

Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center

Fall 2019 Opening Report



September was an exciting month for the Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center. The center started off the academic year strong with the launch of both continuing and new leadership programs for the UC Merced campus community.

Leadership in Action



The Yosemite Leadership Program

The Yosemite Leadership Program (YLP) welcomed its newest cohort of 26 young leaders after a competitive application process. This 2-year leadership program is an innovative partnership with Yosemite National Park. The Souza Center also welcomed back 25 returning YLP students.

The photo above was taken during the 1st-year cohort retreat in Yosemite National Park, which took place on the weekend of September 14th.



2019 UC Merced Leadership Conference

The 2019 UC Merced Leadership Conference took place on Saturday, September 28th. The conference is hosted every year by the Margo F. Souza Leadership Center. This year, for the first time ever, the conference welcomed all alumni speakers back to campus to share their successes, and the challenges they overcame, to become the leaders they are today.

The Souza Center received an overwhelming positive response from students and staff attendees regarding the power of the alumni stories.



Leadership & Service LLC

The Leadership & Service Living Learning Community (LLC) is a collaboration of the Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center, the Community Engagement Center, and UC Merced's Residence Education unit.

On Saturday, August 26th the new cohort of 21 first-year students - all of whom self-selected into the LLC - attended a day-long leadership retreat at Lake Yosemite. The cohort had the opportunity to complete a service project for the park, as well as engage in self-reflection regarding the type of leader they hope to become during their time here at UC Merced.

Pictured above is one of our first-year LLC members, Maximus, participating in self-reflection during the Leadership & Service LLC Fall Retreat at Lake Yosemite.

Bobcat Leadership Series 1.0 & 2.0

Bobcat Leadership Series (BLS) 1.0 launched our Fall 2019 programming on September 18th with 26 new participants who are ready to explore the Social Change Model, and learn how to develop their strengths as leaders. The program is co-facilitated by the Souza Center's student staff member, Tamalyn Ya, a 4th-year student studying Applied Math, who contributes to the continued development of the BLS curriculum. BLS 2.0 has 11 student leaders enrolled, and will focus on servant leadership.

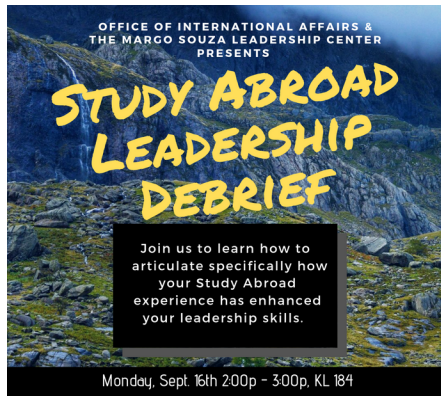


Souza Center Staff Update!

The Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center welcomed their newest staff member, Jess Evora (pictured left), who is the new Associate Director within the center. Jess is excited to be working with Jacob Croasdale (pictured right) who is continuing his second year as the Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center Coordinator. Tamalyn Ya has also rejoined in her second year as student staff for the center.

"It's time to reimagine the future through the eyes of our students."

- Margo F. Souza



Study Abroad Leadership Debrief

The Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center partnered with the Office of International Affairs at UC Merced for the first ever Study Abroad Leadership Debrief. During this program, students who had recently returned from studying abroad were provided the opportunity to discuss the various ways their experience abroad impacted their leadership development.

The students who participated in the Study Abroad Leadership Debrief had just returned from Study Abroad programs in various countries, including South Africa, Spain, New Zealand, and South Korea. During the debrief, the students explored a list of 21st Century Leadership Skills. The students shared that this was the first time they were able to discuss how their experience abroad has influenced their leadership development.

Student Success Internship Program

The Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center is excited to announce that center will be welcoming a Success Success Intern for the 2019-2020 academic year! The Equity in Leadership Student Success internship serves as a unique opportunity to address the racial disparities in leadership development that are often overlooked by most leadership programs.

The Equity in Leadership Intern will have the opportunity to research the intersection of Critical Race Theory and Leadership Development, and apply their research to develop a compilation of leadership development resources (both original & pre-existing) for UC Merced students and local youth-facing nonprofit organizations.

The Student Success Intern will play a large role in assisting the Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Center in fulfilling its goal to “create the future through the eyes of our students,” as Margo F. Souza once so-beautifully articulated in the creation of the center.

This project aligns with the UC Merced Division of Student Affairs Strategic Initiatives that aim to increase equity and access for student success. The project will also provide a much-needed resource for our diverse population of student leaders, as well as the overall Merced County community.

Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to review the Margo F. Souza Student Leadership Fall 2019 Opening Report.

Sincerely,
Your Staff of the Margo F. Souza Student Center