



2025 Thrift Event

Strengthening Dignity, Confidence, and Belonging Through Access

OUR PURPOSE

Many Gavilan College students balance school with work, caregiving, and financial pressure. Access to essential clothing affects whether a student feels safe, confident, and able to focus on learning. Gavilan Thrift removes clothing insecurity as a barrier to education by offering a dignified, stigma-free space where students choose what they need.

WHAT HAPPENED

Students arrived early and waited calmly before opening. Throughout the day, 201 students moved through a thoughtfully organized space designed to feel welcoming and respectful. Participation increased nearly nineteen-fold compared to previous efforts, demonstrating both the scale of need and the impact of a student-centered approach.

WHY IT MATTERS

- 171 students said the event was extremely helpful
- 72 students could not have afforded the items they received
- One in three attendees faced a critical unmet need
- Half of participants were students from groups who benefit most from targeted support
- Meeting a basic need also lifts emotional weight. Students consistently described feeling relieved, supported, and more connected to campus.



WHO WE SERVED

Students from across the campus community participated, including student parents, veterans, first-generation students, ESL and immigrant students, student workers, and students experiencing housing instability. Parents selected warm clothing for their children. Veterans found professional attire for interviews. Students coming off work shifts chose items that supported both school and employment. Many selected warm layers, socks, and shoes to help them navigate uncertain living conditions.



A COMMUNITY EFFORT

This event was made possible by a collective effort across the college and community.

- 3,552 donated items
- 40 volunteers
- 400 volunteer hours
- Campus and community partners supporting collection, sorting, and event operations

Volunteers helped create a space that was calm, organized, and dignified from start to finish.

STUDENTS HAVE ASKED FOR THIS SUPPORT TO CONTINUE.

SUSTAINING GAVILAN THRIFT MEANS SUSTAINING STUDENT DIGNITY, BELONGING, AND PERSISTENCE.
HELP SUSTAIN GAVILAN BASIC NEEDS.