**Celebrating 100 Episodes with Student Voices**

00:00:00 **Student**

Life changes. You know, life can be good one minute and then difficult the other, but you got to keep going. No matter what, Mt. SAC is here for you.

00:00:09 **Christina**

Hi, I'm Christina Barsi.

00:00:10 **Sun**

And I'm Sun Ezzell, and you're listening to the Magic Mountie Podcast.

00:00:13 **Christina**

Our mission is to find ways to keep your ear to the ground - so to speak, by bringing to you the activities and events you may not have time to attend, the resources on campus you might want to know more about, the interesting things your colleagues are creating, and the many ways we can continue to better help and guide our students.

00:00:31 **Sun**

We bring to you the voices of Mt. SAC, from the classroom to completion.

00:00:35 **Speaker 1**

And I know I'm going to achieve my goals, and I know people here are going to help me to do it.

00:00:46 **Speaker 2**

She is a sociology major and she's transferring to Cal Poly, Pamona! Psychology major, English major ...

00:00:47 **Sun**

From transforming part-time into full - time-

00:00:49 **Speaker 1**

I really liked the time that we spent with Julie about how to write a CV and a cover letter.

00:00:56 **Christina**

Or just finding time to soak in the campus.

00:00:58 **Speaker 1**

To think of the natural environment around us as a library.

00:01:01 **Christina**

We want to keep you informed and connected to all things Mt. SAC. But most importantly, we want to keep you connected with each other. I'm Christina Barsi, Mt. SAC alumni, and producer of this podcast.

00:01:12 **Sun**

And I'm Sun Ezzell, Learning Assistance Faculty and Professional Learning Academy Coordinator.

00:01:17 **Christina**

And this is the Magic Mountie Podcast.

00:01:24 **Christina**

Hi, this is Christina Barsi here, and we have a very special show for you today. In honor of our 100th release, we've created a compilation of some of our favorite episodes that feature the students of Mt. SAC.

00:01:37 **Christina**

From veterans to bus riders, from summer school hustlers to Catalina Island speech hikers, from the Pride Center to ACES and the DREAM Program, we bring a fun and touching overview of the last 100 episodes of those voices that speak to the Mt. SAC experience best; the students.

00:01:59 **Student**

One of the dancers in the dance department and she's going to sing the National Anthem for us in honor of 911.

00:02:07 **Student**

Oh, say can you see by the dawn’s early light, what so proudly we hailed at the twilight’s last gleaming, whose broad stripes and bright stars thru the perilous fight, O’er the ramparts we watched were so gallantly streaming, and the rocket’s red glare, the bombs bursting in air, gave proof through the night that our flag was still there. Oh, say does that star-spangled banner yet wave, O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

00:03:34 **Student**

When I hear someone say, "I can do it," I'm like, "No, I'm going to do it." Like not I'm going to try, but I'm going to do it.

00:03:39 **Student**

I think as a student, you have to be emotionally and mentally prepared to not take a break and just keep going, because we barely got a break between the spring and the summer. I think we got like four days. And I was telling somebody this yesterday, and it's crazy - I was saying, I'm so tired and I only got a four-day break and everybody else going to the beach, having a great time. And you can't really do that if you're working and taking the summer classes. It's a little hard, but it's going to be worth it once you transfer and achieve all your goals; it's how I feel about it.

00:04:06 **Student**

If I'm working, I can't study as much. But also, like I need to pay my bills at the end of the month. So, it's like, it's a big trade-off now.

00:04:14 **Student**

But I found that balance now where I could see like, yes, I need the money to save pay from it. But also, it's like experience at the end of the day. And also, I get to help students right here in the ACES program where students are like very shy to come forth with their disabilities. And many people don't want to. And they don't want many people to know what they're dealing with.

00:04:35 **Student**

We're actually sharing the same troubles with you. Like, "Oh God, I have a test. I'm going to feel some sort of anxiety or I haven't studied enough." We understand those feelings.

00:04:45 **Student**

For this semester, I've been coming probably about four to five times a day, like for each stay. And I'll spend about four to five hours. They have accommodations that more than usually when I'll be at home because they have like [Carswell 00:05:05], which they read it to me and then I just listen to it because I have a hard time trying to read the words because of my dyslexia. So, that's a great program they have here, which if I had at home, I would have to pay and I can't really afford that.

