Marcellus Brookshaw: Alright, good afternoon everyone. Wait, wait, wait...good afternoon everyone! All right, thank you, thank you, thank you. Let's get a little more enthusiasm here. It's 4 o'clock, I know the day is almost over, but I'm really excited about presenting my presentation called "Finding a Mentor" to you all and it's really an honor to speak in front of...not only you all, but also EOP students, SSS students, all students here at Chico State because I actually was in your shoes at one time. So just a brief intro....just a brief introduction, my name is Marcellus Brookshaw and I'm an advisor for the Educational Opportunity Program. I see of some my, my students here from group 2 back from Summer Bridge. Where's group 2 at? Group 2! Just a little background, I am proud that I am an alumni Chico State, but also alumni of the educational opportunity program. So yep, that's right EOP. Who's all EOP in the room right here? Who's part of SSS? Okay. Foster Youth?

Audience Member: How about regular?
Marcellus Brookshaw: Regular! Who’s regular student? Alright good stuff. Well welcome everyone. So just a little background, I came to Chico State in 2005 and I’m originally from Davis, California and first one in my family to go to college. Really, just had a wonderful time being part of the EOP family and it was the aspect of having mentors in my life when I was student here, that really helped me get from being this kind of tall, goofy, nerdy kid that didn't know anybody and didn't have that much self-confidence in themselves to having mentors in my life to keep me going and motivated. That "Hey, you can go. Get your degree. You could go get your masters and you could work in Higher Ed. and help students that were once in your shoes. So they can go on and achieve their academic and career dreams.” So in 2009, I graduated from Chico State in my, with a degree in social science and then I actually went to grad school at University of Southern California. I got my Masters in post-secondary administration student affairs and then I was lucky enough to come back to Chico State and work for the EOP program.
Marcellus Brookshaw: So in this presentation, I'm going to talk about finding a mentor and basically what it means to be a mentor, what it means to be a mentee. Share you my mentoring story, along with...how can a mentor help you? How can you find a mentor, either on campus or through their social circle? What do you do as a mentee? And also then the importance of being a mentor, too. So this will be a great opportunity to learn more about how do we find people within our community. How do we find people here at Chico State, our friends, our professors, our colleagues that maybe can help us along our way while we’re here as Chico State students? So I hope you enjoy the presentation. I'll have some opportunities for you guys to answer some questions at the end and also have fun activity as well.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Okay, so first, I have my first slide is....we have 4 famous people here, actors, characters. So what are these four groups, these 4 couples, all have in common? So first of all, who, who is this right here?

Audience Member: [Inaudible]

Marcellus Brookshaw: Who?


Marcellus Brookshaw: Yoda and Luke Skywalker. Okay. And who's this? Usher, Usher and Justin Bieber, right? "Usher baby, yeeaahh man." And who's this right here? It's your boy Young [inaudible]. And who's this right here? Karate kid. Who's this guy? What’s his name?
Audience Member: Mr. Miyagi

Marcellus Brookshaw: Mr. Miyagi. Wax on, wax off. That's right. So what do these 4...these 4 groups... what do they all have in common? They have mentors and mentees. So what did, what did Luke Skywalker and Yoda...what did Yoda teach to Luke Skywalker? The force, "Do or do not. There is no try" right? From the movie. What about, what about the karate kid and Mr. Miyagi?

Audience Member: [Inaudible]

Marcellus Brookshaw: Okay, so they all have mentors and sometimes it's having that one person in your life, not only in college, but later on, that you can depend on. And for me, I wanna share one of my mentor stories that really impacted me when I was a student here at Chico State.
Marcellus Brookshaw: So that's me, that's me back in 2009 with the glasses on. That's right, with my mentor that...my mentor was Dr. Pedro Douglas and Dr. Pedro Douglas is the associate vice president of student affairs here at Chico State. If you have not met Mr. Pedro Douglas, I highly recommend it. He's a wonderful individual, he helps any student that comes into his office. He's committed to helping students get and achieve their dreams. So my mentoring story, back when I was a student here I was working as a resident advisor. And how many people maybe live in the residence halls right now? Okay.

Who's in Shasta-Lassen? Ooo...alright [Laughs]. So that was actually where I resident advised at. I was RA and I heard about there's a, there's a mentoring program...there's a fellowship program that helps students get into student affairs and I didn't know about student affairs and I didn't know what the heck it was. And at the time, Mr. Pedro Douglas was actually over at the student health center, he's in charge of that area and we got a chance to sit and talk and he's like, "tell me more about yourself" and I was like, "I'm part of EOP, I'm a resident advisor. I love working with students. You know I really care about...you know...making sure that they do well and doing programming and doing fun stuff." He was like, "hmm, okay."
Marcellus Brookshaw: As we got a chance to talk more, he saw that..."Hey you know, you have some potential here. I think you would do really well in higher education student affairs and being like a counselor or advisor." I was like, "Well tell me more about student affairs and Higher Ed."

