



SPEAKING OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT Newsletter

Volume 1 | Issue 5 | March 2021

WORK-LIFE BALANCE IN THE TIME OF COVID

As we approach the second month of instruction, fatigue and imbalance sets in for all of us. We are all trying to keep our heads above water more than ever before, and as always, we want you to know that we are right there with you!

I would like to share that we *do* have an **Employee Assistance Program (EAP)** which is paid for by the district. They offer services ranging from mental health support, marriage and family counseling, parenting support, grief and anxiety support, assistance with budgeting and finances, and more.

Call toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week:
TTY/TDD callers, please dial 1-800-327-0801.

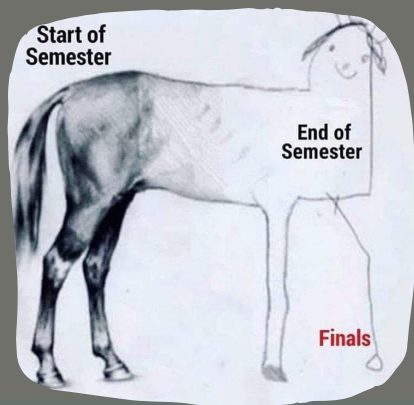
You are entitled to 6 face-to-face sessions or telephonic or web-video consultations per incident, per calendar year. This could serve as a supplement to your own insurance mental wellness services.

1-800-327-0449
mhn.advantageengagement.com

Register with the company code: laccd and pw: employee

Our Nancy Ramirez and her team have done an amazing job at providing so much support during this difficult time. Great job, Nancy and the PD Team!

Visit: [Professional Development Website](#) for more details!



THIS ISSUE:

- EAP PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYEE MENTAL WELLNESS
- RETENTION AND SUCCESS TASK FORCE
- COMMITTEE UPDATES
- ANNOUNCEMENTS

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT MEETING DATES:

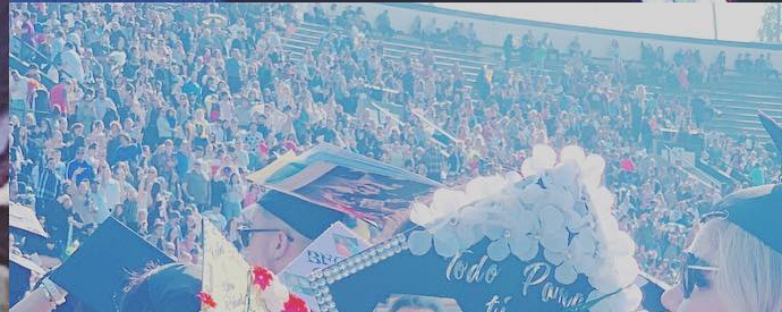
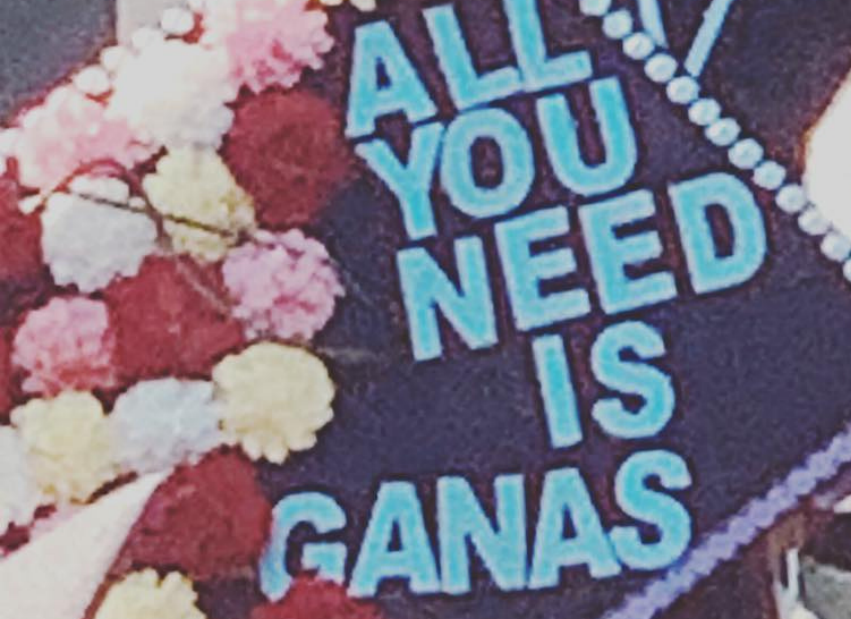
THURSDAY 3/18
(GUEST, PRESIDENT ROMAN)

THURSDAY 4/15
THURSDAY 5/20

TIME: 12:10-1:30PM

REGISTER IN THE [VRC](#) FOR FLEX!