00:05:20 **Student**

I'm a student here. I'm a biology major, and I'm finishing up my year at ACCES, helping out students with disabilities, as well as veterans for their studies.

00:05:30 **Student**

I really like teaching and I wanted to move away from a conventional tutoring style. So, I applied here because I got an email from Honors. I thought it would be a great opportunity to not only teach other populations rather than just the STEM Center or at our math tutoring place, but to support students with disabilities, and to challenge myself to explore different types of ways to teach people.

00:05:58 **Eric**

My name's Eric Dunham, I am utilizing my post 911 GI Bill. I'm still active in the California Army National Guard. I have soon, 24 years of service. I am going to ETS in 2020.

00:06:14 **Interviewer**

Well, thanks for your service. So, what has the center meant to you as part of your educational experience?

00:06:21 **Eric**

Pretty much everything. They've helped me know how to get my funding, how to get my classes. We have a dedicated counselor so that we have access to him when we need him. So, they've been outstanding in facilitating how to go to school.

00:06:44 **Interviewer**

What would you like faculty to know about how to support you or other veterans in the classroom or otherwise?

00:06:51 **Eric**

Just let them know that we're here and they'll probably feel at home because the vets usually feel more at home with other vets.

00:07:02 **Interviewer**

Do your teachers know about this facility, you think?

00:07:06 **Eric**

No. Actually, in my speech class in the winter, I actually gave a tour to the class and a lot of them found it interesting and most of them knew somebody that could use it.

00:07:19 **Angela**

My name is Angela Munoz, and I'm a student here at Mt. SAC. I was in the Marine Corps, I was the E-4 corporal. I was in telecom, so I was a field wireman.

00:07:29 **Interviewer**

So, what has this center meant to you as part of that journey?

00:07:32 **Angela**

Oh, it's awesome. I mean, like it's really nice, it's really helpful. Like everyone's friendly and yeah, it's computers, printers, tutors - they have a lounge area, movies are always going, counselors are right here, it's really helpful, I love it.

00:07:52 **Interviewer**

Did you have any challenges when you came back to school that you experienced that you think were different than most students would experience?

00:07:58 **Angela**

I don't know, I would think like challenges like coming from the military, getting back to being a civilian and then for me, like I'm married and I have two kids, so it's trying to juggle like home life, work-life, bills, responsibilities.

00:08:20 **Interviewer**

So, is there anything you think that teachers do that is especially helpful in supporting a student like you?

00:08:27 **Angela**

I think just talking about it, just recognizing it because not a lot of teachers, from my classes that I've been in, they don't have a whole lot of experience with service members. So, I just think maybe like in their syllabuses, they should say, "Hey if you're a prior service member and if you want to talk to me off to the side, don't be shy." Because I don't know, I feel like maybe they're intimidated, maybe. I don't know.

00:08:56 **Interviewer**

So, are there a lot of women who use the center or is it mostly men? And do you feel totally cool about being a female using the center?

00:09:03 **Angela**

Well, I mean, I know that there are some females here, but I mean for the most part, yeah, it is mainly males. Like everyone's friendly. I guess you can say it's like being back in the service, like friendly faces, like everyone picking on each other and little comments that I don't think I'm able to say right now.

00:09:27 **Student**

People who take the bus have like - it's time out of their day and it's like more work, I guess. I'm not going to say like as an excuse, but it does take time from like being at home and studying.

00:09:38 **Student**

You don't have to worry about the parking. That's one thing. It's a lot cheaper than gas and everything. It's a lot cheaper than having to put gas in. Actually, it's better for the environment for one thing. Not all these people are driving to school. So, yeah, it's a lot better.

00:09:55 **Student**

At times the bus is late or you missed a bus by a couple of minutes, and it's hard for me really because missing the bus as you see, I have a cane and everything. So, when I miss the bus, I got to wait for a little bit longer and it's a little harder, but it's alright.

00:10:10 **Michael**

My name is Michael, I'm going home. Actually, I just moved down from San Francisco where I used to use just public transportation. Everybody drives here, everybody has a car. Lyft on average to get anywhere would be about 20 bucks like in this area. Whereas in San Francisco, I could take Lyft for maybe like five bucks and I could take the train, I could take the bus. There's so many alternatives to get around.