So since my freshman year, I've know this man and he has taken me under his wing and he has shown me how to get to grad school. He has shown me how to do networking through the fellowship program when [inaudible] introduced me. I was able to travel to conferences in different big cities: Chicago, Seattle, Philadelphia. I got chance to network and that also help me get ready for grad school. And he, he actually graduated from USC. He got his doctorate over there and from his influences talking about, "I not only see you graduating, being the first in your family to graduate, but I also see you going to graduate school. I see you doing big things. I see you doing wonderful things in education." And so having that positive insight, having that somebody that I could always go to. Say, "Hey Pedro, I’m having a rough day. I have 15 units, I’m working on campus, I have financial aid, I'm trying to make things happen here," and it’s good to have somebody who was there to just listen to me. And know, "Hey, I know what you are going through. I was a first generation student myself and, but I want you to just keep on going."
Marcellus Brookshaw: So having that positive voice always resonating in my mind and having somebody I can always look up to. Not only as a mentor, but as a man of color, a man that has a prominent position at this university and that has shown me, "Hey, that, I wanna aspire to be someone like that," right? Who knows someone in their life that is kind of a mentor right now to you? Okay, okay. So, so some of you already have an idea of what a mentor might be and a mentor might, like I said, might be someone who works at the university, might be a parent, might be a good friend, and might be a past teacher. But everybody has their own mentoring story, and the thing about it is having those mentors and just being able to have them influence your lives in a positive way.
Marcellus Brookshaw: So how can we get....how can a mentor help you? So first of all, I kinda talked a little bit about what's, what's the definition of a mentor? What's the definition of mentor? No one has an idea?

Audience member: A teacher of life.

Marcellus Brookshaw: A teacher of life. Anybody else? Alright, so teacher of life and having a teacher of life means that, in life, you need support because in life we all need help, no matter what it has to get to. From high school to college, we have people help us along the way. I've had people help me along my way too. And have that support and having that support system, so having a mentor meaning that I can go talk and to somebody when I'm maybe not feeling, you know, having the best day or maybe I need some help or need some guidance. And having that person to speak to me and just be there for me.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Having that some person that says, "I believe in you." Believe it or not, like, having that positive reinforcement, having somebody that says, "Hey, you can do it. Like, I believe it. You can do it." I mean it’s just having that...makes you do things and makes you accomplish things that you never thought you had. From my own background, being first in my family to go to college, having a learning disability, not having...having a low self-esteem; you know, having people like Pedro Douglass in my life enabled me to think more beyond about getting a degree, going on to having...going to grad school, having a career, so having the positive reinforcement.

Encouraging your academic and career dreams, so somebody that has the insight. So if you want to be an engineer, maybe they can hook you up with people that they know in the industry. Maybe they can teach you more about the aspect of grad school. You know, how to how to apply for it? What kind of resources on campus that may be able to help you with? And then, networking professional skills. So one of the things I learned is how to dress as a professional and, and when I was a student in his office, I used to dress up jeans and T-shirt, and he just told me "Well, when you’re going to apply to grad school, make sure you have nice ties, suit ready to go." I didn’t know too much about that, but from those...from those skills, from those professional advice that he proposed upon me, I was able to pick up those things and learn from him.
Marcellus Brookshaw: And then taking the next step so when you finish here, what do you wanna do? You wanna go have a great career? You wanna to go to grad school? Do you...what's, what is your ambitions in life? What do you wanna do? And that person not only help from right now, but from the rest your life.
Marcellus Brookshaw: So how do I find a mentor? Well you want to find someone that you can confide in. You want somebody you can trust, and that person that is a good fit for you. And relationship is key. So having that maybe is a big-brother big, like big-brother big-sister relationship. If it's that having that, maybe the father figure relationship in there too. So having somebody that you can look up to, be comfortable with, going to talk to. And then also just...when you're trying to figure out to find a mentor, make sure that you kinda ask them questions, like get to know them first. And also to say "Hey, do you mind if you can be my mentor, you mind if, you know, we can meet up and you can kind of tell me more about how you got to this certain place in life? How you got become a faculty member? How you became an engineer? How you got into business?" And so just like, just being able to initiate the conversation and, and asking those questions so you know that you can confide in this person. And then time is important to, so making sure that hey if you ask somebody to be a mentor you want to make sure that they have time to mentor you and because, like I said before, relationship is key, so building relationships takes time.
Marcellus Brookshaw: How many of y'all play sports? How many of you guys ever had the same coach for a few years, you know, playing on varsity sports or something like that? So that's of time to get relationship with your coach, right? And within that relationship you kind of build trust, the understanding of what you bring to the table, your skills and abilities, and you feel more comfortable talking with that person after knowing them for a while.

