

MCRPA Member Spotlight
July 2022

Ramon Valenzuela



What department do you work in? What is your job title? How long have you been at the College?

I work in the Student Affairs, Access Division in the Assessment & Testing Centers Department as an Instructional Assistant. I started as a student assistant from 2013 to 2015 at our Germantown Campus Bookstore. Then, from 2017 to 2019, I had the privilege to work as a full-time Customer Service Representative for our Workforce Development & Continuing Education Department.

Who are some of the colleagues who have supported you at Montgomery College?

I consider myself lucky to have been given the opportunities to work in departments with managers and colleagues who helped me be successful in my current and previous roles.

What are some advices you would give to new employees who just started working at the College? If you are new to the College, what have amazed you so far with working at the College?

I would like to revise the question to: If I were to give advice to my former self when I was still new to the College, I would advise myself not to be afraid to make mistakes. Learn from each mistake and find ways to prevent them from happening again. Take advantage of different opportunities to be involved and create meaningful relationships. Montgomery College offers "endless possibilities," and it is up to you to "make your move."

If you could start all over, what field would you want to enter? Or are you happy where you are today?

I am happy with my current path. However, if money were not an issue and I could start all over, I would focus most of my time and effort on music and performing arts. Growing up, I was the happiest when I performed, whether it was singing or dancing. I wish to do it more as an adult, but insecurities and caring too much about what other people think are obstacles I have yet to overcome.

If you could start a group at MC, what would that group be about?

If I could start a group at MC, I would love to create a Smule group. Smule is an American music application where you can sing karaoke with people all over the globe through your handheld device. It would be awesome to meet people from our community who enjoy karaoke as much as I do.

What attributes/characteristics do you want your colleagues and students to remember you for?

I want people to remember me for my positive outlook and attitude, that I am kind and respectful towards them, and that I am someone whom they can count on when things are tough.

What are some new activities you have started during covid that you want to recommend?

I was recreating low-carb dishes from YouTube/the internet. It gives you some sense of achievement when they turn out great. I actually lost 25 pounds when most of us were working from home, and I believe I would lose more if I stuck to it longer.

What did you miss most while working at home during covid?

I missed having in-person interactions with students and colleagues. As much as I enjoyed being at home with my spouse and our dog, I missed being on campus and seeing colleagues and students in person. MC is like a second home to me, and being on campus gives me a sense of belonging.

What movies/series are you currently or have watched and think people should watch?

The series "Ugly Betty" and the movie "The Greatest Showman" helped me appreciate and respect my own and others' uniqueness. If you are into crime, detective, or murder-mystery type of shows and don't mind reading subtitles, I recommend the South Korean TV series "Signal" currently available on Netflix. Give it time, and it will get you hooked from beginning to end.

You are given \$10 million and a private island to live forever, but you can't bring anyone with you. Would you take the money and go?

It depends. Right now, I would say no, but if there is ever a time when it is a life-or-death situation, and I need an immense amount of money to save the lives of people I love, I would take the money and go.