



COLLEGE CONNECT CHRONICLE

The Monthly Newsletter of College Connect

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MESSAGE FROM MEGAN

Happy December everyone!

Can you believe we are nearing the end of the Fall semester? We've been working hard and having so much fun along the way. College Connect is so proud of the dedication and accomplishments our students have experienced this year. The pandemic brought a lot of uncertainty and stress; it has been amazing to see all of you adjust to all the changes that came with it. We are so happy that things are slowly returning to normal. It allows us to have fun with each other during the holiday season! In the month of November, we saw a lot of you for our Cozy Movie Day, where we made pumpkin spice hot chocolate & watched The Greatest Showman. We also put together an amazing Friendsgiving gathering and were happy to see you all catching up with one another over lunch. Stay tuned for all of our amazing December outings and the return of Spirit Week! Congratulations on finishing another successful semester, can't wait to see what you all accomplish in the new year!



Sincerely,
Megan Genna
Mt. SAC/Cal Poly Pomona Campus Lead

COLLEGE CONNECT UPDATES

December 3, 2021: Pebble Painting & Decorating Party

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

In-person or via Zoom

December 10, 2021: Mini Canvas Painting

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

In-person or via Zoom

December 17, 2021: Holiday Movie Day

12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

In-person or via Zoom

December 13 - 22: Spirit Week

Click here for the [Spirit Week Flyer](#)



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Cerina



Cerina Moreno
Citrus College Student

College Connect Chronicle is pleased to introduce our December student spotlight, Cerina! Cerina is currently majoring in Pre-Allied Health/Nursing at Citrus College. Her goal is to receive her Associate's Degree in nursing and to help those in need. College Connect is proud to highlight Cerina's continuous academic and personal growth.

WHAT DOES COLLEGE CONNECT MEAN TO YOU?

"College Connect to me means that I am able to express myself around peers in any way I want to. I also can connect and receive help through my facilitators."

WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE MOMENT BEING IN COLLEGE CONNECT?

"My favorite moment about being in College Connect is being able to receive help when I need it and getting encouragement from my facilitators that I have been privileged to work with in the past semesters till now."

WHAT HAS LAST SEMESTER TAUGHT YOU?

"Last semester has taught me that no matter how many tough obstacles I go through in my personal life, does not mean I cannot pursue my future."

TEAM SPOTLIGHT

Salina Francis



Salina Francis
Student Facilitator

College Connect Chronicle is pleased to introduce our new student facilitator, Salina! Salina received her Bachelor's Degree in Sociology from California State University, Pomona. Salina has several years of experience working with students and children who are at risk within the educational domain. She has a passion for helping others reach their full potential.

WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR PROUDEST/FAVORITE MOMENT AT COLLEGE CONNECT SO FAR?

"My proudest moments would have to be when the students tell me that I am a big part of the reason why they are getting their grades up and they are starting to feel more confident."

WHAT ARE YOUR TOP 3 LIFE HIGHLIGHTS?

"My top three life highlights are having a baby, graduating with my bachelors degree, and traveling around the country."

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

"My hobbies are hiking around the area and the foothills such as Glendora, Claremont, Arcadia, Pasadena, Rancho, Chino. I like to read about anything and everything non-fiction, fiction, stories, biographies, fantasy."

WHAT IS SOMETHING MOST PEOPLE DO NOT KNOW ABOUT YOU?

"I am an adrenaline junkie, I love roller coasters, have gone jet skiing, parasailing, rock climbing, going on a slide through a shark tank, bungee jumping, zip lining, and want to do more."

5 WAYS TO GIVE BACK THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Find a Local Organization

Find a local food bank or shelter in need of helping hands and volunteer your time. If you feel comfortable, you can safely volunteer to package and distribute donations wearing a mask and gloves. If you don't feel comfortable volunteering in person, you can collect food or money donations from your friends and neighbors to contribute to the cause.

