

## **STATEMENT FROM SCROGGINS TO CAMPUS #1**

**December 1, 2022**

**Email subject line:** Statement from President Scroggins on Death of Employee

Dear Mounties,

It is with deep sorrow that I share with the Mt. San Antonio College community that we have lost one of our campus's shining lights: Ralph Barragan.

Ralph died Thursday morning after being struck by a car outside of Building 9A. Los Angeles County Sheriffs are investigating the incident, including the possibility it was an intentional act. We will provide updates as more information is available. This is as tragic a situation as we can imagine on our campus. Our hearts and sincere condolences go out to Ralph's family and countless friends.

Ralph was 63 years old. He began working as a tram driver for ACCESS (disabled students program) in July 2007. He joined us after a 23-year career as a bus driver for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. He was responsible for transporting students with disabilities to all parts of the college. Ralph was highly visible on campus, gracious, popular and respected.

Vice President of Student Services Audrey Yamagata-Noji hired Ralph and remembers him with fondness: “Everyone knew Ralph. He was always smiling, greeting staff and students by their names, and befriending everyone he met. We are shocked and saddened by his passing. He will be missed, but never forgotten.”

The ACCESS Office was closed today and will remain closed tomorrow as we process this tragedy. For the students we serve, our ACCESS phone lines are still being answered and alternate drivers are providing students continued support.

Counseling and support services are available to all members of the community.

- The Student Health Center offers short-term mental health counseling to current students. Students can call **(909) 274-4400 and press option 2** or go to one of the clinics in Building 67B or 9E for assistance.
- The Employee Counseling Center (ECC) provides short-term counseling to Mt. SAC employees. Schedule a time to connect with a Mental Health Clinician by calling **(909) 274-6211** or emailing [employeecounselingcenter@mtsac.edu](mailto:employeecounselingcenter@mtsac.edu).
- Student Health also put together information about [Grief and Loss](#) as well as [Tips for Coping with Trauma](#) as a resource for the campus.

This a heartbreaking time for the entire campus community. A death on our campus and among our Mt. SAC family affects us all deeply. Let's pause to remember Ralph and his sincere kindness and boundless warmth. In the days ahead, please reach out to one another to offer strength and support and seek help if you need it.

Sincerely,

Bill

William T. Scroggins, Ph.D.

President, Mt. San Antonio College