Yes, yes. So that's same kind of analogy goes to finding a mentor, so having somebody spent have time to kind of sit down and talk with you, help to see you grow and develop as mentee and as a professional. And the emphasis of any of fit making sure that, hey, is this person gonna be a good fit for only my academic, my personal life, and being able to be there for me?
Marcellus Brookshaw: So what do you do as a mentee? So what, what's the definition of a mentee? What do you think a mentee is?

Audience Member: [Inaudible]

Marcellus Brookshaw: Say again.

Audience Member: The person looking for the mentor.

Marcellus Brookshaw: Okay, so when looking for a mentor, what else? Alright, so a mentee is a person who is learning from the mentor. Who’s heard of like a master and apprentice kinda...right? Master and apprentice. Like, like Luke Skywalker, who did he learn from? Right, so there's the mentor-mentee relationship. So as a mentee you want make sure that, hey, if I’m looking for a mentor, I initiate. I try to look to find a good mentor for myself, and then sometimes like, like my own case with Dr. Pedro Douglas, he's associate vice president student affairs, and he can be a busy man sometime.
Marcellus Brookshaw: So when I was a student, I had to go to his, his personal office assistant and say "Hey, listen, when is Dr. Pedro Douglas's next appointment, when is he going to be available?" Sometimes he'd be out of the office and sometimes he'd be gone to important meetings. But I made sure that I was the one who initiated the contact in regards of "Hey, when could we meet up? When could we schedule an appointment so we talk about what we're working on next whether it's grad school, whether it's certain areas of higher ed that I want to go into?" So that I'm making the, I'm making the initiation to contact that person.

Second is establishing goals, so "What do you wanna accomplish within having a mentor?" You know is it just having kinda that big-brother father figure or mother figure in your life, or is this having somebodies whose gonna help you get to the next step in regards of...of getting a good job, helping support your family, going to grad school, going to be a doctor, traveling around the world. So those are so many goals that you can have by having a mentor, but establishing what exactly you want to accomplish and then making sure that person understands those goals and how they're gonna help you get there.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Listening to what they have to say. Being able to listen and take in advice that that person, that mentor, has dedicated and sacrificed his or her time to help you. So you have to be respectful for what they, what they are sacrificing their time and energy to help you. And that can go along ways, in regards of networking and also building your...your skills as a future professional.

Understanding that they're helping you out. Really appreciating that, hey, someone...someone is taking time out of their day to be an unofficial part of my life. And that's...that's really, not only just nice, but really impactful. So when they do those things, show appreciation that, hey, I'm glad this person is looking out for me; I'm glad this person is taking me under his or her wing and showing me how to get to the next step. So what I used to do was I wrote thank you letters. I would sometimes...hey, bake cookies cakes, if you’re a baker. Just a lil something like that shows that, hey, I appreciate you spending the time to try and help mentor me.
Marcellus Brookshaw: And then, grow and strengthen your relationship. So just like, how many people like to work out? Go to the gym? So like, when you go to the gym and you're working out using weights or your running, the more that you do it the more you build muscle. Same goes for relationship for having a mentor to mentee. The more that you work at, the more you're dedicated to it, the more strong it's going to get, right? It's the same, it's the same analogy.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Okay, so...so some of you all have the papers that I've passed out. How many of you don't have...okay just 1, 2...Okay.

[Passes papers to audience]

Okay so with this activity...with this activity they are, they're several questions that I want you to look at and want you to answer. So first of all, list the mentor or potential mentors that's on your campus or within your social circle, and so like friends, family, extended family. So if you have a mentor, go ahead and write that down. If you're looking for a certain mentor on campus, go ahead and write that down too.

The second question, how did you or how would you find this mentor? And we'll take about, take about five minutes to do this right here. The third question, describe your relationship with your mentor. What have you learned from this mentorship? How has it change your life and how will it help you achieve your academic and career dreams? So go ahead and we'll take about five minutes, go ahead and write that down and once we're done writing, we'll get a chance to share some of the answers to these questions.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Alright, so let's get a chance to go over some of these questions. Let's...who would like to share about the answers to their questions. Yes, please go ahead.