Retention and Success Task Force: ¡A Huevo!

As you know, both **Summer and Fall 2021** will be online, and we will continue to see a decline in student enrollment. Why is this happening? What is being done? As a department, we have begun a discussion on what our own campus outreach team is doing to market our programs throughout the community. We have learned that there are indeed large-scale efforts happening all over the place, including professional ad campaigns, phone banking, social media campaigns, and more, but the fact is that students are not enrolling in as many classes right now. This is a state-wide issue and a major challenge. Frankly, who could blame them?

I know that we are continuously called to go beyond our duties as instructors and that we are all experiencing empathy fatigue, but now, in this crisis, we are obligated to reach out to our current students more than ever, and we are being asked to encourage them to keep up and not give up, no matter what. We are being asked to be flexible with deadlines, provide top-notch feedback, while providing rigor with compassion and empathy. How can we do this? How do we manage the impossible?

If you would like to join this critical conversation on retaining our students in the time of Covid, please join the **Retention and Success Task Force, one that I like to affectionately refer to as the "¡A Huevo!" Task Force.**

I will send out a calendar invite in advance.

**The term ¡A Huevo! is a Mexican expression that encourages us to attempt the impossible, despite the challenges, cynicism, and failures. For example, question: "how are you going to climb Mount Everest wearing flip flops? answer: ¡A Huevo!*

ANNUAL PROGRAM REVIEW UPDATE (IMPORTANT CHANGE)

As we begin our work on our **annual Comprehensive Program Review**, we are required to report on what we are doing as a department to ensure that we are working on closing student equity gaps, incorporating culturally responsive curriculum and teaching practices, and on the implementation of Guided Pathways (all state-wide initiatives). We would like to invite everyone to participate in this process by focusing on these efforts in your course-level committees.

Course-Level Committee Chairs have been asked to engage in a robust discussion regarding the outcomes of CLO assessments, which were completed in fall 2020. **The ultimate goal is for each committee to create a reflection on the results and work on planning and coordinating action plans for each of the courses as we move forward into fall 2021. Our hope is to begin norming sessions in fall 2021 with an emphasis on norming in the time of distance education.**

We can also revisit our syllabi in order to ensure that we have included a culturally responsive curriculum throughout our disciplines. Please (1) review course outlines for recommended texts, for example, to include OER, and (2) review all submitted syllabi so that we are all up to speed on course objectives.



Course-Level Committee Updates

(Check our Speaking of English Canvas shell for meeting minutes, updates, syllabi, and more!)

"Speaking of English" is *not* on your Dashboard? Let Kevin or Patty know!

(OEI)

ONLINE EDUCATION INSTRUCTION UPDATE

Join us for online instruction workshops, updates, and discussions about teaching online. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend!

Meetings dates/times for the semester:

Tuesday, March 16th @ 12:10-1:30 pm

Tuesday, April 20th @ 12:10-1:30 pm

Tuesday, May 18th (if necessary)

Register in the [VRC](#) for flex!

ESL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Spring 2021 ESL committee meetings are as follows:

Thursday, March 11th (Guest: *President Roman!*)
Thursday, May 13th
From 12:10-1:30pm

Register in the [VRC](#) for Flex!

LITERATURE, 102, 103 HUMANITIES COMMITTEE UPDATE

As part of an effort to strengthen our English Major community, we invite you to participate in a new project: We will be highlighting profiles of professors, staff, current English majors, and alumni via social media and our department webpage.

