

MARINA MOMENTS



Newsletter Issue No. 3, December 2021

,\$[FNAME]Customer[Guest]\$, welcome to Marina Moments, the official newsletter of the Marina Education Center!

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Vaccine Mandate Goes Into Effect Starting in Spring 2022

Beginning with the Spring 2022 Semester, all students are required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 per [MPC's Communicable Disease Policy](#).

If you are not already vaccinated, we strongly urge you to start the process NOW. The latest you can receive the first dose and meet this requirement is December 17, 2021.

MPC will be holding a [pop-up vaccine clinic](#) on December 8 from 10 am-2 pm at our Marina campus. COVID-19 vaccines are FREE and the first 100 students to receive the vaccine at this event will get a \$100 gift card!!

You can also schedule an appointment at [My Turn - California COVID-19 Vaccine Scheduling & Notifications](#). In addition, lists of Monterey County Vaccination sites are available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). If you need help, contact MPC Student Health Services (SHS) at 831-646-4017.

More information will be provided in the next few weeks regarding:

- How and when to submit your proof of vaccination
- How to request an exemption for medical or religious purposes, if applicable
- What happens if you fail to show proof or request an exemption by the deadline

Please continue to check your email regularly for important updates. We also recommend you follow us on social media ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#)) and keep an eye on the COVID Vaccine page on our website: www.mpc.edu/vaccine for information and resources.

Spring 2022 Registration

Dear MEC Campus Community,

Spring Registration has Started!

Priority Registration for Spring 2022 started Monday, November 15.

Here is some important information for Spring 2022:

- All students are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 (See below for more information)
- [Priority Registration](#): November 15 - November 29 (Check when you can register in [WebReg](#) or on the web page linked above)
- Open Registration: begins November 29, 2022
- Early Spring Classes: January 3 - January 20, 2022
- Spring Classes: January 21 - May 27, 2022

The sooner you register, the better your chances of getting the courses/sections you want!

Starfish Survey

This semester MPC launched the [Starfish Student Success Network](#) and we're excited about its adoption across the college. As we continue to expand our Starfish system, we want to hear from you!

Your feedback is important to shaping how we develop and use Starfish at MPC. Did you send or receive a flag, a kudos, or a referral? If so, click the link below to tell us about your experience. What works for you? What suggestions do you have for improvement?

[Complete the Starfish Survey!](#)

New Marina Education Center Team Staff

Engage, Promote, Connect (EPC) Title V Grant



Carla Becerra
Work Based Learning Coordinator

Carla is a recent hire at Monterey Peninsula College. For three years she worked for the city of Salinas. She is a former CSUMB alumni member. During her time at CSUMB she was a Peer Mentor for the TRiO Program which is where she found passion for higher education. She is excited to help MPC students develop their educational and career goals as well as empower them to excel during and after their time at MPC.

Teacher Credentialing Partnership Pilot Program (TCPPP)

Nancy Gonzalez Reyes
Categorical Services Coordinator



Nancy Gonzalez Reyes is the Categorical Services Coordinator for the Teacher Credentialing Partnership Pilot Program, a collaboration between MPC and CSUMB to diminish the teacher deficit in our community. Previously, Nancy worked in K-12 as a Para-Educator and as a Residential Counselor in the Salinas Union High School District and Hollister, respectively. Her administrative experience sprouted in Hartnell College and UC Santa Cruz, where she studied History, Psychology, and Education and worked in the Office of Student Life and the Writing Program. She followed her newly sparked interests in helping students of all ages navigate necessary resources for their academic success and learning more about deficits in the education field through her undergraduate research in K-12 Bilingual Education and Political Propaganda. Nancy aims to use the knowledge acquired through the vast fields she has worked in to help prospective teachers obtain their credentials and make a difference in our community's future generations. In addition to her passion for education, Nancy enjoys hiking the outdoors and relaxing with her doggo Yoyo.

Faculty Spotlight



Monika Bell

Faculty
Medical Assisting

What do you teach at the Marina Education Center and how long have you been with Monterey Peninsula College?

Ten years ago, I started working at MPC as the Medical Assisting Department Coordinator. I've been teaching academic and clinical courses in Monterey and Marina since then, some online and some in person.

What do you like most about teaching at the Marina Education Center (MEC)?

I like the quiet setting and ample parking space. Our classroom feels like home to our students and myself. The staff is very supportive as well.

What drew you towards or inspired you to work in your field?

I stumbled into nursing back in Germany many years ago when an aunt referred me to a nursing apprenticeship at a mid-sized hospital where she worked. After moving to the US, I raised a family and worked as a CNA for several years. When I had the chance to attend college, I decided to become a medical assistant. I love that profession, and I feel very honored and privileged to teach prospective medical assistants all they need to know to be successful.

When you're not working, how do you like to spend your free time?/What is an interesting or fun fact about yourself?

I love cats. I also enjoy crafts, cooking, painting and listening to music.

How have you adapted your curriculum and teaching methods to support students who are learning from home?

It is always challenging to make lectures interesting and engaging – whether they are delivered online or in person. Tools like videos, quizzes and questioning are helpful in breaking up dense material. Online teaching increased the need for very clear electronic communications and instructions. It is great that MPC offers a wealth of support service to online students, and the online help team is very responsive.

What is the most impactful piece of advice you ever received in relation to your expertise and field of study?

In my first job as a medical assistant, the person who trained me told me to always 'keep the rooms full' – meaning to keep the doctor busy seeing patients. Time management is very important in a busy medical office. Another mentor taught me to be empathetic but efficient. She always put her patients first, which I have strived to do as well.

What would you like students to know about you and what advice do you have for students interested in taking your course(s) and/or taking classes at the MEC?

Medical assisting is a great way to explore career options in health care. The best thing to do is to see a counselor before enrolling in courses. Be assured that all MEDA courses offer relevant material, and all of it is important. Our programs are intense but interesting and fun.

Student Activities & Resources

Upcoming MEC Activities

- **Student Health Services Office Hours**
 - Walk-Ins: Thursday, December 9th, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, MA-104
- **Resume Workshop**
 - In-Person, December 2nd, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, MA-403 ([RSVP](#))
 - Via Zoom, December 2nd, 2:30 - 3:30 pm ([RSVP](#))
- **Pop-Up Clinic: COVID-19 Vaccines, Boosters, and Flu Shots**
 - December 8th, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
 - **COVID vaccines are FREE and the first 100 students to receive the vaccine will get a \$100 gift card!!**

[MEC Event Calendar](#)

Brain Teaser

**What has no hands but might knock on your door, and
if it does you better open up?**

Issue No. 2, September 2021 Newsletter Answer: The number 8

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