

SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT THE CONNECT CENTER 2018 -2019

The SCUSD **Connect Center**, located at the Serna Center's Genesis campus, is a centralized youth and family resource center that serves as a "gateway" to critical support services for students and families in our school district. It offers an innovative solution to addressing the health, wellness and educational needs of SCUSD's children, youth and families. This central hub is designed to increase coordination of services by providing a single, easily identifiable point of access and assistance to address the social, emotional, and health needs of all students.



THE CONNECT CENTER CREW



Hello there! My name is Nichole C. Wofford and I am the manager of the Connect Center. I am a licensed marriage family therapist (LMFT), a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and now, a doctoral student in clinical social work at Smith College. I have worked for the district since 2011! I am originally from the SF Bay Area, and in my spare time I enjoy reading, going to movies, playing with my three adorable dogs and traveling around the world. A little-known fact about me is that I am an Afro-Cuban drummer who studied music in Cuba!

Hi, I am Theresa Tavianini. I am a School Social Worker with the Connect Center. I assess the needs of students who are referred to us, and assist families with obtaining counseling and other support services in the community. I have worked for the district and the Student Support and Health Services department since 2000. In my spare time, I support the choral and theater endeavors of our two young adult sons, do a bit of gardening, and enjoy cycling with my husband in and around Sacramento and the Northern California area.



Saludos! My name is Laura Magaña and I am the Student and Family Support Specialist at the Connect Center. I am a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) and have a background in providing direct service to children and families in a therapeutic setting. I have been with the district full time since April 2018. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my 5-year-old son, my husband, and our boxer mix, Joey. I enjoy reading, camping, and cooking.

Hello! I'm Steph Buffington, Youth & Family Mental Health Advocate for the Connect Center. I graduated from Sac State with a B.A. in Social Work and a Minor in Women's Studies. I was lucky enough to intern with the Connect Center last school year, and to join the team as a full-time staff person for the year ahead. I'm grateful for the chance to provide support to schools, families, and students throughout the district, especially for our queer and transgender youth. In my free time I enjoy artistic expression, starting multiple craft projects at once, and going on adventures all around the world, leaving behind a trail of glitter and confetti.



Hi! My name is Vanessa Petty and I am a Youth and Family Mental Health Advocate at the Connect Center. I recently graduated from Sacramento State with my B.A. in Social Work and had the privilege of interning at several Student Support Centers throughout SCUSD. I am passionate about advocating for youth and their overall wellbeing, and look forward to working alongside their families throughout the community. When I'm not at the Connect Center, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, teaching dance, attending local theater/comedy/music events, and have recently begun playing roller derby.

Hola! My name is Marily Velasco and I am a BSW student and Social Work intern as well as a Youth and Family Mental Health Advocate at the Connect Center. I'm here to assist families with health insurance enrollment for their students and I am thrilled to have the opportunity to potentially make an impact on the lives of children, youth, and families in the community. I am an intellect enthusiast, I love to learn and believe that knowledge is power! In my spare time, which tends to be minimal... I like to walk my dog, craft, and spend time with with my husband and three children.



Hi my name is Saemoni Butler, but I love to go by the nickname of Shay. I am a BSW student intern at the Connect Center. As a student who is still learning and enhancing new found skills, I am thrilled to be here. I look forward to serving families, as it is my life goal to give back to the community. When I'm not dreaming of making the world a better place I am watching reruns of the Simpsons as it is my all-time favorite show. I'm looking forward to growing as a professional with the aid of each of you.



Hello, Hola, Oi! My name is Marcos Seide and I am a BSW Intern at the Connect Center. I am currently in my last year as an undergrad at Sacramento State, majoring in Social Work with minors in Criminal Justice and Art Education. I plan to continue my studies at Sac State, pursuing my graduate degree starting next year, hopefully. In my spare time, I love to listen to music, travel, play with my cats, and spend time with family and friends. Fun Fact About Me: English is actually my third language; I am fluent in Spanish and able to speak/understand some Brazilian Portuguese.



Hello, my name is Mattie Hogan and I'm a BSW intern at the Connect Center. I am a senior at Sacramento State University studying Social Work. In my free time I enjoy reading, crafting and attempting to exercise. I look forward to working with the students and families of Sacramento City Unified School District.



Hi! My name is Maria Garcia Garcia and I am a first year MSW graduate student at California State University, Sacramento. I serve as a Social Work intern at the Connect Center. My passion is to help enhance and promote the wellbeing of children and families by addressing their social, emotional, and health needs. I believe it is important to create access to resources for the community. I am excited to work with families and youth, and keep learning in the field of social work. Self-care is very important to me, so I make time to work out, hang out with friends, attend community events, and explore nature. I also like to do yoga and travel.



Hello, my name is MaGilla the Connect Center Mascot Gorilla. My role at the Connect Center is to inspire, listen, and bring comfort to the weary. The staff at the Connect Center know that I'm an eater! I love bananas, banana pudding, and banana cream pie. I also enjoy being a fashion icon with a multitude of clever, yet chic buttons. I have been known to allow selfies from time to time, but only from my good side! Lastly, in my spare time you can find me advocating and pounding my chest for equality.

