

CLASSIFIED SPOTLIGHT



Name: Alexi Balaguer

Department: AVANZA: CRUISE & Peer Navigator Programs

Position: Senior Student Services Assistant

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What does your department do?

We do a lot of different things depending on the month. Around July we have Summer CRUISE, and in January we have our Winter and Saturday CRUISE. CRUISE is a transitional, onboarding program that supports new students to Mesa. The months leading up to each CRUISE involves a lot of planning for CRUISE, as well as reaching out to incoming students. During our CRUISE sessions, new students to Mesa are connected with a Peer Navigator who'll mentors them throughout the academic year. The Peer Navigators meet with their students on a monthly basis, as well as guide and direct them to the resources they need. In June, we host a three-week training for the Peer Navigators. Usually, when we are on campus, we also have our AVANZA Engagement Center, which is a space open to all students to come and just be. We have students study in our center, hang out with friends, or stop by before/in between/after their classes. We also have hosted various workshops and events for students to engage and create community with one another. Now that we're currently online, our team has been exploring different ideas on how to cultivate this same community virtually.

What do you do?

Some of my responsibilities include: developing all online forms (CRUISE Registration Forms, Peer Navigator applications, feedback surveys, etc.), completing all onboarding hiring paperwork for our Peer Navigators, maintaining the schedule of the AVANZA Workshop Room, providing day-to-day support and supervision to the Peer Navigators, supporting Agustin and helping lead the Peer Navigator training, assisting in CRUISE planning, maintaining and managing program documents, creating, compiling and reviewing program data, analyzing student feedback and researching methods to help improve our services, and updating our social media/website. Overall, I provide support to the CRUISE and Peer Navigator programs, as well as the AVANZA Engagement Center, and serve as a liaison between the campus and our programs/center.

Common issues you help students/staff with?

Any and all questions regarding CRUISE, Peer Navigator, or AVANZA Engagement Center. I am also the point person for reserving the AVANZA Workshop Room, so I manage and receive all requests.

What do you like best about your job?

I love working with the Peer Navigators. They're so fun! I've been working with the program for a couple years now, and each team brings something new. I love being a part of their growth, and seeing them first-hand achieve their goals.



Fun Facts: My current favorite food is sushi. Oh and the soy garlic chicken wings at Bonchon! I started bullet journaling three months ago. I love listening to music (and going to concerts)

