

Mentees

- David Olson



My name is David Olson and I am a Psychology major. I joined ASO MAPS in the semester of Spring 2016 as a mentee. I joined ASO MAPS because college was intimidating to me and I felt alone in the struggle of college. When I joined, I met many other students who have gone through some struggles I have. In MAPS I learned healthy study habits, how to schedule week's worth of work, and how to motivate myself as well as others. I plan on returning to ASO MAPS next semester as a mentor in hopes of motivating others to succeed.

- Vanessa Rios



My name is Vanessa Rios and I am a Biology major. After completing my first year at AVC feeling as if I didn't accomplish much as I would have liked and was still confused about my major, I was in dire search of a way to fully utilize my college experience and take advantage of the many resources it had to offer in order to make sure I was in the right path to graduate. MAPS became that missing link for me when I joined in the beginning of my second year in Fall 2015. Not only was I able to become more involved and social at the college thanks to the program, I was paired with an amazing mentor who would advice me on the courses of action I needed to take every time I felt nervous about my progress in a certain class. Every meeting I was left feeling confident in my ability to ace my classes. Looking back, it feels like a long time ago that I was that nervous student who had just taken her first steps at becoming involved at the school when I attended the program's orientation, but now I jump at the chance when an opportunity arises to become more involved. I completed my first semester in MAPS with the best grades I had received at the college so far, and I

plan on becoming a mentor next semester. The program, in all, was a stepping stone in the right direction I took to become a better student. Now, my time left at the college no longer seems like a daunting task I need to complete like it once had.

Mentors

- Alejandro Mendoza



My name is Alejandro Mendoza and I am a Political Science major at AVC. Within my studies at Antelope Valley College, I often found it difficult to get involved in the student activities available on campus. This was largely due to my somewhat disorienting transitional experience upon first arriving to AVC. As I grew as a student of Antelope Valley College, however, I found myself with much knowledge that I had gained from my various classes and experiences on campus. With this new knowledge, I found myself wanting to contribute to students that perhaps felt somewhat lost in their college experience, as I was upon enrolling. ASO MAPS provided the opportunity for me to become a mentor and share the knowledge and experience gained while at AVC. Upon becoming a mentor in Fall of 2015, ASO MAPS allowed me to grow as a student and leader through its ability to challenge me in helping others grow. As a Political Science major, planning to one day practice law, I know that the growth that ASO MAPS has allowed me to foster in others, and has fostered in me, will allow me to help others in my future profession. I plan to transfer this spring of 2016.

- Pedro Rodriguez



Hello, my name is Pedro Esteban Rodriguez-Ortiz, I am working on a double major that I really enjoy which are Mathematics and Computer Engineering. In the ASO MAPS program, I was a Mentee, but now became a Mentor and will continue on this great program to become an Executive Board Member. I joined since the Fall semester of 2015 and wish to continue until my graduation of Fall semester of 2017.

Now that you know a bit about me, I will tell you why I became involved in the MAPS program. The reason is for the Mission statement of the ASO MAPS Program.

Which states, "The purpose of this program is to promote a successful academic and collegiate experience to students who wish to reach their full potential by setting attainable goals. This will be achieved through help from students who are walking the same path through an intensive student mentorship program that will encourage students to transfer, graduate or earn a certificate."

In my personal experience in the MAPS Program has been Unbelievable so far and I envision the rest of my journey in this program as an Executive Board Member to continue the Mission statement of the program and spread the experience to others until my graduation of Fall semester of 2017. Thank you.

Executive Board Members

- Kristi Vivian



Hello everyone, my name is Kristi Vivian, I am a Sociology major here at Antelope Valley College who has been a part of the MAPS community for the last year. I have been able to serve this wonderful program as both a Mentor as well as on the Executive Board over the Behavioral &

Social Sciences Department. I joined MAPS in the Fall semester of 2015 for the main purpose of assisting others to stay on track and keep their schooling a priority.

It was not until I had destroyed my life and was in the process of rebuilding it found that education would be the cornerstone to my new found freedom. I was 36 when I returned to college and desperately needed the guidance that the MAPS program offered but had yet to be developed at that time

When I heard about the program I immediately wanted to be a part of something that could help guide and assist other people to stay on track and to never give up despite the obstacles that get in their way. Not to mention being able to reach out to to all ages and identify with their struggles.

I look forward to finishing up my last semester with the MAPS program in the Spring semester of 2016 and transferring to further my education the following Fall.

- Megan Do



My name is Megan Do and I am a Biological Science major. From the moment I started community college, I have always had the passion to become a role model for my peers. I saw that the students around me were struggling and lost, but I also saw that those students have the potential to become more successful. And so, in the spring of 2015, I was given the opportunity to be part of a peer mentorship program, ASO MAPS. As a mentor, and the Secretary for the program, I was able to help students within my major. The mentorship program was aimed to encourage mentees to set and attain goals; however, as a mentor, I believe I was able to encourage myself more than I was encouraging my mentees. Becoming a mentor gave me a stronger desire and enthusiasm to absorb new knowledge and it also gave me a more bright and hopeful attitude to encourage me to succeed. As a mentor, I am more experienced and more eager to share those experiences with others, but I am also searching for opportunities to broaden my own capabilities. Through my mentorship process, I learned that I am the mentor and the mentee. I am someone that can guide my mentees and craft their map to success, but I am also in the process of crafting my own map to success as I transfer to a four-year university this Fall 2016, thanks to all the support that ASO MAPS has given me.

- Karla Vazquez



Hi everyone! My name is Karla Vazquez and I am a Business Administration major. I have been the Vice Coordinator of Academics for both the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters. I began my journey in the MAPS Program in the Spring of 2015 when I joined as a Mentor after hearing about this opportunity through an Honors program email. I was instantly intrigued by the goal of the program because I have always been passionate about helping other people because I know that everyone has the ability to succeed if they have the necessary tools and resources.

When I came to AVC, I had to learn about a lot of the school's resources on my own and I was intimidated by the experience. I wished that I had someone to help me along my path. I wanted to help people who were struggling in the same way that I once was. After joining MAPS, I was able to help many different people from all walks of life who wanted to achieve more than what they currently have. I believe that everyone has the ability to become successful and I want to help facilitate that path in any way that I can. MAPS has been such a satisfying experience for me because I was able to help my fellow peers and become more active in my community. By helping others, I have learned so much more about myself and I have met so many great people that I will never forget. I plan on continuing that learning experience so I can continue to help others when I transfer to a four-year university in the Fall of 2016.

- Alex Moon



Hello AVC! My name is Alex Moon. I am the co-founder and Program Coordinator for MAPS. I am also a Mentor for the program. I started at AVC in Spring 2012, although I have to admit that I was not the most dedicated student when I started AVC. I was going to school without a clear goal. However, When I joined Alpha Iota and Associated Student Government, my perspective as a student changed completely. I was able to be surrounded by many students who are inspiring, motivative, and successful at reaching their goals. These student leaders were striving to become doctors, scientists, politicians and to serve in many

other career fields to make a positive impact for the community. I realized that If my friends could do it, then I could do it too and I wanted to become like them.

As I am transferring to a four-year university, I am proud to say that I have achieved my goal here at AVC. The ingredients to become a successful student are being around people who are striving for success and the right resources in my hand. That's why MAPS was created. I believe if I can become a better student, that tells me that anyone can become a good student and achieve their dreams. I strongly encourage you to join the MAPS program and start your success story today. Our peer mentor who is assigned to help you will walk by your side. I want to close this by saying that you are not alone at AVC. We are here to help. Please let us guide you this following semester!

