**Student #3: Joe Diaz**

*(Image source: Getty Images)*

Joe is a first generation student interested in Engineering and Computer Science. Prior to starting at Cabrillo he attended the Engineering Orientation where he was introduced to the engineering discipline, faculty, STEM Counselors, STEM Center and connected with new and present engineering students. Joe is struggling in his first semester at Cabrillo and is dealing with issues that affect his academic progress. His Fall Semester is GPA 2.47.

He failed Math 5B and decided to take a break from taking STEM courses to focus on his general education. He enrolled in classes that seemed interesting, but he didn’t check whether they would count for GE and transfer. At the end of the semester, he discovered that all his classes were in one GE area and did not meet the breadth required by IGETC. He was afraid of sharing his struggles with his peers, family, and teachers because he felt like he was disappointing them. He is feeling lost and wondering if he’s cut out for STEM, or even for college.

Joe’s friend invited him to the Engineering Abroad presentations and Joe was inspired to try an engineering class once again. A faculty member recommended Engineering 5 as a good start and let him know about a scholarship that would connect him with financial resources and academic supports.

Joe was awarded the scholarship, which included mandatory student appointments and progress reports. When the counselor discovered that he had struggled in MATH 5B, and was repeating it, she referred him to Academic Excellence Workshops, Supplemental Instruction and tutoring in STEM. He continued to receive support services and attended tutoring regularly. Joe joined Robotics Club and is often seen studying in the STEM Center. Joe has also been meeting regularly with a Cabrillo alumni-Engineering student. Joe’s GPA is now a 3.67.

What could Joe have done earlier in his Cabrillo career to get connected? What services​ and/or ​interventions helped him? How could he have connected to these services earlier?