14TH

JOHN KELLIS - MAY 16TH

MARLON GUANDIQUE - MAY 24TH

JORDAN SAMFORD - JUNE 3RD

RYAN GARRATT - JUNE 9TH

TRAVIS WOHLSTADTER - JUNE 12TH

SAM MICHAEL - JUNE 23RD

COREY MESSENGER - JUNE 30TH

CHRIS LIANG - JULY 6TH

ANDREW SCHMITT - JULY 20TH

STAFF BIRTHDAYS

TRAVIS - JANUARY 4TH

PATTI - JANUARY 12TH

MONICA - JANUARY 25TH

JULIA - JANUARY 26TH

TARRYN - JANUARY 26TH

SHERRILL - JANUARY 30TH

ALMA - JANUARY 31ST

RYAN - FEBRUARY 3RD

ME SU - FEBRUARY 4TH

GARY - FEBRUARY 7TH

LILLIAN - FEBRUARY 29TH

JASMIN R - MARCH 5TH

KODIE - MARCH 5TH

BRIDEIDA - MARCH 10TH

MARK - MARCH 12TH

SHAYLEE - MARCH 18TH

SEE - MARCH 31ST

SIA - MARCH 31ST

GABE - APRIL 2ND

LILIANA - APRIL 2ND

SHAIL - APRIL 10TH

ALEJANDRA - APRIL 28TH

ANDREA - APRIL 29TH

ANNA - MAY 23RD

DARION - JUNE 10TH

ALEXIS - JUNE 30TH

HALEY - JULY 6TH

PATRICIA - JULY 9TH

CARI - JULY 16TH

CHRISTIAN - JULY 17TH