To participate in the community project, please provide answers to interview questions [click here](#) and then email a photo of yourself to Professor Gleason [@gleasorl@elac.edu](mailto:gleasorl@elac.edu). Also, join us for our first annual [Alumni and College Representatives Panel for English Majors](#): Thursday, April 29 from 12 - 1:30 pm.
[English Major Career Panel: Wednesday, May 12 at 7 pm](#)

Our Committee Meeting Dates:

Tuesday, March 9th
Tuesday, April 13th
Tuesday, May 11th
from 12:10-1:30 pm

Register in the [VRC](#) for Flex!

READING COMMITTEE UPDATE

Please join us as we discuss results from CLOs and brainstorm ways to retain students in this new online platform. We will also collaborate to identify new ways to spread the word about reading courses. All are welcome and encouraged to join.

Our Spring meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday, March 9th
Tuesday, April 13th
Tuesday, May 11th
From 12:10-1:30pm

Register in the [VRC](#) for Flex!



ENGLISH 101/72 AND 100 COMMITTEE UPDATE

The English 72/100 committee will be meeting on the first Tuesday of the month during college hour. Please join us to share best practices and to discuss how to shape and strengthen these courses.

Meeting dates are as follows:

Tuesday, March 2nd

Tuesday, April 13th

Tuesday, May 4th

from 12:10- 1:30 pm

Register in the [VRC](#) for Flex!

ENGLISH 101 COMMITTEE

The English 101 Committee will be discussing best practices for teaching research skills, Guided Pathways, OER, and more! Contact [Krishana Hodgson-DeSilva @hodgsok@elac.edu](mailto:Krishana.Hodgson-DeSilva@hodgsok@elac.edu)

Our next meeting will be posted in the [VRC](#)!

INTRODUCING THE "OER TASK FORCE"

Join this new and innovative task force in promoting free textbooks and resources for faculty and students! If you are available to help prepare and present this initiative to different departments on campus. Contact Krishana@hodgsok@elac.edu for more details.

Monday, March 15th

Monday, April 19th

Monday, May 17th

from 12:10-1:30pm

Register in the [VRC](#) for Flex!



THE READING AND WRITING CENTER

The **Reading and Writing Center** and the **Modern Language Lab** have started the conversation about a new and innovative program to better-serve students by offering Directed Learning Activities created by faculty.

The idea is that *you* create exercises that are contextualized to what you are teaching; your students could then visit the virtual labs and complete the activity and then meet with a tutor who would ensure that the student has mastered the content. This win-win approach provides a more focused tutoring experience and helps to enhance the concepts you are teaching! To get involved in this project, contact [Gisela @herrergm@elac.edu](mailto:Gisela@herrergm@elac.edu).

For a list of weekly workshops and online tutoring appointments, students can visit their website:

<http://elacreadingwritingcenter.org/>

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(OER) OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES WORKSHOP!

10 MARCH

WEDNESDAY

10AM - 11:30AM

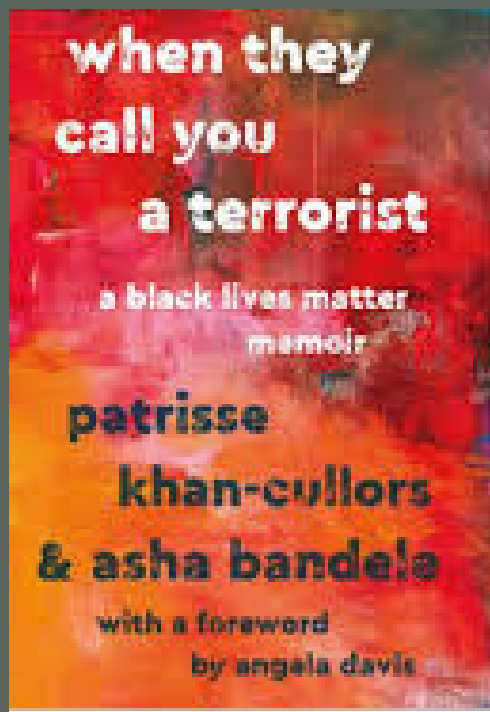
OER: KEEPING IT SIMPLE, PRACTICAL, AND EQUITABLE!

