

# NISTS 2022

FROM MOMENT TO MOVEMENT: SHAPING THE FUTURE OF TRANSFER  
FEBRUARY 2-4 | ST. LOUIS • FEBRUARY 23-24 | VIRTUAL

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## *Educational Session*

### **2390 - Promoting Access, Equity, and Completion through the Programming of Equity-Focused Transfer University Tours**

Diversity and Inclusion, Leadership and Strategic Planning

In 2020, Mt. San Antonio College's Transfer Center received the College President's Excellence & Innovation in Teaching and Learning through Outcomes Assessment Award for successfully restructuring their annual Northern California University Tours aimed at achieving equitable student outcomes. Join this session to learn about how to structure university tours that can remove financial barriers to explore transfer options, develop a sense of belonging in higher education, and support transfer success among historically underrepresented students.

**Lupita Jimenez**, *Transfer Specialist & Adjunct Counselor*

**Alana Bachor**, *Counseling Faculty*

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Mt. San Antonio College



NAVIGATING THE ROAD TO TRANSFER SUCCESS:  
PROMOTING ACCESS, EQUITY, AND COMPLETION THROUGH  
THE PROGRAMMING OF EQUITY-FOCUSED TRANSFER  
UNIVERSITY TOURS

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF TRANSFER STUDENTS CONFERENCE 2022

# CURRENT TRANSFER STATE OF MT. SAC

- Mt. San Antonio College (Mt. SAC) is one of the largest public community colleges in California.
- Located in Walnut, CA, 30 miles east of Downtown Los Angeles, serving a diverse student body and being federally designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI).

## AMONG CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES, MT. SAC RANKS:

- #1 IN IN-STATE-PRIVATE TRANSFERS
- #1 IN OUT-OF-STATE TRANSFERS
- #2 IN CSU TRANSFERS
- #7 IN UC TRANSFERS

## EQUITY GAPS TO BE ADDRESSED:

- HISPANIC/LATINO MALES
- NATIVE HAWAIIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER FEMALES
- AMERICAN INDIAN/ALASKA NATIVE FEMALES
- FOSTER YOUTH FEMALES
- FOSTER YOUTH MALES



## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Empowering Mt. SAC students who often fall in the equity gap to persist through the transfer journey by exposing them to viable transfer options that they might have not considered before due to socio-economic barriers.



## ABOUT MT. SAC'S NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY TOURS

This program is an annual three-day and two-night trip coordinated by the Transfer Center during the fall semester to provide students exposure to out-of-the-area transfer options.

- > **Campuses visited:** San Francisco State University, UC Berkeley, UC Davis, and UC Santa Cruz with overnight stays in the San Francisco area.
- > **Students served:** an average of 45 students each year.
- > **Program activities:** Transfer 101 Orientation, Transfer Talks, UC Personal Insight Question (PIQ) review, general campus tours, admissions presentations, alumni panels, and personal time for students at each campus to visit specific academic departments of interest, specialized student programs, or to explore the surrounding area of the campus.
- > **Sources of Funding:** Student Services, Associated Students, and Student Equity funds.
- > **Accommodations:** Three daily meals, transportation, lodging, and sweatshirt uniforms.



# REVAMPING THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA UNIVERSITY TOURS

Using a student equity lens in support of Mt. SAC's Strategic Plan Goal 5: Ensure Access, Equity & Completion, in fall 2017, the annual Northern California University Tours were restructured aiming to increase diversity and participation of students who fall in the student equity gap in transfer rates at Mt. SAC (e.g. firstgeneration, low-income, Latinx, etc.).

## Steps taken to revamp the current program in place:

- (1) clear student learning outcomes (SLO) were developed,
- (2) application and selection criteria were revamped,
- (3) student equity funds were requested and received,
- (4) program curriculum/schedule was adjusted to align with SLO's, and
- (5) the annual survey was restructured to assess program effectiveness and improve the program curriculum every year as needed.

**Recipient of Mt. SAC's President's Award:** Excellence and Innovation in Teaching and Learning through Outcomes Assessment

# STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES



## SLO#1: Remove financial barriers to explore transfer options.

*"I really pushed myself to make this trip happen for myself after I got accepted into it. I made sure to ask for days off at both by jobs, work extra hours the week before, and even used sick pay for the days I was gone. I also made sure to do my homework prior to leaving. I knew that if I didn't go on this trip where hotel, meals, and transportation were paid, I would most likely not be able to afford to do a trip on my own. Also, with college applications and my date of transfer coming soon, I knew I had to save up to move out in the first place and visiting these campuses would be out of the question on my own."*

*– (NCUT 2019 Participant)*

## SLO#2: Develop a sense of belonging in higher education.

*"[...] seeing those on the panel really gave hope to being able to transfer there as well. Seeing someone who was in our place once and is now where they are is really reassuring [...]" – (NCT 2019 Participant)*

## SLO#3: Support student persistence through the transfer process.

*I honestly was so confused about the whole transfer process and attending this clarified all my questions. It made me so excited to transfer." – (NCT 2019 Participant)*

Transfer Center will help you prepare to transfer through workshops, activities, events, and advising.

