

POP-UP LIBRARY EVENT AT FCC

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The Fresno City College Library hosted a pop-up event on Feb. 18 in front of the library from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Their goal was to introduce students to the library's services and librarians.

Students had a chance to check out books, speak with library staff and spin a wheel for prizes.

Librarian Teng Xiong said the pop-up event is an opportunity to introduce the library to students that have a tendency to avoid it.

"The pop-up library is us bringing the library out to the community. What we like to do is set up out here and let folks meet and greet us, primarily letting them know about the services we provide," Xiong said. "Letting folks know like hey we're real people if you like what you see out here, come inside and see the rest of the library."

Xiong wants students to know they are never without help, they are a resource for people to use. Help is available for students that come in person and they have digital librarians ready to chat.

The librarians highlighted their Research Assistant Program (RAP). A one-on-one research help for students that have questions on any subject or teach them how to use the research tools provided by FCC.

"Many people are quick to use Google or AI now, but librarians are the original Google. We will research together with the students and try to find information that's legitimate from an academic source," Xiong said.

FCC student Salisha Cruz went to the event, curious when she saw the spinning wheel and books. She won two water tattoos and appreciated the friendliness of the librarians.

"I love someone that explains what is going on. She really gave a good, outstanding explanation for what the library has and what librarians do. It was a good experience for me. They make the library feel very caring and welcoming," Cruz said.

She recommends all students to check out future pop-up events. Cruz believes this can help students come



Librarians posing for photo at their booth, where they handed out books and book marks for students on Feb. 18 in front of the library at Fresno City College. Photo by Justin Gaxiola.



Photo of books displayed out for students in front of the Fresno City College library on Feb. 18. Photo by Justin Gaxiola.

out of their shell after having a positive experience.

FCC student Lissandro Rios was interested in the spinning wheel. He won a water bottle and spoke to librarians to get more information about their RAP service.

"Usually I come out of work after a long day, and I have to come here for my RAP sessions. I learned I can do it online which is nice. Since I am busier than previously, I need the online help. It can be hard to make it to the library, it's nice to have that other option," Rios said.

The library is planning to have four pop-up events a semester. One at the beginning, one at the end, and two in the middle of the semester when studying is at its peak to offer help in those important moments.

In the past they have given away plant seeds to students. The cart of plant seeds was canceled due to rain. In future events it will be possible to choose from a variety of seeds and receive a guide.

Students can find more information about the library and future events at the library section on the Fresno City College website or the Fresno City College Library's Instagram and Facebook pages.



Photo of books displayed out for students in front of the Fresno City College library on Feb. 18. Photo by Justin Gaxiola.

DANNY TREJO COMES TO FRESNO CITY COLLEGE

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Students and visitors gathered at Fresno City College on Jan. 27 when actor Danny Trejo visited campus to speak about his life, career and personal journey.

Known for his roles in films such as "Machete" and "Spy Kids," Trejo spoke to students about overcoming addiction, making positive choices and finding purpose in helping other people recover from addiction.

The event drew a large crowd of students, staff and members of the community excited to hear Trejo's story in person as he shared experiences from his childhood, time before acting and how his life led him into Hollywood.

Once the Old Administration Building auditorium was at full capacity, audience members were redirected to a remote viewing area to watch a livestream of the event.

Trejo expressed that he doesn't think his current day-to-day life is difficult, considering the things he's experienced in the past.

Trejo described growing up surrounded by alcohol and drug use and explained how addiction seemed normal to him at a young age.

"You wouldn't want to go to a family gathering without alcohol," Trejo said.

Because substance use was normalized growing up, he began smoking and drinking frequently as a teenager and continued into adulthood.

"I chased being 12 years old with no worries until I was 24," Trejo said.

Trejo spoke about how his drug use led him to jail.

"You do drugs, you go to jail. It was like physics," Trejo said.

During imprisonment, Trejo discovered boxing and faith, which became a turning point in his life.

Trejo noticed the importance of helping others as a path of recovery and personal fulfillment.

After his release in 1969, he committed to sobriety and has now been sober for 54 years.

Trejo's acting career began in 1985 after he went to a film set to help someone seeking sobriety and was offered a small role. He later became one of Hollywood's most recognizable Latino actors.

He appears in more than 500 films and television projects, including "Desperado," "Heat," "From Dusk Till Dawn" and the "Spy Kids" franchise, where he got a main role as "Isador 'Machete' Cortez."

"Everything good happens as a result of helping someone else," Trejo said. "Once I gave up drugs and started helping people, life got so good."

Outside of acting, Trejo works as a substance abuse counselor and advocates for recovery programs.

FCC President Whisenhunt introduced a counselor from the rising scholars program to the audience who presented Trejo with a t-shirt and mug.

Audience member Presley Salas said Trejo's message was relevant to students.

Salas explained that substance use is often normalized among young people and that Trejo helped highlight how everyday drinking can quietly turn into addiction.

"Once you start drinking every day, it can really turn your life upside down, and I think it's important for people to recognize they have a problem and I think he pointed that out really well," Salas said.

Trejo concluded his message by encouraging students to pursue their goals and learn from mistakes.

"It's better to shoot for the moon and



Actor Danny Trejo answering pre-selected questions from students in the Old Administration Building at Fresno City College on Jan. 27 Photo by Sara Cisneros



Actor Danny Trejo speaking to students in the Old Administration Building at Fresno City College on Jan. 27 Photo by Joel Arellano