



# News from Merced College

(209) 381-6470  
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3600 M Street

Merced, CA 95348-2898  
Contact: Shannon Picciano  
209.384.6176

## **LISA CHANTERIE IS MERCED COLLEGE OUTSTANDING STUDENT FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL**

Merced College student Lisa Chanterie has been chosen as Outstanding Student for the month of April.

“She is always giving back to the community,” states Merced College Professor Enrique Renteria, who nominated Chanterie for the honor. “Her accomplishments are seen both in and out of the school.

Chanterie is in her second full-time semester and has a GPA of 3.3. However, she began attending Merced College while still a student at Merced High School in order to get a step ahead in her education. She is majoring in Biological Science and would like to attend UC Davis with the goal of becoming a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine.

“I had the opportunity to visit UC Davis while participating in the Puente Program, which is a program on campus that visits several universities,” says Chanterie. While there, she became impressed with the campus. “I want a plaque hanging on my wall that says ‘Lisa Chanterie, DVM.’”

While in high school, Chanterie was drawn to the medical field after receiving an ROP Award of Excellence in Medical Occupations for being both an outstanding student and a good helper to the doctors and nurses. Through Advanced Placement classes and earning her rank on the Honor Roll numerous times, she is determined to pursue her educational goals.

Chanterie's success has not only been seen in school but she has held regular babysitting jobs and now works at the Merced College Bookstore, which as she describes, is her first "real job." As for giving back to the community, Chanterie has volunteered on mission trips to Tijuana, Mexico building homes for the poor and playing with children from the local orphanages. She volunteers every Sunday at St. Patrick's Church where she is a Sunday Pre-School teacher. She enjoys playing with the children while their parents are attending mass.

For fun, Chanterie enjoys traveling. She has been to Rome, Italy as part of a trip with her church to see the Pope which she notes was an experience of a lifetime and something she will never forget. Chanterie loves to read and states "reading allows me to escape realities and travel into worlds that are so different from mine."

When asked why she chose Merced College, Chanterie said she really needs to be here to support her family. She admits her family life was a little unstable in her early years as she moved often, parents were divorced, and it was quite challenging to make friends, go to new schools or get involved. She recalls when her sixth grade teacher saw her grades suffering, he said "if you start doing your homework, come to study sessions during recess and try harder, I will make sure you pass this class and continue on to seventh grade."

"Mr. Albers from Our Lady of Mercy School was my inspiration and believed in me and that is why I believe that I am continuing my education to this day." It is now several years later and Chanterie is motivated and determined to reach her goals. Renteria states "she is an active student who always turns in her homework on time, is always prepared, and actively participates in lively class discussions."

Chanterie will receive recognition at an upcoming Merced College Board of Trustees meeting and has received special parking privileges for the month of April and a check for \$50. She will also be considered for Student of the Year.