Audience Member 1: I put that my mentor is my EOP [Inaudible]. She's like helping me [Inaudible]. I was kinda like struggling and stuff, and when I got to her office I would just like vent to her about like my professors, about school, or even about work and stuff. She helped me [Inaudible]. She like helped out me like planned out what the next like two years of what classes I'm taking. She like helped me even like [Inaudible] going to law school and stuff like that.

Marcellus Brookshaw: Awesome! So what...I mean...how's it change your life.

Audience Member 1: Well...I don't know...well I think she's changed my life because I love her. I guess I could like she changed my life because before I really didn't have [Inaudible]...about like my problems and somebody who can like help me lead me in the right path. And like even thought this like my last semester [Inaudible]...always text her or like email her and she'll always be there to help me.
Marcellus Brookshaw: So that's pretty cool that your...your having someone at that can mentor at ParaPro is there for you exchanging the information say "Hey, you need to talk, you need to talk about something important, I'm always there for you." So that's pretty reassuring right? Who else would like to share? Yes.

Audience Member 2: So my mentor is the president of my sorority which is Jessica Castillo. That's her sitting right next to me. Like literally in the beginning when we first got here, I was like crap I don't even have a mentor or whatever, and I was thinking about it. And then I realized that Jessica's been my mentor ever since I joined our organization stuff. She's always been there to push me to do better, and like organize myself, and organize my life and just push me to do the best.

Marcellus Brookshaw: Mhm...okay, okay. And do you want to share one?

Audience Member 3: Yeah, I actually have a couple mentors. I have Tracy Butts who is an English professor. I have Pedro Douglas; I'm his student assistant at VPSA. I also have CC Carter who is in charge of all the organizations on campus. And then I have my sorority pledge mom. And I've picked all of them because throughout the years of being involved on campus, I've met them and I've want to be all of them in different ways.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Cool

Audience Member 4: My mentor is Oscar Mendoza, and he basically...he's a big help like whenever I'm hungry or something, he has a lot of munchies in his office. He also tells me that I shouldn't be afraid to ask for help because pride was like getting in the way and like help isn't a bad thing. It's the...you get better I guess. And yeah...he's a pretty cool dude.

Marcellus Brookshaw: And then how is he, would you say, how is he helping you achieving your academic and career dreams?

Audience Member 4: Well I kinda messed up last year, so I'm texting him like my grades every now and then.

Marcellus Brookshaw: So you text him too? So it's...it's pretty nice to have kinda like that big-brother, that someone's there to kinda look out for you, but also kinda you pushing you in the right direction right?

[Phone starts ringing]
Marcellus Brookshaw: Is that him? [Cue laughter]. He's like hey, you're talking about me. But it's great to have that person that you can talk to about and also that knows has been through there right? He's been to college, he knows the difficulties about it. So...right...who else? Yes sir.

Audience Member 5: [Inaudible]...Nathan. He's in CREW, it's a Christian Club on campus. He always keeps my face stronger. We always talk about [Inaudible]

Marcellus Brookshaw: Okay. And I'm just curious, so having two mentors right? Do you feel like you learned something different from each one of them?

Audience Member 5: Nathan, he is the president of the Engineering Club, so he would always tell me what kind of classes I need to do. And liked what to expect out of this and kinda about internships. Nathan from the Christian Club, he just helps keep my faith into action, so it's like spiritual [Inaudible].
Marcellus Brookshaw: So you kinda have like this...your academic side and you also you have your personal religious side too that you can find a balance to, right? And sometimes that's important too cause as college students it...life gets complicated, life gets complicated and sometimes we need to find the balance. And that's why having a mentor is good to have somebody who can kinda hey, let's, let's kinda help focus you on certain areas, so it academics, may it's your social life, may it's your religious believes. You know having someone there to can talk to about it. Who's next?

Audience Member 6: Mine was Brian McDonald and he was my high school teacher. In my freshman year I was laid off track. [Inaudible] In my sophomore year he finally [Inaudible]...and he actually graduated from here. [Inaudible] So he influenced me al throughout high school [Inaudible].