Donate to a Toy Drive Virtually

The Toys for Tots Foundation is holding a Virtual Toybox: Donate a Toy. Now you can shop, select and donate the perfect toy with the new Virtual Toy Box. Monetary donations are also accepted online on their website at toysfortots.org

Write Letters to Seniors

Write letters, create cards or send postcards to senior citizens living in elder care facilities who have had to self-isolate during the crisis. You can send as many letters as you'd like, making this an especially great opportunity for families. Visit lettersagainstisolation.com to get involved!

Help the Homeless

While others are enjoying the warmth and cheer of the holidays, there are people in your community who have no loved ones nearby and no food or shelter. Fill stockings with personal hygiene items, socks, hats, gloves, snacks and more to deliver to a local homeless shelter.

Random Acts of Kindness

A random act of kindness can be simple as paying for the coffee of the person behind you in the drive-thru lane. No matter the size or shape of your donation, you can make a difference in someone's life. Show your spirit of generosity and feel the positivity of the season with safe giving opportunities.



COLLEGE CONNECT

Holiday Traditions

Eating Christmas eve dinner and opening gifts at 12am

I watch the basketball games with my brother.

Watch a movie together on 12/25 in theatres.

Hanging out and eating special holiday food with my family.

As my tradition for the holidays, I go to Laguna each year to spend time with my family.

Once December starts, I also wear a festive Christmas sweater everyday until Christmas. Every year, I buy a new Christmas sweater to add to my growing collection.

I bake brownies with my family right before opening gifts.

I watch Christmas movies with my family. One of the movies is Home Alone.

My family and I visit Christmas Tree Lane to see all the houses decorated.

My family and I have a potluck, sing karaoke, and play games on Christmas Eve. We wait until midnight to celebrate Christmas.





[College Connect November Snapshot]

November was filled with so much fun, gratitude, and pumpkin spice! College Connect hosted a Pumpkin Spice and Movie Day, where students and staff made Pumpkin Spice Hot Chocolate drinks to enjoy while watching "The Greatest Showman". We also hosted our annual Friendsgiving, which was very exciting! Students and staff enjoyed turkey, mashed potatoes, and dessert together in a family-style set-up. Students also shared what they were grateful for and added their gratitude leaves to our gratitude tree. Students also enjoyed magic entertainment by one of our students. It was a fun-filled event where students were able to share laughter and fun together. Can't wait to celebrate December, as we have some festive activities planned to ring in some holiday cheer before the semester ends! Stay tuned!

THE COOKING CORNER

Peppermint Bark

Ingredients

- 8 ounces high-quality semisweet chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2 teaspoons canola oil, divided
- ½ teaspoon peppermint extract, divided
- 8 ounces high-quality white chocolate, broken into pieces
- 25 peppermint candies, crushed

Directions

1. Lightly grease a 9x9 inch pan and line with waxed paper, set aside.
2. Place the semisweet chocolate and 1 teaspoon of the canola oil in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula. Once melted, stir in 1/4 teaspoon of the peppermint extract.
3. Pour the melted chocolate into the prepared pan, and spread evenly over the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle half of the crushed peppermints over the chocolate layer. Refrigerate until completely hardened, about 1 hour.
4. Place the white chocolate and the remaining 1 teaspoon canola oil in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides. Once melted, stir in the remaining 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract.
5. Pour the white chocolate directly over the semisweet chocolate layer; spread evenly. Sprinkle the remaining crushed candy over the top and gently press in. Refrigerate until completely hardened. Remove from pan; break into small pieces to serve!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

New year Resolutions

The holiday season is almost here! College Connect Chronicle wants to know what your New Year Resolutions are. We will feature them in the next issue. Please submit to your student facilitator or to Jianne at oa@collegeconnectsupport.com

COLLEGE CONNECT INFORMATION

[Annual by the Numbers](#)

[College Connect Pop-up](#)

[College Connect Resource Guide](#)



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HAPPY
Holidays!

FROM COLLEGE CONNECT