

RAISING to RISE



Staff Feature

Marlene Hensley embodies what it means to be a dedicated alumna and staff member of CSUB. She graduated from CSUB in 1995, double majoring in biology and liberal studies. Marlene's career at CSUB formally began in 1999 when Dr. Ted Murphy had an opening for the Manager of the Facility for Animal Care and Treatment (FACT). Marlene knew she had her foot in the door due to her experience working with many of her biology professors on projects prior to getting hired. In 2015, when the FACT program dissolved due to budgetary reasons, Marlene switched gears and became the Lab Safety Coordinator and Instructional Support for Environmental Studies.



"The best part of working here is interacting with our students and discussing programs that they enjoy. Seeing them go on to careers that involve research is meaningful to me," she said.

Marlene also finds joy in interacting with students that may be struggling due to personal or academia challenges.

"Knowing that we have many first-generation students who may also come from a low socio-economic status is an opportunity for me to motivate them to succeed."

Marlene has been an advocate and loyal supporter of our Veterans Success Center.

"Several years ago, I met Jamie Pacheco, our Veterans Success Coordinator, and she had a student that had requested a coffee pot so people could connect over coffee."

Marlene still continues to ensure that the coffee pot is full with her monthly support of the Veterans Success Center.

As Marlene puts it, "my daughter's dad and grandfather are both veterans, which created a scholarship opportunity for my daughter to receive a college degree. It's important to give back to areas that make an impact."

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What is "Raising to Rise?"

The Faculty and Staff Initiative is a collaborative effort that offers every faculty and staff member at CSUB the opportunity to make a gift to support student success and our innovative programs. It is also an opportunity to build awareness of the various programs and initiatives offered by CSUB.

No matter the size or designation of the gift can make an impact and support areas such as our Veterans Success Center, Housing and Food Security, Kegley Institute of Ethics, or any of our academic schools focused on producing outstanding students that will go out to our community and beyond and have a positive influence on people they come in contact with.

