Mission

The DRC assists students to maximize their potential and prepare for productive life after college. DRC services are individualized to aid each student’s independence, productivity and self-esteem. Services are provided to enhance students’ access to, and success in, all classes and activities offered at COS. The DRC supports the mission of COS through district community collaboration.

DRC Staff

Director
David Maciel

Counselor
Hunter Church-Gonzales

Adjunct Counselor
Maria Hamid

Learning Specialist
Kathleen Conway

Support Services Coordinator
Sharmeen Lakhani

Lab Coordinator
Melony Henson

Senior Secretary
Chanda Galvan-Deisman

Access Specialist
Wendi McLain

Test Proctor
Christy Maga

Lead Interpreter
Catrina Campbell Gates

Interpreters
Allison Brewer
Kristen Garner
Jamie Goerzen
Greg Lanson
Tracy May
Laura Murietta
Tyrone Norton
Michele Palmer
Darby Sanders
Mario Skidmore
Jessica Torres

DRC Student Testimonial-Elena Flores

I have been a COS student since 2008, when I embarked on my education to become a social worker. I am going to school to better my life and further my education.

I have been married to my high school sweetheart for over 18 years. We have three boys, aged 13, 16 and 20; I am also the proud grandma of two boys, ages 18 months and 2 years. My family is very important to me, and raising kids while going to school has been a challenge. In fact, I also help with my grandchildren as well. When my father was ill, I was the one who needed to ensure he took his medication and completed medical procedures.

The challenges are even more daunting as I contend with dyslexia while going through my classes. I must spend long hours working on my studies; in order to understand the reading material, and complete writing assignments, I must utilize adaptive computer technology. Dragon Naturally Speaking (a speech-to-text program) and Kurzweil (a text-to-speech program) allow me to accomplish the required school tasks that were once almost impossible. It is not unusual for me to require double time to complete quizzes and exams. Even though I can comprehend the concepts, the added time is needed so I can be sure I am reading the questions correctly - and using the right words when writing out my ideas.

One semester, I had to go several weeks without the adaptive computer technology on which I must rely. That experience made me realize that even though school is challenging, I can get through it with the right tools and enough time.

The Disability Resource Center has been very helpful during my time here at COS. With their help, I’ve had access to class notes, extra testing time with reader/scribe service, counseling, job coaching, computer technology and instructional support in the Learning Skills Lab. I’m doing better in school now than I ever have, and am confident that I will reach my goal.
Message from the Director

“Life is not a problem to be solved, but a reality to be experienced.”

~Soren Kierkegaard

Hello students! I hope the semester is going smoothly for you and that you’re on your way to reaching all of your goals. We in the DRC remain committed to providing you with accommodations and services that meet your unique needs. We hope that in some small way we are helping you experience an enjoyable educational journey. I realize that our resources may be insufficient to address all of your needs and that we may not be able to get you what you need as quickly as you would like. We are adjusting and adapting to reduced funding; consequently, we may not be as flexible as we have been in previous years. The new reality of the DRC has been to try to do more with less, that’s not always an easy task.

In our role as advocates we explore every possible resource available to us in order to provide you with the services that you need. Staff and I are involved in a number of campus and community committees. Our collective ears are open to learn about any opportunities to leverage more services for our students. I facilitate meetings with Directors of programs like the DRC from other colleges in our region to discuss improving our efficiencies and influencing decision makers. Recently, I sent you a letter informing you about an opportunity to meet with state legislators in Fresno and tell them about your story; your challenges, barriers that you encounter, and your triumphs. I hope you took advantage of the opportunity. Your voices speak with greater clarity than ours when it comes to expressing your needs. When you speak, people listen.

Recently the California Community College Chancellor’s Office, Disabled Students Program and Services awarded a contract to an organization to study the effects that reduced funding has had on students with disabilities and the programs that serve them. A survey will be distributed to community colleges throughout California in the near future. I will be sending you a notice when we find out when the surveys will be available. The survey will provide you with an opportunity to express the realities that you are currently experiencing. Please feel free to express your concerns about how we can improve services to you and what services and accommodations you feel are currently lacking from our department. Please speak out so that your voices can be heard.

Remember:

Your voices speak with greater clarity than ours when it comes to expressing your needs. When you speak, people listen.
Meet the Interpreters

The DRC provides accommodations and services that are designed to meet students' individual needs. Several of our students are deaf or experience severe hearing loss, many of these students benefit from American Sign Language Interpretation in order to communicate effectively and perform at their optimum. Under the guidance and leadership of Catrina Campbell Gates, Lead Interpreter, the DRC provides Interpreters throughout the district.

We appreciate the enthusiasm, flexibility, and commitment to professional growth that each of our Interpreters demonstrate. The team of Sign Language Interpreters at the College of the Sequoias is dedicated and passionate about providing the best services possible to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. Many of them are in the process studying for one of the following interpreting exams: National Interpreting Certification (NIC), Educational Interpreters Performance Assessment (EIPA) and the Educational Signing Skills Evaluation (ESSE). Here is a brief profile of the current array of Interpreters available to our students:

Allison Brewer has worked for the DRC since October, 2011. She is working toward certification in California as well as Texas.

Kristin Garner has worked for the DRC since September, 2011. She is currently studying to take the EIPA certification exam in March.

Jamie Goerzen began working for the DRC in September, 2011. She is planning to take the EIPA in the future. She took ASL 1-4 as well as well as the Interpreting class at COS.

