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Views expressed in the opinion pages are those of the individual writer and not of the newspaper.

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Land Acknowledgment

The Rampage operates in and around the Indigenous lands of the Yokuts and Mono peoples, we respect and honor the displaced and forgotten people that make our work possible on this campus and across many others.

Quezada claimed they and other students saw members from FCC's Umoja Community check out LI-143. Students worried the room was being previewed for other programs to use in the future.

However, the Umoja Community counselor and coordinator, Arrie Smith, said there are no plans or statements from the program to move to LI-143.

Smith and Vang clarified this was a misunderstanding between students, and that visitors from the Umoja Community came to check out furniture for their own space, not to preview the room.

There is no confirmation from FCC administration that another program will take the Pride Center's room in the future.

Pride Center Students Feel "Left in the Dark"

Since discussions about the potential move started rising, students in the Pride Center said they're frustrated about a lack of transparency from administration.

"They have left us completely in the dark," Quezada said.

Williams and Vang said administration didn't tell them where the Pride Center could be moved when they discussed a possible location change. Williams explained this added to the confusion for students.

Students and staff in the Pride Center haven't been included in conversations about the center's location, according to Vang.

FCC's GSA President, Peter Fleming, felt the community was left out of the decision making process.

"I feel like also specifically for me, that's something that makes me upset, because in this whole conversation, there haven't been necessarily any queer students involved," Fleming said.

For the students who frequent the Pride Center, their frustrations aren't just from being left in the dark. To some, the center is a space they've built a community in, and not knowing if they will have the space has

encouraged students to "advocate for their space," according to Vang.

Mechanical engineering major Joseph, who also wished to only be identified by his first name, said the Pride Center is the reason he stays on campus outside of class.

Danny Moreno, history major, said he considered dropping out of college before he found the Pride Center.

"Coming into this room and having people that I can relate to, or having people with the same majors as me kind of helps me," Moreno said. "Just knowing that the one place that I actually felt more comfortable with than being on actual campus [could be] closed kind of hurts."

The center averages about 10 to 20 students every hour, according to a sign-in sheet tracked by student workers. Jasmin claimed even before the center opens, there are students waiting to get in.

During events, the center sometimes reaches 40 students, according to Quezada.

Dru Cantu, a kinesiology major at FCC, fears if the center were to move locations, the number of students coming in may drop.

"They're [administration] going to look at the numbers and be like, okay the Pride Center is not doing that well on numbers anymore. So we might as well just disband them, that's the main concern," Cantu said.

Students felt that the center has been a space for many to meet new people and connect with others that they otherwise would never have met before.

Moreno said the Pride Center holds a different space for those who come in that other groups don't have.

"It's a lot of people in different stages, different majors, and I think that's what makes it the most incredible of a community is having different faces, opinions, people, so everyone understands each other and so it helps the community," Moreno said.

FCC theater major Scarlet DeLara claimed the Pride Center receives students from

different programs, regardless if a student identifies as LGBTQIA+ or not.

The Pride Center's bulletin board has flyers on resources for students. Jasmin and Quezada said they fear that information won't reach students if the center is moved.

Quezada mentioned that with the location of the Pride Center being in the center of campus, it allows information to be easily accessible for students who need it. The Pride Center includes resources for students dealing with issues like STDs, ICE sightings and sexual assault.

"It's like finding out that your public library is going to close. They don't tell anybody, and it's a space of so much information and resources," Quezada said.

Williams encouraged students to reach out to administration to voice their concerns, stating that many students don't know who's in charge of the decision.

While Vang said FCC's Resource Committee is in charge of space allocation, there is currently no contact information listed for the committee on FCC's website.

"They [students] just want to know what's going to happen so they know how to move around the campus because this is their safe space," Williams said. "I hope the students are going out of their way to let them know and speak their minds, because that's part of what we do here at the Pride Center."

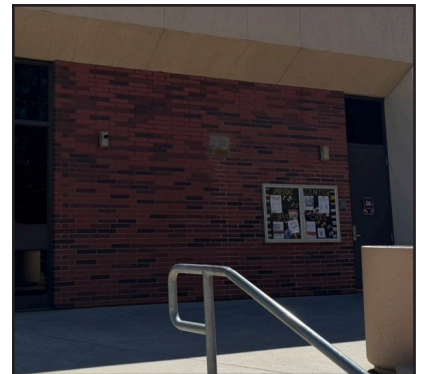


Photo by the staircase facing the Pride Center on April 8. Photo by Reoz Marquez

THE IMPORTANCE OF WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

Justin Gaxiola | Reporter
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In honor of Women's History Month, Fresno City College welcomed two guest speakers to lead a discussion panel on March 18, in the Old Administration Building in room 251 about women's reproductive health. It featured family nurse practitioner Elizabeth Yost and nurse navigator Andrea Kosiyangkakul. They were previously invited to speak at a panel discussion during last year's Women's History Month.

The panelists spoke to an audience of 60 students about the importance of monitoring personal health. Yost emphasized young adults should care about taking care of their health. She shared examples of women she's seen who waited until it was too late for treatment.

"What you're doing now as far as your health habits set the tone for later in life. The earlier we can get to you to know how to fill out that paperwork, know your family history, and tell your care provider your symptoms the better," Yost said. "I have people and when they get to me at 55, 60 never go to the doctor their entire adult lives and they have massive health dysfunctions and there's nothing I can do, they are going to die."

According to Yost, women should prioritize being seen regularly by an OB-GYN (Obstetrician-Gynecologist). It may be difficult for women to access this type of healthcare assistance because of the current shortage of OB-GYNs.

Yost warned even people with appointments can have them delayed for several months. This harms women experiencing health problems that need medical attention. For women experiencing appointment delays, Yost suggested making it a goal to check in with their healthcare facility daily to fill in for any cancellations.

Kosiyangkakul encouraged women to learn about their family

health history. If there is a family history of medical conditions, women should monitor themselves up to 10 years early. She added how learning what healthy breast tissue feels like can help you detect potential problems.

Towards the end of the discussion, the panelists asked the audience for any questions.

"What advice would you give to women facing a dismissive doctor?" a woman in the audience said.

Kosiyangkakul said women who are facing a dismissive doctor should trust their instincts. If they still feel like something is still wrong, they shouldn't feel afraid to request more help.

"Keep pushing to get seen. If something doesn't feel right, get tested. A mammogram might not be enough. Request other tests to make sure nothing is ruled out, an individual knows their own body better than anyone," Kosiyangkakul said.

Kosiyangkakul addressed a common misconception about breast health where some believe mammograms may be unsafe.

"It is safe to have mammograms, a lot of people are nervous about radiation and I'm getting a lot of phone calls at work from women who are afraid to have a mammogram. It's actually very safe, it's one that has the least amount of radiation of all the imaging and modalities," Kosiyangkakul said.

Yost believes information about women's health should be available and provided for women in all stages of life.

"It should start in the home as young children. It should be in elementary school, middle school, high school, colleges, it should be a part of public services. It should be a lifelong thing, that it's not a privilege to access medical care, that it's something to have to maintain health," Yost said.

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Andrea Kosiyangkakul (left) standing with Elizabeth Yost (right) after they finished the panel discussion March 18. Photo by Justin Gaxiola.