

Weekly EMP Newsletter

AUGUST 31, 2022



CLAUDE AND BETTY LOU LAVAL
ENTREPRENEUR
MENTOR
PROGRAM

EMP Session August 26, 2022

by

Maria Dominguez-Lead Mentee

The goal of the Laval Entrepreneurial Mentor Program is to create a learning experience that allows each mentee to have the opportunity to develop an entrepreneurial mindset and skill set that can assist the students in their professional and personal journeys.

What exactly is an entrepreneurial mindset? An entrepreneurial mindset is a set of skills that will allow us to identify and make the most of opportunities, overcome and learn from setbacks, and succeed in various settings.

Mendy Laval kicked off the session by sharing with the mentees the importance of "mindset" and how an entrepreneurial mindset is closely related to a "growth mindset." According to **Mendy**, "a growth mindset is a way of recognizing your potential to learn and accomplish anything you work hard to achieve. If you wish to start a business or work as a valued employee for an established organization, the combination of an entrepreneurial and growth mindset will serve you well as you build your career."

Fall 2022 EMP Cohort



This semester's cohort comprises students from different majors (engineering, business, industrial technology) and three colleges/Universities (Fresno State, Fresno City College, and Clovis Community College). We also have four international students (Indonesia, Malaysia, Lebanon, and India).

Mendy shared that because of the great makeup of students in the Fall Cohort, there is an excellent opportunity to learn from each other's views and experiences. But she reminded us that it is up to the mentees to engage and take advantage of all the learning opportunities the program provides.

New Mentees

Colton Cunningham-Engineering, Clovis Community College

Elvira Gonzalez, -Engineering, Fresno City College

Dirk Tharpe-English Literature, Fresno State

Marcus Ping Beh- Business/Entrepreneurship, Fresno State

John Petrongonas-Business, Entrepreneurship, Marketing, Fresno State

Zeferino Oshiro-Business, Entrepreneurship, Fashion Merchandising.

Kanaan Amoudi-Criminology, Fresno State

Kara Hernandez-Business Administration, Fresno State

Kevin Robles-Graphic Design, Fresno City (Graduate)

Mukesh Chinreddy- Industrial Technology Master's Program, Fresno State

Zeferino Oshiro- Business, Entrepreneurship, Fashion Merchandising- Fresno State

Crystal Vasquez Food Science/Culinology, Fresno State

Veteran (Returning) Mentees

Bencherlie Long-Business, Finance/Accounting, Fresno State

Maria Dominguez, Business, Entrepreneurship, Fresno State

Manny Gonzalez, Mechanical Engineering (Graduate), Fresno State

Timofey Volkov, Mechanical Engineering Graduate, Fresno State & Industrial Technology Master's Program, Fresno State

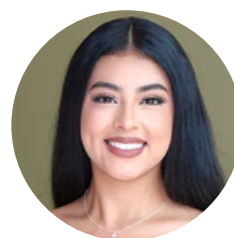
Marin Wlnek, International Business, Fresno State

Briseyda Dominguez-Business, Marketing Fresno State (Graduate)

Christopher Echeverria-Business, Entrepreneurship, Fresno State

Ricky Rachmat-Business, Entrepreneurship, Fresno State

Lead Mentee & Launchpad Intern, Maria Dominguez



After lunch and "table talk" (an essential part of each EMP session), **Claude Laval** shared with the students about the history of EMP and why he has supported the program for the past 19 years. He encourages each mentee to embrace the opportunities presented during each session and to take advantage of the mentor/mentee relationship, the "heart" of the program. He shared that the Laval EMP Mentor Program is unique because students are matched with a mentor for the two semesters that they are involved in the program and beyond. He mentioned that he is still in regular contact with his mentees, including his first mentee from 19 years ago.

Maria Dominguez, the Lead Mentee for Fall 2022, led the mentees through the comprehensive EMP Workbook each mentee received. She also talked about the importance of good communication and that one of her primary responsibilities was to ensure that all mentees were prepared for each session and to address any questions that the mentees might have during the semester.

Neil Koenig, EMP Session Facilitator, wrapped up our first session by leading a discussion on what constitutes professional vs. non-professional behavior. The mentees worked in groups of four to develop a list that was then shared with the group.

He also shared that listening is one of the most important skills. How well you listen greatly impacts your job effectiveness and the quality of your relationships with others. To improve on this skill, he challenged us to be mindful of our "table talk" during the semester to ensure everyone has a "voice" and the opportunity to be heard. He shared with us one of his favorite quotes by Steven Covey, ***"Listen to understand and speak to be understood."***



We are excited about this semester and look forward to our next Friday session scheduled for September 2nd to learn tips for a successful Mentor-Mentee Relationship!