ARE YOU INTRIGUED ABOUT FINDING FREE MATERIALS FOR YOUR CANVAS SHELL AS A WAY TO MAKE YOUR COURSE MORE EQUITABLE? ARE YOU SHORT ON TIME? THIS WORKSHOP IS DESIGNED FOR PARTICIPANTS TO QUICKLY LOCATE OER IN THEIR DISCIPLINE WITH A TARGETED ONLINE SEARCH. IN THE PROCESS, PARTICIPANTS WILL GAIN CONFIDENCE IN FINDING MATERIALS AND TRANSFORMING THEM INTO A CANVAS PAGE AND ASSIGNMENT FOR THEIR CLASS.

PRESENTERS: MANDY CONCOFF KRONBECK, KRISHANA HODGSON-DESILVA, SARA BEHSETA, MARIA BETANCOURT

REGISTRATION LINK: [KEEPING IT SIMPLE RSVP](#)

ALSO, THE NEXT OER TASK FORCE MEETING IS MONDAY, MARCH 15TH FROM 12:15 – 1:30. IF FOLKS WANT TO BE ON THE EMAIL LIST, THEY CAN EMAIL ME: CONCOFME@ELAC.EDU



ONE BOOK ONE COLLEGE (OBOC)

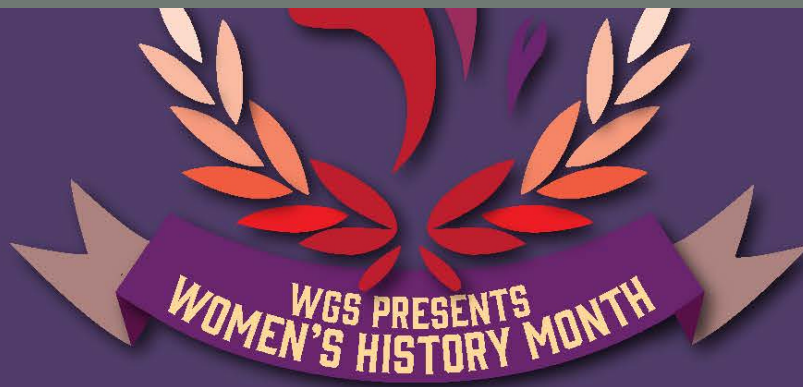
ONE BOOK, ONE COLLEGE (OBOC) IS CONTINUING THE 2020-2021 ACADEMIC YEAR WITH OUR CURRENT READ, *WHEN THEY CALL YOU A TERRORIST: A BLACK LIVES MATTER MEMOIR* (OR WTCYAT) BY PATRISSE CULLORS AND ASHA BANDELE.

THIS BOOK CONTINUES TO GARNER HIGH PRAISE FOR DRAWING THE NATION'S ATTENTION TO ISSUES OF SYSTEMIC RACISM, POLICE MISCONDUCT, AND THE STRUGGLES OF BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITIES WITHIN OPPRESSIVE SYSTEMS. PLEASE JOIN US IN READING AND SHARING ABOUT THIS TIMELY AND INSPIRING BOOK.

OBOC HAS ALSO ORGANIZED EVENTS FOR STUDENTS, STAFF, AND FACULTY WITH A SPECIAL CAMPUS TALK TO BE DELIVERED REMOTELY BY PATRISSE CULLORS IN *SPRING 2021, MARCH 19TH FROM 12-1* (SEE *WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH FLYER* BELOW).

WE WELCOME YOU TO JOIN THE CONVERSATION AND PARTICIPATE IN COMMUNITY BUILDING, FOR THE LIST OF EVENTS FOR FALL 2020, PLEASE VISIT THIS LINK TO THE OBOC PAGE:

[HTTPS://RESEARCHGUIDES.FLAC.EDU/ONEBOOK/2019#S-LG-BOX-21163296](https://researchguides.flac.edu/onebook/2019#S-LG-BOX-21163296)



3/2 Tuesday

10:30 am - 12 pm

Intersectionality and Feminism

Presenters: Barbara Dunsheath; Reanna G., Eileen, Tim snead, Joanna Flores

Join our Zoom meeting:

<http://bit.ly/wgs030221>

Track your training with the VRC:

<http://bit.ly/WGS-SP2021>

3/10 Wednesday

3:30 - 5 pm

Medical Racism: A Film Screening & Panel Discussion

Presenters: Melvin Donalson, Christine Cháirez Chandler, DNP, ANP-BC, FNP, RN; Director of Nursing & Chairperson East Los Angeles College