00:10:42 **Michael**

Down here, I could take the bus maybe to the train to get into LA, but you're still looking at a good amount of walking. Typically, I ride my bike but the tire just went out on me.

00:10:59 **Student**

Just not having to stress so much when traveling so far. It's 42 miles for me each way. And so, on a good day with no traffic, it's about an hour and a half. And on a bad day, it could be three hours. It may be a little bit longer to take the bus, but at least that two hours of not having to be high stress, stop, and go, it really helps me at least in class.

00:11:26 **Alejandro**

My name is Alejandro Gonzalez and we are in Catalina Island.

00:11:28 **Interviewer**

And we're hiking. Have you ever hiked before?

00:11:31 **Alejandro**

I have, but not recently. The last time I hiked was like two years ago.

00:11:35 **Interviewer**

So, we just did a hill, it was pretty brutal.

00:11:38 **Student**

Yes very ...

00:11:38 **Interviewer**

Did you have any doubts about yourself?

00:11:41 **Alejandro**

I did. I felt like I was going to stop a lot, but I didn't. I stopped less than I thought I would.

00:11:47 **Interviewer**

And how are you feeling about the rest of the day? You feel like you've got this in you?

00:11:51 **Alejandro**

Yeah, I'm very excited. I feel like it's a good experience so far and I'm excited to see what's next.

00:11:58 **Interviewer**

We are at Catalina Express and we are getting ready to go on our trip with the faculty. Everyone is kind of getting ready to pack up the food so that way we're not hungry on the trip. A lot of people are going over their speeches, we do have three speeches that we're about to get ready to do before we get on the boat. So, everyone's just kind of getting their stuff together.

00:12:18 **Interviewer**

Trixie, how are you feeling about your speech today?

00:12:22 **Trixie**

Super nervous. We woke up super early today to figure out what was going on, but now that we're here, we're all getting ready and trying to get ready for our trip. Other than that, I think all of us are pretty excited for this trip. I think for most of us, it's been or it is going to be one of our first times being at Catalina. So, being able to experience it with our classmates and also, being able to hear the speeches that everybody wrote is going to be exciting.

00:12:52 **Interviewer**

Peter, how are you feeling about your speech today? What's your topic and how are you feeling about it?

00:12:58 **Peter**

It's on the Fox and I haven't been thinking about it

00:13:03 **Interviewer**

No, you're not thinking about it? Why not? Is it better just not to think about it and just do it when it's time for action?

00:13:07 **Peter**

Yeah, don't think about it and think about how long the hike is.

00:13:11 **Interviewer**

Now, I think that you have one of the speeches in the beginning. Is that right? Okay. So, what's your speech on and how are you feeling about it?

00:13:17 **Student**

My speech is on the Queen Mary and I am terrified, I am not going to lie, I'm really scared. But at least in the beginning, I can get it over with.

00:13:27 **Interviewer**

Right, so, now you can just relax the rest of the trip. Unlike me, I'm at the very end. So, I have anxiety all day. Alright, guys, stay tuned for the rest of what we're going to do today.

00:13:36 **Peter**

First, I will talk to you about the Fox's role as a keystone species, and then follow with the epidemic that nearly wiped them out.

00:13:43 **Student**

I want you to think of a word, a word that's going to embody you in your participation today. So this is going to be your words. So, at the end of the experience, when you look back and say, "Did I embody that word? Did that word really reflect who I was, how I communicated with others and how I went after the experience?

00:14:04 **Student**

Fun.

00:14:04 **Student**

Motivation.

00:14:04 **Student**

Enthusiastic.

00:14:04 **Student**

Positivity.

00:14:04 **Student**

Fierce.

00:14:04 **Student**

Exciting.

00:14:04 **Student**

Oblivious.

00:14:04 **Student**

Positive.

00:14:04 **Student**

Fearless.

00:14:04 **Student**

Appreciation.

00:14:04 **Student**

Educational.

00:14:04 **Student**

Giving.

00:14:04 **Student**

Adventurous.

00:14:04 **Student**

Due diligence.

00:14:21 **Student**

Relaxed.

00:14:21 **Student**

Energetic.

