

## STATEMENT FROM SCROGGINS TO CAMPUS #2

December 2, 2022

### **Email subject line:** Statement from President Scroggins on Arrest of Suspect

Dear Mt. SAC Family,

I wanted to share with you the most recent update regarding the tragic death of Mt. SAC ACCESS tram driver, Ralph Barragan. We have just learned that Los Angeles County Sheriff's investigators have made an arrest. James E. Milliken was arrested on suspicion of murder. Investigators believe he intentionally hit Ralph with his car on Thursday morning.

James was a former college employee, working as a part-time driver for the ACCESS department from October 2016 until he resigned in September 2021. Out of respect for Ralph and his family, as well as to support the criminal investigation, we are unable to share additional details.

Losing Ralph has been heartbreaking for our campus community. The circumstances of his passing are additionally painful. Many of you may have strong feelings regarding the tragedy. We want to assure you that we are doing all things possible to provide support and assistance at this time. As a reminder, counseling and support services are available to all members of the Mt. SAC 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.

The ACCESS Office remained closed Friday, giving the team space to process this tragedy. For the students we serve, assistance in receiving ACCESS support services are being covered by existing resources and personnel from within Student Services. Phone lines are being answered, testing accommodations services are ongoing and alternate drivers are providing students with mobility assistance.

The campus as a whole remains open, providing an opportunity for our students and employees to utilize services, come together and search for healing. While our college is open and classes are in session, it is *not* business as usual. We will need each other's strength and support as we mourn the loss of a great man and make sense of a tragedy. A memorial to Ralph will be set up beginning Monday, December 5, 2022, at the west end of the Student Services Center (9B) for those who may want to come by to pay respects or leave a remembrance. You may need to take time for yourself and try different ways to cope and seek healing. In the coming days and months, please reach out for assistance if you need it.

Sincerely,

Bill

William T. Scroggins, Ph.D.

President, Mt. San Antonio College