

Child, Family, & Education Studies Department  
Annual Advisory Council Meeting  
February 26, 2026  
12:00PM



Attendees:

Amanda Andrade (CFES Department Chair).  
Angelica Toledo (CFES Department Dean)  
Alicia Mendiola (CFES Department Professor)  
Brigette Thompson (CFES Department Professor)  
Kay Manning (CFES Department Professor)  
Lacey Evangelista (CFES Department Professor)  
Janice Velazquez (CFES Department Professor)  
Michelle Benjamin (CFES Department Professor).  
Nancy Duran (CFES Department Professor)  
Rokey Rahman (CFES Department Professor)  
Alexandra Chanax (CFES Department Secretary)  
Marsie Mendibles (CFES Department Instructional Aide)  
Aimee Arreygue (CSUDH).  
Ancelma Sanchez (CDCLA, Program Director).  
Anna Ruiz (Next Up Program).  
Frances Avila  
Daniela Aguilar (Grace Lino Children's Center. CDCLA)  
David London  
Dr. L Erika Saito (UMass Global)  
Elizabeth Gallion (CDCLA, Associate Program Director)  
Erin Ashley (UMass Global)  
Evelin Hernandez (Los Angeles County Child Development, Director).  
Graciela Ceja (Independent Childcare Owner)  
Jessica Hernandez (VivaPlay)  
Jocelyn Barboza (Quality Career Coach- Options for Learning).  
Joni Meyers (CELA)

Marcia Cagigas (ELAC CDC)

Monica Rollins (Rooted A Wellness Collective).

Norma Amezcua (MAOF).

Sai Raj Kappari (Experience Senior Living, Executive Director)

Sarai Vasquez (Woodcraft Rangers, TRLA).

### **Introductions**

Amanda Andrade, the department chair, welcomes attendees to the Child Family and Education Studies (CFES) advisory meeting for the Spring 2026 semester. Introduction of full-time faculty and staff.

### **Child Family and Education Studies Department Updates**

Amanda discussed our CFES disciplines including the Child development, Education and Family & Consumer Studies disciplines. All current certificates and specialties were reviewed and discussed.

Introduction to a new course under the Family and Consumer Studies discipline, Financial Literacy. (FAM &CS 088): Will use this to count for the LACCD General Education in Math requirement, hopefully also in Dual Enrollment as well

Updates of certificates from skills certificates to certificates of Achievements. All certificates will also be updated to align to CTC permits: More discussion later in the meeting

Data Analysis: Fall 25 semester CFES served 3,918 students in our courses with an average of 32 students per class. Bots are more controlled now with ID me and no-pay drop policy.

Special Programs CFES is offering:

- Apprenticeship Program (CAI Grant) with Woodcraft Rangers
- Accelerated Program (Finish in 2 years online) in the 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort, now with recent high school graduates.
- Contract Education with 3 community partners to enhance education and meet Permit requirements/PK-3 Credential requirements

Building CFES Lab tutoring and workshop capacity

Collaboration with Allied Health, Kinesiology, ASL and other departments

Serving our Spanish-speaking community (LOTE) with 2-3 courses per semester, recently asked to expand to Mandarin

Practicum Handbook

### **ELAC College Updates**

Permanent President Named: Monte Perez: Very supportive of our endeavors

New Strategic Plan approved with four themes: Welcome, Engage, Empower, and Transform. (2025-2030)

ID ME and No pay drop policy has equalized a lot of bot enrollment activity

Navigating the AI atmosphere with Agentic AI while using it for teaching and learning support.

Southeast Campus is set to complete in the next 12 months with a 3-story state of the art building in the South Gate community.

### **Certificates Updates – Collecting Feedback and Buy In**

Early Childhood Administrator – Aligned to Site Supervisor current status: New name

Children with Special Needs – Updated to a Certificate of Achievement Status

Early Childhood Education Specialization in Dual Language Learning – New program to support Dual Language Classrooms – includes 2 levels of language as requested by this committee

PK-3 Teacher Prep Certificate – Collection of appropriate classes to meet the 24 units needed for PK-3 credentialing

Nutrition, Health and Wellness – New program combining FAM &CS, Kinesiology and Health for a Certificate of Achievement

Family Childcare Provider – updating to Childcare Business Management with BUSI/Management courses as well as CAOT along with CH DEV core courses

Early Childhood Educator 1- New name from Associate Teacher 1 with the same courses required

Amanda called for changes or objections – hearing none this was approved.

### **CFES Lab Services Overview**

Marsie provides an overview of the CFES lab's activities and services. The lab offers tutoring, workshops, and resources for students, including flexible hours and online options.

Workshops have changed to evening and later times both in person and via zoom. Workshops will be in two languages.

They host events like a Culturally Responsive Children Book Club and lesson plan workshops to build community and support students.

PlayLab will support students with CTC permits in multiple languages.

### **Amanda Outlines Academic Year Focus**

Changing Certificates to be certificates to be Certificates of Achievement and align with new Permit Requirements

Growing Nutrition and Financial Literacy offerings

Providing more courses in LOTE (Spanish and Mandarin)

Navigating Faculty and Staff retirements

Creating a safe space for students in the current political climate

Student workers and student workers continue to support students.

### **Advisory Board Suggestions: Hearing From the Group**

Expanded Learning Certificate

Student tutors are essential to partners due to peer-to-peer mentorship and essential services for student success.

Southeast Campus will need childcare due to no Child Development Center on campus.

Advisory suggested using Crystal Stairs, MAOF, Ceja Family private daycare, Vista village, and other partner sites.

Marcia invites partners to refer students and the community to ELAC CDC for student employment. Reach out to [cdc@elac.edu](mailto:cdc@elac.edu) for more information

Challenging Behaviors concerns and coursework offerings as an emerging topic. How is ELAC going to equip their future teachers better? Our department currently offers a certificate for Children with Special Needs. Marsie has hosted workshops on this topic. We are currently working on a list of competencies that students will need to be successful teachers.

The ELAC CDC also provides ECHO parenting and workshops.

Our Dean also noted that we will now focus on challenging behaviors per advisory council request.

The advisory council suggested that the CH DEV 048 course be offered again after being archived some time ago.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00PM.