Join our Zoom meeting:

<http://bit.ly/wgs031021>

Track your training with the VRC:

<http://bit.ly/WGS-SP2021>

3/19 Friday

12 - 1 pm

When they Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Dialogue

Presenters: Patrisse Cullors

Welcome Remarks: President Roman, Marissa Castro-Salvati

3/25 Thursday

12 - 1:30 pm

A Migrant's Story by Renya Grande: A Panel Discussion

Presenters: Dr. Ilian Reyes, Renato Jimenez, Dr. Natalina Monteiro

Join our Zoom meeting:

<http://bit.ly/wgs032521>

Track your training with the VRC:

<http://bit.ly/WGS-SP2021>

3/30 Tuesday

12 - 1 pm

Sylvia Mendez: Fighting for Racial Equity and Social Justice Mendez v. Westminster School District (1947) Desegregation Case

Welcome Remarks: President Roman, Steven Veres, Gabriel Buelna

Register Here:

<http://bit.ly/townhall033021>

Track your training with the VRC:

<http://bit.ly/ElacTHSylviaMendez>



STAND

for

Mental Health Wellness

STAND is a virtual mental wellness program

ELAC will launch in early March. It is a collaboration between ELAC, UCLA, and the Department of Mental Health

Center your well being and join us

March 11

12:30 - 1:30

<https://laccd.zoom.us/j/6475587868>

Zoom Meeting ID: 971 7958 2421



EQUITY AUDIT DIALOGUES

SPRING & SUMMER:

FRIDAYS FROM 10:00 AM - NOON

MARCH 5

MARCH 26

APRIL 23

MAY 28

JUNE 25

JULY 23

This dialogue series will foster critical space for students, faculty, and staff to deepen our understanding of and commitment to anti-racist and equity-minded educational frameworks. We will work to build a campus culture that emphasizes education as a space rooted in empathy, allyship, solidarity, and empowerment.

For faculty/staff flex credit, register in the Vision Resource Center

<https://bit.ly/EquityAuditFlex>

If you have any questions, please contact Raeanna Gleason (gleasor1@elac.edu) or Eileen Ie (ieef@elac.edu)

East Los Angeles College Office of Professional Development, Academic Senate, & The President's Office

For disability accommodation requests, please contact: professionaldevelopment@elac.edu

MILESTONE

2021 Revival

Contact: tasakam@elac.edu

The annual literary journal of East Los Angeles College
since 1950.

Join other faculty, staff, & alumni as we celebrate the 75th
anniversary of East Los Angeles College & revive the
Milestone legacy with a special issue.



EAST LOS ANGELES COLLEGE
OUTREACH

ASK ME ANYTHING ZOOM SESSIONS

**SPEAK WITH CURRENT
ELAC STUDENTS TO
ANSWER YOUR
QUESTIONS ABOUT:**

- YOUR ELAC STUDENT PORTAL
- HOW TO APPLY
- FREE TUTORING
- SPRING 2021 EARLY COLLEGE PROGRAM COURSES

MONDAY-FRIDAY

2:00PM-4:00PM

 **SESSIONS EXCLUDE LACCD HOLIDAYS**



OPEN TO ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
ZOOM ID: 946 2689 7032



ELAC EDUCATION JUSTICE SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Our Purpose

ELAC Education Justice Scholars Program is committed to helping individuals in the community with a successful transition into academia after incarceration by providing reintegration services and a pathway to higher education through counseling, career guidance, and mentorship.

Upcoming Events

Feb 17th : Meet & Greet with Ed Justice Team

Feb 24th : CA General Elections Debrief: How do new CA measures impact currently and formerly incarcerated individuals?

March 3rd : Cal State LA Project Rebound Info Session

March 17th: Berkely Underground Scholars Info Session

April 7th : UCLA Center for Community College Partnerships Info Session

April 28th : Expungement Clinic

May 14: Education Justice Safe Zone Training

June 4th : End of Academic School Year Celebration

Contact Information

Please follow us on Instagram and webpage. There we will be uploading flyers with registration information to connect to all the events listed.

