

Mother's Comfort Room opens

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New Mother's Comfort Room is now available to students and staff members on campus, it is designed for the sole use of new mothers.

On Sept. 29 Miya Walker, director of College Relations and Public Affairs said, "The idea for the Mother's Comfort Room came from Maria del Carmen-Lizarraga, Administrative Clerk II, Technology.

"Carmen-Lizarraga participated in the President's Falcon Leadership Academy last year. As part of the Academy's final project, each participant was asked to address any area of campus it wanted to improve and provide a solution."

Walker added, "Carmen-Lizarraga's project was originally called, 'Location Room,' to provide new mothers with a safe, private place to breast feed and care for their babies. Her project was among the top-three.

"The district adopted the idea as a way to increase accommodations for new mothers and developed the Mother's Comfort Room. It will be an added support service for staff and students."

She added that the Mother's Comfort Room gives mothers an opportunity to determine and meet their own needs in a safe, private place.

"The district is providing assistance in the form of a private room for new mothers to use," Walker said.

Sarah Pirtle, Multimedia Production specialist, is a new mother and came back from maternity leave on Sept. 19 when the New Mother's Comfort Room was already available.

She said she had the opportunity to use the New Mother's Comfort Room and she loves it and it's super private.

Pirtle said, "14 years ago, when I had my first kid there was nothing like that available, it was always in the bathroom."

She said, "Take advantage of this it's a great opportunity, the room is nice and I encourage the new mothers to come and use it."

She added that a small refrigerator will be put in for the babies' milk and other resources.

Alejandra Guzman, administration of justice major, thought it was a really good idea for new mothers.

"The fact that previously they have to use the bathroom, which is not the best place to be trying to feed their baby, it's a very intimate private moment and it's not the best place," she said.

Anita Rios, assistant from Vice President of Student Services Stephen B. Johnson said, "Johnson is part of the New Mother's Comfort Room and in decorating it he will be adding a few more things to the room.

"At this moment it can only be open with someone who has access to open the room with a key," she said.

Rios also said later on a key lock for a keypad door will be added and for students and staff to be able to have access to the code and go in they will have to fill in a form.

Speech language and pathology assistance major Andrea Macapagal was unaware of the New Mother's Comfort Room.

"I think it's great, there are many students on campus who are new mothers and for them to be able to have a private room with her baby is good," she said.



LIZETTE SAINZ/TM

Absorbing valuable information: Sociology major, Taylor Harden was one of the 12 students who attended the Enterprise-Rent-a-Car workshop. She was interested in obtaining more detailed information in how to present yourself at an interview and what to take with you.

Students in awe at Enterprise Workshop

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Enterprise Rent-A-Car was founded in 1957 and is now the largest car rental company in North America, 12 students attended the workshop, a few of them were engaged by asking questions about the information provided.

Enterprise Rent-A-Car workshop took place on Oct. 18 from 11 a.m. to noon in LC 217.

The representative from Talent Acquisition Manager Southern California Airport Susie Arellano-Reed has worked for the company for 17 years.

Students like business major Alexis Diaz said, "It was informative, it showed me a lot of possibilities that I can look into now, as a newbie or looking at when I graduated with a major."

She said, "It opened my eyes and I'm going to go online and looking into more options."

Sociology major Taylor Harden said, "I loved it, it was very informative. It let me know there's a lot of opportunities and growth in the business, I appreciated that. It allowed me to know I can continue to go to school, get a job and [the potential to escalate on different positions within time."

Engineering major Bernardo Portillo said, "I thought it was a good presentation, very informative, I learned a lot from the company, [found out] it's not just to a rent a car."

Each market, branch, and position pays differently.

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- Full-time National branch full time will start at \$10.90

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Arellano-Reed said, "You want just a job? Good, work it, but work it because you never know for how long you'll be working for the company, and maybe from just a job it might turn into your career."

"Southern California offers what is called customer service bonus, \$300 where every one within that airport market will get paid every month as long as each reaches a 90 percent and over."

Arellano-Reed added, "For students who were unable to attend this workshop, you should definitely reach out to Career Services here on campus to gather that information as well."

For further information you can contact:

Arellano-Reed, www.enterpriseholdings.com

424-223-6900, 424-223-6895, 310-817-8307

Counselor Career Services Clara Ross-Jones,

Located at the MPB - room 201 or 562-860-2451 Ext.

2356



LIZETTE SAINZ/TM

Listening attentively: Enterprise Rent-A-Car workshop was presented by Talent Acquisition Manager Susie Arellano-Reed. Students who assisted were engaged with the information that was provided.

A history on immigration and citizenship policies

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An audience comprised of staff and students were present in the Teleconference Center to receive an in-depth explanation of the AB-540 program and the evolution of citizenship policies throughout the history of the United States.

The event was held on Oct. 13 and the audience listened while the guest speaker for the workshop, Dr. Elena Macias, presented a Power Point about the main purpose of the AB-540 program and also discussed past policies and laws that have been either detrimental or beneficial to both documented and undocumented immigrants.

The assembly bill program allows undocumented students, who meet the necessary specific criteria, the ability to pay for in-state tuition for community colleges and universities in California ultimately allowing these students to attend said institutions.

Some of the criteria for eligibility includes the following:

- The applicant must have been enrolled and attended a California high school and attained academic credits for a minimum of three years
- Must have also attended a California elementary or middle school for a minimum of three years
- Must have attained a high school diploma or GED

For students who are currently at a non-legal citizenship status, the applicant must have filed an affidavit with a higher education institution notifying that he or she has already filed to legalize citizenship status.

Students can apply for the AB-540 program simply by filling out the assembly bill form which is available at the Cerritos College Admissions and Records website then filing the form with the Admissions and Records Office here on campus.

However, according to statistics presented

by Dr. Macias, it states that the amount of returning and current applicants for the AB-540 program has decreased quite considerably in the past school year.

Macias ascertains that this is due to the stigma that is attached with being an undocumented immigrant in the United States and the fear of being outed as such and ultimately deported.

He states what is needed to be done by staff and students and what must be taken into consideration in order to ensure a safe environment for undocumented students.

"We need to understand the biases that have influenced immigration policies since the 1800s such as exclusion, racism, fear, ignorance and the more recent criminalization of immigrants," he said.

Macias went on to say that faculty and staff is capable of creating a safe environment and squashing a campus climate that may be intimidating for undocumented students by acknowledging the AB-540 program and comprehending that undocumented students

have the right to an education and are here to stay.

AB-540 and Puente Counselor Rosa Carrillo stated possible future plans for the program and Cerritos campus, "We would like to have a resource center for students to feel safe and get answers for any questions that they may have."



<http://ab540.com/>