Greg Lanson has worked for COS for two and a half years. He also has experience interpreting in the K-12 setting. He is working toward receiving EIPA certification in the future.

Tracy May has worked for COS since 2001. She also has experience in freelance interpreting in the community. Although she has worked for the DRC for several years, she continues to maintain her enthusiasm and commitment to the program.

Laura Murrieta has been employed with DRC since July, 2010. She will be completing her Bachelor of Arts Degree in May, and is planning to become certified in the near future.

Tyrone Norton has worked for the DRC for two years. He is working towards certification and has a goal to become certified in the next year.

Michele Palmer is planning to take a certification test in the future. She is currently a COS student taking ASL classes as well classes to receive a Spanish Interpreter Certificate.

Darby Sanders has been employed with DRC since 2004. She is a Level 4 ESSE nationally certified interpreter with more 25 years of interpreting experience in various venues such as: medical, educational, and community interpreting.

Mario Skidmore is enrolled in an interpreting class this semester, and is planning to take the ESSE certification exam in March. He would like to also become EIPA as well as the NIC certified in the future.

Jessica Torres has worked for the DRC since April, 2008. She is EIPA certified, and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Interpreting from California State University, Fresno.

WorkAbility III

Jennifer Laster is our WA III student highlight for our Spring 2012 Newsletter. Jennifer has been a participant of the program for the past 10 months and has successfully transitioned through the necessary steps for becoming an employable job candidate. Jennifer has received two degrees from College of the Sequoias in Child Development and Liberal Arts and has nine years of clerical experience. She has utilized the resources through the WorkAbility III program to create an impressive job portfolio, develop her interviewing skills and learn to market her extensive skills to potential employers. Jennifer was recently a highlighted speaker at the Visalia Rotary Club, where she had the opportunity to speak to a large audience about her impressive skill sets. Jennifer is looking to obtain a position where her proficiency with Microsoft Office, excellent phone etiquette, customer service skills and her nine years of clerical/receptionist experience can be best utilized.

If you would like to consider Jennifer for employment or an internship position please contact Maria Hamid, WA III Coordinator/Counselor (mariah@cos.edu) or Sharmeen Lakhani, WA III Job Developer (sharmeenl@cos.edu) at 730-3805.
Important Dates

**Spring 2012**

- **March 15, 2012**: Last Day to File for an Associate Degree for Spring 2012
- **March 23, 2012**: LAST DAY TO DROP CLASSES WITH A “W” ON TRANSCRIPT AND NO REFUND AT [www.cos.edu](http://www.cos.edu)
- **March 31, 2012**: Scholarship Deadline
- **April 2-6, 2012**: Spring Break – NO CLASSES
- **April 30, 2012**: 2012-13 Financial Aid Priority Deadline
- **May 18-24, 2012**: Spring Final Exams
- **May 24, 2012**: Commencement Ceremony
- **May 24, 2012**: Spring Semester Ends; Last Day to Make up Incomplete “I” Grades for Spring 2011

---

**DRC HOURS OF OPERATION**

**MAIN OFFICE**
Monday-Thursday
8:00am-4:30pm
(Open for lunch 12:00-1:00pm)
Fridays 8:00-12:00pm

**LEARNING SKILLS LAB**
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-3:00pm

**DRC TESTING CENTER**
Monday-Thursday
8:00am-1:00pm
By appt. only:
 Monday-Thursday
2:00pm-4:00pm
Friday
8:00am-12:00pm

---

**Important Dates-Spring 2012**

Here at COS, we have a variety of programs to help you with studies outside of the classroom. If you are struggling with any of your classes, a survey of the services listed below should help you identify where you may turn for help:

**Learning Skills (LS) Lab (Lodgepole, first floor, 737-6121)**
All students of the DRC have access to the LS Lab, where they may receive study skills training in the context of their current courses. Instructional Aides circulate among students in the lab, offering assistance as needed. Students who wish to enroll in the Instructional Support class (LS 308) may earn up to two units of credit for their participation in the lab along with study skills workshops offered by the learning specialist. (The class is also open to nondisabled students.)

**Tutorial Center (Lodgepole, first floor, 737-6211)**
The Tutorial Center is available to all COS students enrolled in the classes for which they need help. Small group (and, sometimes, one-on-one instruction) is available on a walk-in basis for math, English, biology, chemistry, geography, psychology and computers. Online math tutoring is also available on Saturdays from 10-2. **Test proctoring** is available for make-up exams.

**Writing Center (Lodgepole 209, second floor, 737-6157 or 730-3903**
One-on-one assistance is available to all enrolled COS students with any writing assignment at any stage of the writing process. Walk-ins are welcome, and appointments may be made.

**Math Lab (Lodgepole 122, first floor 730-3820)**
Math help is available to all COS students enrolled in a math or math-related class. Math instructors along with tutors assist students on a walk-in basis.

**MESA (John Muir 124)**
COS STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) major students receive walk-in tutoring for upper-level math, science and engineering courses; supplemental instruction for Math 154, 70, 75,76 and Chemistry 1 is also available.

---

College of the Sequoias Community College District Board of Trustees
Brent Calvin, Interim Superintendent/President

Kenneth Nunes  Lori Cardoza  Earl Mann  Greg Sherman  John A. Zumwalt  Jason Chau