### TRANSFER TIPS:

#### Explore four-year colleges and universities

- Check out internet resources to research potential colleges, majors and more!
- Explore our transfer resource library and computer lab.

#### Understand the transfer process

- Attend workshops applying to universities, writing personal statements, UC Transfer Admission Guarantees (TAGs), and more.
- Get help with one-on-one transfer advising and assistance.

#### Get out there

- Participate in university tours to visit campuses that interest you. We visit Southern California universities as well as offer yearly overnight trips to visit Northern California universities such as UC Berkeley.

#### Connect with university representatives

- Make an appointment with university representatives to learn more about your desired transfer institutions.
- Attend college fairs held throughout the fall and spring semesters.

#### Celebrate transfer success

- Attend the annual Transfer Achievement Celebration held in late spring specifically for transferring students.
- Be featured on the Transfer Hall of Fame wall.



UC Davis  
UC Berkeley  
San Francisco State Uni.  
UC Santa Cruz  
Mt. San Antonio College



**MT. SAC**  
Mt. San Antonio College  
TRANSFER CENTER

 Student Services  
Building 9B  
2nd Floor

 Monday - Thursday  
8:00 AM - 7:00 PM  
Friday  
8:00 A.M. - 4:30 PM

 (909) 274-6388

 [ctc@mtsac.edu](mailto:ctc@mtsac.edu)

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**UNIVERSITY TOURS**  
Next Stop: Transfer

Mt. San Antonio College Transfer Center

# ITINERARY FALL 2020



MT. SAC  
Mt. San Antonio College



# Day One



TIME	ACTIVITY
5:30 AM	Meet at Mt. SAC (Lot S) on Bonita Drive (south of Temple; near building 23)
1:00 PM	Lunch
2:45 PM	Arrive at UC Santa Cruz and Tour Campus
3:00 PM	UCSC Admissions Presentation
3:45 PM	Tour UCSC
4:45 PM	Explore UCSC
5:15 PM	Depart UCSC Campus
7:30 PM	Check-in at Embassy Suites Hotel
8:00 PM	Dinner
9:00 PM	Transfer Talks and/or UC PIQ Review (Optional)



UC Santa Cruz



# Day Two

TIME	ACTIVITY
6:00 AM	Breakfast Available at Hotel
7:15 AM	Depart for UC Berkeley
8:45 AM	Arrive at UC Berkeley
9:00 AM	Presentation at UC Berkeley
9:45 AM	Mountie Transfer Alumni Panel
10:15 AM	Explore UC Berkeley
11:00 AM	Lunch at UC Berkeley
11:30 AM	Tour UC Berkeley
1:15 PM	Depart for SFSU
2:45 PM	Arrive at San Francisco State University.
3:00 PM	Tour SFSU
4:00 PM	Mountie Transfer Alumni Panel & Explore SFSU
4:45 PM	Depart SFSU
5:30 PM	(Tentative) Golden Gate Bridge Excursion
6:15 PM	Depart for Dinner (Your Selection) at Pier 39
9:30 PM	Return to Hotel



San Francisco



# Day Three

TIME	ACTIVITY
7:30 AM	Breakfast available at hotel
8:00 AM	Check out at hotel/Depart for UC Davis
9:45 AM	Arrive at UC Davis
10:00 AM	UC Davis Admissions Presentation and Tour
11:30 AM	Mountie Transfer Alumni Panel
12:00 PM	Explore UC Davis and Lunch (Your Selection)
12:45 PM	Depart UC Davis for Mt. SAC
TBA	Rest Stops
6:30 PM	Dinner
9:00 PM	Arrive @ Mt. SAC (estimated)



UC Berkeley



## STUDENT TRANSFER OUTCOMES

*“Again, I cannot thank you all enough for this opportunity. Prior to this trip, I’ve felt incredibly lost in the transfer process and in the overwhelming amount of decisions needed to be made, while simultaneously feeling trapped in the major I’ve been working on. This trip has offered real guidance, insight, and open options I thought were closed. Thank you!”*

**–Northern California University Tours, 2019 Participant**

# COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT

Upon returning from the trip, students are emailed a survey to rate their experience with the trip and assess the impact it had in their transfer journey. The questions in the survey are formulated to yield both quantitative and qualitative data to assess and plan future trips.



91.09% OF STUDENTS TRANSFERRED BETWEEN 2018–2020

What we know:

- Exposure matters
- Representation matters
- Counter-storytelling matters

Therefore:

- Continue to allocate the necessary resources to holistically support students on this trip.
  - Food and housing insecurity, lack of access to warm clothing, transportation, etc. need to be taken into account.
  - Being selected to participate is not enough; selected students need reassurance that all financial expenses will be covered in order to securely explore transfer options.
- Continue to adjust program curriculum based on the needs of the participating student populations.



# ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS

The Power of Counter-Storytelling

# Geovanna Castillo



**First-Generation  
College Student**

**UC Davis Class of 2021**

**B.A. Psychology;  
B.A. Chicax Studies;  
Minor: Education**

## Mountie Transfer Alumni Spotlight

“ If it was not for the North Cal trip, I wouldn’t have had the opportunity to visit UC Davis. I would have missed out on this great opportunity that I am experiencing. This trip really solidified and narrowed down the campus I wanted to attend and made transferring less hectic! I definitely vouch for continuing this amazing opportunity because not many students are fortunate enough to visit North Cal or expand their options because of limitations. This definitely allows students to expand their options and get to feel if the campus is right for them before they transfer. I believe this North Cal trip is essential for many students. Now as an alumni volunteer, this past North Cal tour really helped me narrow down my future career goal. It allowed me to also share my experience with other students and make them feel more comfortable with their decision. I remember when I toured the campus; we didn’t have as many Mt. SAC alumni. There was only one. This past year we had more than 5, and that is because we were able to attend this opportunity.”



# Daniel Garcia



## Mountie Transfer Alumni Spotlight

“As a Mt. SAC student, the tour helped me tremendously in exploring universities that I did not even know existed or ever thought about attending. It provided me with essential information in transferring procedures and it opened up a world of opportunities by seeing how other Mt. SAC students were able to attend and thrive at the institution. As an Alumni volunteer, I wanted to be supportive of this initiative because I wanted my peers to see how amazing my university is, so I served as a tour guide for the last two years. I loved sharing my experience with my Mt. SAC students because I was the first undocumented student to attend my university, UC Santa Cruz in about 5 years, and my journey has led to others also exploring this amazing university and we are creating a pathway for students. It has taught me that I have an incredible network of support at Mt. SAC and that I will always be here for my fellow Mounties.”

**First-Generation College Graduate**

**UC Santa Cruz Class of 2020**

**B.A. Politics, Latin American and Latino Studies**

## Mountie Transfer Alumni Spotlight



# Rogelio Medrano



**First-Generation  
College Graduate**

**UC Berkeley Class of 2019**

**B.A. Sociology;  
Minor: Education**

“

Although I was unable to be selected as a participant for the NorCal trip, I volunteered as a tour guide and arranged student panels for the students visiting from Mt. SAC because I understood the need for these students to also see themselves at institutions like UC Berkeley. With my experience volunteering as a tour guide and arranging student panels for the past 3 years, I have gained personal growth in reinforcing my passion for work in higher education.

It has allowed me to have professional growth as well as maintaining that connectedness to my Mt.SAC family that supported me as a student. Connecting with current students and

connecting with those that helped me while at Mt. SAC always grounds me to the work I want to do. Mt. SAC is a very special place to me because it allowed me to grow as a student, as a leader and helped me get to UC Berkeley, and I wanted to continue supporting and empowering other students with the same aspirations of transferring and obtaining their B.A. I think that Alumni facilitating tours, panels, and any other discussions for current Mt. SAC students allows those current students to see that it is possible for them to transfer to these universities, too. I think it also shows them that as Alumni we care about them and their future endeavors. It is important for Mt. SAC to empower their students to transfer and for those students to eventually empower other future transfers that are in the same place that they were once in.”

”

## Mountie Transfer Alumni Spotlight



**Tatiana Orellana**

**First-Generation College Student**

**San Francisco State University  
Class of 2021**

**B.A. Psychology**

“**W**hen I went on the tour, I never imagined to fall in love with the SF State campus. After we visited all of them, I felt more connected to that campus than the other ones because it reminded me of Mt.SAC, where I made many great relationships. I wanted to transfer to an institution where I would feel safe and at home, and I was able to find that this was the institution for me thanks to the NorCal Tours. Without this tour, I probably would not have transferred here because I did not have the resources to go on a tour of these campuses on my own,

and I know many students are in situations similar to mine. This is a great opportunity to expand the mountie family to other places

besides SoCal and allows students to envision themselves in places where they might have thought impossible. Mt.SAC has such a diverse community of students, but many of them do not have the opportunities to explore on their own so when the college provides these opportunities, it makes them feel appreciated and cared for. In fall 2019, I participated as an alumni panelist, and it definitely made me grow professionally. Before this panel, I had only participated in one, but this one helped me build confidence in myself and my decisions. After this, I was more willing to share my experience with others and have now participated in four different panels at SF State. It also helped me connect to other mounties on my campus and expanded my network.”





## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This revamping of the Northern California University Tours was done using the following theories, concepts and literature in mind:

- Hierarchy of Needs Theory (Maslow, 1943)
- Challenge and Support Theory (Sanford, 1962)
- Counter-Storytelling (Solorzano & Yosso, 2002)
- Marginality and Mattering Theory (Schlossberg, 1989)
- Seven Vectors of Student Development Theory (Chickering and Reisser, 1993)
- Student Involvement Theory (Astin, 1984)
- Theory of Student Departure (Tinto, 1993)
- Transfer Receptive Culture (Jain, Melendez, and Herrera, 2020)
- Transfer Sending Culture (Ornelas, 2002)
- Validation Theory (Rendon, 1994)



**THANKS!**

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**Any questions?**

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