@educationjusticescholars
educationjustice.elac.edu

Lastly, feel free to call or email us for support! Contact information listed below.

Education Justice Scholars
Program
umanae@elac.edu | (213) 394-
2897





Andre Hamil
We help our MHN members get the support they need.

Your Employee Assistance Program

How can we help?

Life can be complicated. With MHN, getting help is easy.

Your EAP is here to help with life's many challenges. MHN provides the following services, paid for by your employer.

Problem-solving support

Call us for help with life's ups and downs. We're here 24/7 to connect or refer you to a professional who can help with:

- Marriage, family and relationship issues.
- Problems in the workplace.
- Stress, anxiety and sadness.
- Grief, loss or responses to traumatic events.
- Concerns about your use of alcohol or drugs.

When you call, you can speak with a clinician immediately. Or, you can make an appointment that works for you:

- **Face-to-face sessions** – Meet with a provider from our network (for example, a counselor, marriage and family therapist or psychologist) in his or her office. We can provide a referral when you call us. You can also search for a provider on our member website.

- **Phone or web-video consultations** – Private, easy-access support by phone or web-video, provided by one of our highly qualified staff clinicians or network providers.

Remember that EAP services are not medical care or mental health treatment of any kind. If, in the course of a consultation, clinical problems are suspected, including drug or alcohol problems, we will offer a referral to appropriate medical or mental health services.

Work and life services

Our experts can help you balance your work with your life! Call us for:

- **Childcare and eldercare assistance** – We'll find out what kind of help you need caring for children or elders in your life. Then we'll give you names and numbers of providers in your area.
- **Financial services** – Talk to an advisor over the phone about:
 - Budgeting
 - Credit and financial questions (investment advice, loans and bill payments not included)
 - Retirement planning



(continued)

- **Legal services** – Talk to a lawyer over the phone or face to face about:
 - Civil, consumer and criminal law
 - Personal and family law, including adoption, divorce and custody issues
 - Financial, tax or business matters
 - Real estate
 - Estate planning

- **Identity theft recovery services** – Speak with a certified consumer credit counselor. If there is a potential of ID theft, we'll connect you to an identity recovery specialist.

- **Daily living services** – Need help with errands? Planning an event or a vacation? We'll track down businesses and consultants for you. (MHN does not cover the cost nor guarantee delivery of vendors' services.)



Our member website can help with:

- Childcare and eldercare directories.
- Tips, tools and calculators to help you with finances, legal issues and retirement planning.

Health and wellness tools



Take charge of your well-being!
Living well isn't always easy,
but it's worth the effort.

Log into MHN's member website with your company code to get started. You'll find all sorts of health and wellness resources, including articles, videos and assessments.

Our wellness coaching services offer extra support when you're ready to change your life – helping you make a plan, and then offering the support you need to succeed. Just call us at the number below to get started.

This is just a summary. For details about services and eligibility, please contact MHN or your employer, or check your plan documents (such as an Evidence of Coverage booklet or Summary Plan Description).

Your privacy

EAP services are confidential. Your privacy is important to us, and it is protected by state and federal laws.

Need help?

Call toll-free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week: 1-800-327-0449

TTY/TDD callers, please dial 1-800-327-0801.

Or visit us at: mhn.advantageengagement.com

and register with the company code: laccd and pw: employee

You are entitled to 6 face-to-face sessions or telephonic or web-video consultations per incident, per calendar year.

We speak your language!

When you call MHN, free interpretation services are available in over 170 languages. We also contract with a vendor who can physically attend appointments with you, at no cost, if you need help communicating with doctors or other providers.

¡Hablamos su mismo idioma!

Cuando llame a MHN, podrá usar nuestros servicios de interpretación gratuitos en más de 170 idiomas. Además, contamos con proveedores contratados que pueden asistir en persona a las citas con usted, sin cargo alguno, en caso de que necesite ayuda para comunicarse con los médicos u otros proveedores.

我們說您的語言

您致電 MHN 時，我們可提供 170 多種語言的免費傳譯服務。我們還聘用了翻譯人員，如果您需要翻譯人員幫助您與醫生或其他醫療服務提供者進行交流，該翻譯人員可以與您一道參加約診，該服務為免費提供。