00:14:21 **Student**

Courage.

00:14:21 **Student**

Experience.

00:14:21 **Student**

Breathtaking.

00:14:21 **Student**

Funny.

00:14:21 **Student**

Optimistic.

00:14:21 **Student**

Adventurous.

00:14:21 **Student**

Awesome.

00:14:21 **Student**

Engaged.

00:14:21 **Student**

Endeavor.

00:14:21 **Student**

Joyful.

00:14:21 **Student**

Fun.

00:14:21 **Student**

Fearless.

00:14:21 **Student**

Well, we went on a hike and for some of us, it was a little hard and that brought up a lot of emotion. I think we connected more. I think it'll be a little different when we meet again next Thursday. I think we all bonded, for sure.

00:14:58 **Student**

I feel like a lot of students have leadership potential, but they don't realize it until they realize it. The student voice is so much more powerful than students think. I have my classmates complain about something and they feel like they can't get a change because of fear. But luckily, we have student government that hears the issues and needs of student concerns. My classmates have been intimidated by like faculty and staff, not knowing what they would think because they're seen as a higher power, I guess. But that's not the case at all.

00:15:29 **Student**

I would like faculty to know that using proper pronouns, proper names and things like that are really important; not just the names that are listed on the sheet on the first day of roll, but student names that are chosen, those are really important.

00:15:43 **Interviewer**

And what about helping students find the center? Is there something else faculty can do to help? Like let students know that you're here?

00:15:52 **Student**

I think maybe just make it a little bit more aware as far as like our resources. Like in the back of our agendas, we have the resources for like the Writing Center, for the Language Lab, stuff like that. Maybe the Pride Center could become a resource that's on the back of the agenda or just advisors letting students know everywhere that we're here. We have a big gay flag on the door, it's hard to miss us.

00:16:13 **Isabel**

My name is Isabel, I am an ally to the community. Majority of my friends are part of the community. So, when they're like, "Hey, like, come check this out, like this is a cool hangout spot." I started coming in, I was very shy at first because I didn't know anybody as well. But like just gradually just kind of like sitting here and just like listening to like people's conversations and putting in my two cents, I was able to like make friends with everybody.

00:16:35 **Student**

Well, I started coming actively this semester and it's been really important. It's been a place where I could find a lot of chosen family, not just blood; and people that I really care about that share experiences. So, it's been a really good safe space to have for all the students on campus.

00:16:55 **Student**

Just for privacy purposes, I am not going to decide to say my name. And I've been here at Mt. SAC for two years and I'm about to start my third year.

00:17:02 **Student**

For me, this program means a lot of support. This is a program where when I transferred from high school to college, it was hard for me. It was hard for me because I was undocumented. And not a lot of people knew what it meant to be undocumented. And that caused me many times to feel out of place, to feel alone, to feel like if I was not understood.

00:17:22 **Student**

However, when I came to Mt. SAC and I met Elmer and I met all like the staff here from the DREAM Program, I realized that I was not alone. I realized that I was in a place where I can feel supported, that I can feel most importantly safe because it's really hard for us as students, as undocumented students, to find a place where we feel that we're going to be protected, no matter what.

00:17:46 **Student**

And for me, this is my place, this is like my home. I get to come here every single day. I'm not scared, I'm not scared to be judged, I'm not scared of being - just, I'm not scared. When I'm here, I feel protected and I'm feeling safe. So for me, this is my home.

00:18:05 **Student**

I feel like the program gives us so much support. It helps us to continue on our path to a higher education. And a lot of us don't really get encouraged by our parents or our family to continue with our education. So, we kind of like have to do it on our own. But we found a family here with the program. Everybody that works here is really friendly and they're here for us and they're always supporting us and pushing us, and they're just great people. They really are.

00:18:34 **Sagrario**

My name is Sagrario, and I got involved because I heard this was a good program for dreamers. And I, myself, I am a dreamer, and it's very hard to find a program that actually connects with you and helps you. So, when I found out about this, I was really happy. And once I came to this, it was amazing. I didn't really expect the help that they give me and everything that they provide for me.