Marcellus Brookshaw: That's awesome, that's awesome. I mean it's pretty amazing to have mentors that you know for such a long time and still have it going. It's amazing that Dr. Douglas is still my mentor and I eventually, you know, I left the university, the grad school, worked a few years. Now I'm back, now I'm working back with him in the same university, and that's pretty amazing and that, I'm still very blessed that happened that way. Who else would like to share? Okay.
Audience Member 7: My mentor is [Inaudible]. She was my mentor through this program called [Inaudible] in the city. I met her my sophomore year of high school when I joined the program, and they just automatically match you with someone. And it was just very lucky of me to have, like, really connected with her. But she had a bunch of other mentees also. But our relationship was always like...like, we were sisters cause she's 27/26. She's not too old you know, so we can really relate to each other and just like speak to each other kinda more as equals. But she just...really...she's the older sister. And I learned a lot from her. One, she really pushed me to go to college and because my parents didn't go to college, or like they didn't know any of the process of how to do that cause it's really different tryna, so they didn't know any of that. So she was there for me, and she helped me through it. She's really the reason why I'm in Chico learning today because my grades were really really bad in high school and I gave up. I was like "Why do...why should I even apply, like, my grades were underneath the requirement or to go to the school, and I don't really want to go to the city college."

So she really, like, picked me back and she shared her motivation story with me why she went to college. And we just, we were really similar as like, [Inaudible], woman who is strong and smart, and havedur the same things that I was going through. And to seen that she is better now and she's...she just now what she wants. And yeah...I love her.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Alright, that's awesome. That's someone to look up to right? It's good to have, it's good to have, alright. Any other who want to share? Yes.

Audience Member 8: So Bree, she is my ParaPro, and I like how she helps me, like, with not just like college related stuff. Like one time I told her I was like surviving on microwaving her food. And she taught me how to make spaghetti and buy chicken.

Marcellus Brookshaw: Mhm, okay. So did you make...did you...did you try it out? How did it come out?

Audience Member 8: Umm...not to good.

Marcellus Brookshaw: Well practice makes perfect right? To tell you the truth I actually learned how to cook after my junior year of college. My mom was like listen, she was like "Hey listen, do you want to eat top ramen, PBJ for the rest of your life? Or you actually want to cook for yourself and eat some real food?" So, that summer I learned how to, how to cook. I watched her that whole summer, and now I can cook myself. I can cook like lamb, steak, chicken, [inaudible]. Little things along the way, right, our mentors teach us, so maybe its cooking tips, but maybe it's the other things in life. Any others before we move on?
Marcellus Brookshaw: All right...so we talked about the different types of mentors. So, some of em are more academic, some of our, our, you know, help us in regards of our, our personal lives, our religious believes. We have a former teachers, we have role models that we looked up to that we wanna be. We want to aspire too, so anybody can really be a mentor, but to be a mentor there has to be mutual respect between the mentor and the mentee, and some who you can confide in, someone that you can trust. And it's a commitment it's, it's a relationship, so you know you're helping. They're helping you, you wanna make sure that they're, that you're there present and you're being active in guards of this learning process. Because having that mentorship is so valuable and I can tell just tell from the stories that you guys talked about, how much it means to you. You know, personally, being here is a big thing and having those people to [Inaudible] from maybe it's you just met them yesterday to three, you know, maybe your whole life. Having those people in your life is amazing, and don't be afraid to ask like, you know. Your mentor is that someone you can trust, so if it's something that you wanna talk about, picture it just "hey, do you mind if we talk about...uhhh...you know I have a question about my certain aspect of my career. May I have a certain aspect about, like, how do I start looking at grad school? How I still looking at writing scholarships?" You know, don't be afraid, there's always room to ask for help and shouldn't be afraid to ask for help.
Marcellus Brookshaw: And from this relationship by having mentors...one second, one second...the awards of having mentor is that, one day you're gonna be professional and then you're gonna be able to stand in front of the classroom or, or being the executive of a business or an engineer or teacher or a scientist. And you're gonna see someone that was in your footsteps, in your shoes! And you're gonna be reaching out to them and say "Hey let me be your mentor. Let me help you because someone helped me before." So as an EOP alumni, that's how I felt when I got higher ed and that's how I feel now as an advisor. So it's the cycle, the tradition continues. So when you got become professionals or you guys become as accomplished individuals, talented people, then you can help the others when it's your time to help.
Marcellus Brookshaw: Alright...so speaking of mentorship, I actually in charge of a new mentorship program called the EOP Brotherhood. Who’s heard of the EOP Brotherhood? All right...so I just started this actually last semester and it's for sophomores, juniors, and seniors for male EOP students that are looking to go to grad school and also having a better idea of what they wanna do as career wise. So it's a great opportunity to be matched up with professional mentors who are faculty staff in the Chico State community, and it's a great way to have somebody there, like I talked about in this presentation, helping you get to your career in academic and personal aspirations. So if you’re interested about it, feel free to meet with me after the presentation.

And that's it, so thank you so much. You all did wonderful.
Thank You!