Here are three faculty members who have dedicated their working lives to the education of students. Their status as part-time faculty does not diminish their contributions to the success of Los Rios students.

ELIZABETH MOON

BA George Washington University 1991
MA CSU-Sacramento 2007
Texas Lifetime Teaching Certificate (Prek—12th grade) English as a Second Language/Contained English/Gifted & Talented Elementary Teacher For America Corps Member 1991

Adjunct Assistant Professor Elizabeth Moon has been teaching in Los Rios since January 2008. Previous to Los Rios she taught in the Houston Independent School District, Texaco, South Korea, Davis Adult School, Davis, CA; UC Davis Global Exchanges Program and did private tutoring. She received her Masters at CSU Sacramento in 2007 and has a Texas lifetime teaching certificate for pre-kindergarten to 12th grade in ESL. In 1991, she was a member of Americorps.

She spent seven years teaching in Houston in one of the most economically challenged neighborhoods. It was here that she learned the meaning of community and how a simple act of kindness can lead another to achieve life-changing success. She sees California community colleges as being a catalyst for individual change and success. In her field of English as a Second Language, she has met individuals from all over the world who have shared their life story with her. “These students struggle everyday to progress over the world who have shared their life story with me. I truly hope that I can weather the budget cuts, so that I can continue to have the opportunity to serve the students of ARC and collaborate with our outstanding faculty.”

Adjuncts are a large portion of the teaching staff at most community colleges. If we are seen as commodities that can be interchanged with anyone, I believe that our students and campus’s suffer. “These students struggle everyday to progress over the world who have shared their life story with me. I truly hope that I can weather the budget cuts, so that I can continue to have the opportunity to serve the students of ARC and collaborate with our outstanding faculty.”

Outside of teaching, Elizabeth is active in her community. She is a member of the Montgomery Elementary School PTA Executive Board.

When she is not teaching, she enjoys reading, volunteering at her children’s musical theater activities, especially at the Davis Musical Theater Company, traveling with her husband and family and learning something new every day.

Villavicencio received his BA in History and Political Science from UC Davis and his M.P.A. from the University of Southern California. He is a graduate of the Los Rios Faculty Diversity Internship Program, where he was mentored by Professor Tressa Tabares at ARC.

He has been active in politics since 1998, when he was an intern for the late Congressman Tom Lantos. He has served as a staff person for the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus at the State Capitol; was an alternate member on the Sacramento County Democratic Central Committee for the 9th Assembly District; an elected delegate for Barack Obama from the 5th Congressional District; and, a campaign assistant for the Steve Wooly for governor campaign.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities and political activities, Villavicencio is an active participant in his community as a citizen member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee for Sacramento County. He is also a member of the UC Davis Alumni Chorus with his wife.

Villavicencio believes that California’s current budget crisis, the results, in part, of structural deficits, has hurt students and faculty. “It’s a shame that budget cuts continue to eliminate sections, depriving our students of high quality education and training they need and deserve to jump start this sluggish economy,” he says. He adds, “While we continue to work harder, it is imperative that we do not remain silent. Now more than ever, each of us must find the time to engage the political process; to talk with our neighbors, contact legislative leaders, write letters to our regional newspapers to tell them that the status quo is not only unsustainable but is inherent-ly unfair, especially to our students. Let us remind them that education is an investment that ultimately will drive our region’s economic recovery.”

Professor Villavicencio was raised in South San Francisco. He was born in the Philippines and immigrated to the United States in 1986 at the age of five, before the People Power Movement became a force in the overthrow of then-President Ferdinand Marcos. He was raised in South San Francisco.