00:18:58 **Daniel**

My name is Daniel and I got involved through my high school. I applied for a scholarship that eventually led for me to be introduced to the DREAM Program. And it was just an amazing opportunity to find all these resources. And I really got it, a specific support system they provide for dreamers, especially with our very specific circumstances. It helps us get involved and it helps us get it, you know, path to move ahead and always move forward. Even though the circumstances we have may not always be perfect, we always continue to move forward. So, I feel like it was important to be involved in this program and just in the political activism that's going on.

00:19:32 **Student**

Yeah, they also provided us with a lawyer and they were able to help us with our DACA renewal. They actually did it for us. And I think they actually paid for our fee, because it is like, I think like 500 per the thing. So, for all of us, that's pretty expensive, especially if we're like working in and we come from low income, it's hard.

00:19:55 **Student**

The DREAM Program is doing an amazing job and it's doing everything to kind of help us. But also, we can't get complacent, and we have to keep moving forward in order to support our campus, and not just for dreamers, but in every single marginalized group in community. Because it's important to stand together and it's important to advocate for diversity.

00:20:11 **Alberto**

My name is Alberto and I'm a math major. Well, actually, I was born in Guanajuato and I was born in poverty. And I lived in a family that had many struggles. We had many difficulties and it was very hard. So, when my dad passed away, he passed away here. And that allowed me to come here to the United States at the age of 16. So, I've been here about eight years now.

00:20:36 **Alberto**

I was able to get a visa to come to his funeral and I just didn't go back. And actually, when the lady, when I went to apply for it, the lady told me that she shouldn't give it to me, but she couldn't not let me see my father for the last time. So, she kind of like broke the rule. She broke the law to allow me to come here.

00:20:57 **Alberto**

And I graduated after three years, I was going to night school, I was going to a continuation school to like get extra credits and be able to like graduate. I started working after the first month I got here. I started working, I've never stopped working. So, I actually work at liquor stores, but I've done like everything. I've worked like at warehouse, I worked as a forklift driver. I've worked in construction, just call it - I've worked like doing everything.

00:21:23 **Alberto**

So, after high school, I was going through a lot of struggles. So, I decided to take a little break. I planned to take a year break, but that became three years. And I finally found the motivation to come back to school. And then just all the encouragement that they've given me here at the DREAM Program, the professors that I've had, they're like the best. For some reason, everything that's happening to me right now, it's really encouraging me to continue.

00:21:50 **Alberto**

And like I had many - what do you call them? Like mental breakdowns because of everything that happened to me in the past, all the bad things that people tried to do to me, and like just all the bad experiences. And the people here really make me forget all those things and like influence me into like wanting to continue and to become a better person. I owe this college a lot, the DREAM Program. Everybody here has helped me so much. And like I'm just so happy about it.

00:22:21 **Student**

They have helped me so much in so many ways. They believed in me more than I believed in myself at times. There was times that I was listening too much to what other people had to say about me. Like that idea that people had about immigrant students.

00:22:36 **Student**

But I came here and they told me that, "You're the writer of your own story. You get to decide, they don't choose for you. You have to fight, and I know you will." So Elmer, has definitely shaped me into the person that I am today. He has allowed me to become more comfortable with my situation. All his words of encouragement and support and motivation have helped me to realize that my status does not define who I am.

00:23:06 **Student**

Everything's great and I know it'll get better, it will just get better. I'll get better and it's going to make me forget everything that I went through. And I know I'm going to achieve my goals and I know people here are going to help me to do it.

00:23:18 **Student**

I want to take the time to thank everyone who was my mentor, because I wouldn't be here before you if it wasn't for them. People from the DREAM Program like Mi Laurita, Mi Elmer [Spanish] ...

00:23:29 **Student**

I don't see her here, but I would want to thank Mary Beth. When I came to Mt. SAC, she's the first person that helped out. The first couple of semesters, I was paying everything out of my own pocket; 600, all through the semester, whatever it was. And she opened my eyes to the help that there is for someone like me. And I just want everyone to know that like the help's out there, like you just have to get educated. Like you just really have to ask for that help and people can help you out. Like don't let anyone tell you that you can't do it.

00:24:11 **Christina**

Thank you for listening to the Magic Mountie Podcast. Remember to subscribe on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you like to get your podcasts, so you can listen in the car, in your office, or however you like to listen.

00:24:26 **Christina**

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