

# RENATO RECILLAS

STUDENT VOICES OF COMMUNITY COLLEGE



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I feel prepared for my next steps because of the [early middle college] program. The biggest benefits to my experience have been the affordability aspect of the program, opportunities and ability to grow.

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- Dual Enrollment participant
- Associate of Arts in Political Science, Lake Michigan College, 2025
- Bachelor of Arts in Political Science University of Michigan, Expected 2027

## DUAL ENROLLMENT

As a first-generation college student, Renato credits the Early Middle College program for easing his transition into higher education. "I wasn't really sure how to navigate all of this, but being a dual enrollment student was really nice. I learned things like how to register for classes. It was almost like I had someone there to help go through those first steps," he says. He also credits his positive community college experience to the close-knit environment, which allowed him to connect with others and build lasting relationships with his peers. Renato also had the chance to live in campus dorms while completing his final year at Lake Michigan College, an experience that helped him learn to live independently before his big move to Ann Arbor.

## FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE

Renato made the most of his dual enrollment experience. He participated in TRIO Upward Bound, served as president of the student senate, represented LMC as part of the College's delegation to Model Illinois Government and interned with the City of Fennville—where he still works today. This fall, he will continue his education at the University of Michigan to pursue a career in government and policy.

He hopes more students can access dual enrollment programs and encourages policymakers to listen to students' stories to understand the real impact these opportunities have on their lives.



**FOR FUTURE STUDENT OR ALUM SPOTLIGHTS, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION VIA THE QR CODE.**