

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE
OF CALIFORNIA

2021

**PHI THETA
KAPPA AWARD
WINNERS**

**ALL-CALIFORNIA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC TEAM AWARDS**





PHI THETA KAPPA

HONOR SOCIETY

On behalf of the Trustee and CEO Boards of the Community College League of California, as well as all of my colleagues in the organization, a hearty congratulations to you for earning a prestigious spot on the All-California Academic Team.

With this accomplishment, you have demonstrated a capacity for academic excellence, leadership, and persistence. You have also set an example for those who will find inspiration in your achievement.

Nobody can take this success and honor away from you. Enjoy it, and be certain to take the time to recognize and celebrate this achievement.

Congratulations,

Larry Galizio

**Larry Galizio, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Community College League of California**



Table of Contents

ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARDS

A Message from PTK Leaders.....2
Myriam S. Moody, NV/CA Regional Coordinator, Phi Theta Kappa
Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner, President & CEO, Phi Theta Kappa

Recognition of the All-California First, Second, and Third Teams.....4
 First Team.....6
 Second Team.....13
 Third Team.....20

About Phi Theta Kappa All-California Community College Academic Team Program

Building on the success of the national All-USA Team Program, Phi Theta Kappa launched the All-State Academic Team Program. The purpose of this program is to provide recognition at the state level for these top community college students.

This year, 88 California community college students were selected for the All-California Academic First, Second and Third Teams. The Community College League of California is proud to sponsor this award and provide all team members a medallion and certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

Grades, leadership and community service determine selection to the All-California First, Second and Third teams. The selection for the All-California teams was determined by the scores nominees received from Phi Theta Kappa judges at the national level selecting winners for the national academic teams. The students selected represent some of the best of the two million students enrolled in California's 116 community colleges. California's community colleges underwrite their students' success daily. The most diverse students body in higher education succeeds every day by completing associate degrees and certificate programs; getting jobs; transferring to baccalaureate programs; or furthering a lifelong habit of learning. Even though community college funding is limited – and funding per student is less than any other higher education institution in the state – dedicated and professional community college faculty and staff keep service to students their number one priority.

A Message from PTK Leaders



Congratulations All-California Academic Team Member!

Even though I do not know you personally, what I do know about you is your work ethic. Before you even knew about Phi Theta Kappa, you strived to be the best you could be in your academic career. Because of this, you received an invitation to become a member of Phi Theta Kappa, and you accepted. Now, so many opportunities have been opened to you: programs to help you grow personally, to help you transfer, to enter the workforce, and yes, scholarships.

Scholarships is the reason for this letter. Since you applied for a Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, you were also selected to become part of the All-California Academic Team. This is an amazing achievement! I am so proud of you. Why? You are one of the few who thought they could be the recipient of a scholarship and now, you received an additional accolade. The enclosed medal and certificate are tangible reminders of what you have accomplished thus far. Place that certificate in a portfolio that you are able to show four-year colleges you will apply to or the potential employer who wants to know about your work ethic. Hang that medallion in an area that will remind you daily of what you are able to accomplish.

Being a member also means that you have learned about leadership. More than likely, you have played an active role in your chapter, helping out with College Project or Honors in Action Undergraduate Research/Project. There may have been another event that your chapter had a passion for that you knew you were able to assist with. Regardless of the role, you have learned how to work with a variety of individuals which has made you grow in ways you did not realize. I want you to know that you are an amazing individual who has so much more in store as well as someone who has so much to give. I am honored to call you a member of the NV/CA Region of Phi Theta Kappa.

Truly appreciative,

Myriam S. Moody

Myriam S. Moody
NV/CA Regional Coordinator
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society



Dear Honorees, Families and Friends,

On behalf of Phi Theta Kappa, I would like to congratulate those selected for the 2021 AllCalifornia Academic Team!

The 2021 All-California Academic Team members are being recognized for their distinguished achievements both inside and outside the classroom, representing the top students from among the 2.1 million students enrolled in California's Community College system. These leaders are being celebrated for their extremely high levels of academic achievement and their sincere interest in service to others. Many participate in undergraduate research, leadership and service activities-they are committed to improving their own lives, as well as the lives of those around them.

This award is not about who they know or what they know, but how others know them-and their hard work. To be a member of the All-California Academic Team, students must be nominated for this distinction by their college president-indicating that they are standout students in every way. I am so proud to recognize them for their accomplishments and for making the most of their community college experience.

Congratulations to the students, and thank you to the families and friends, faculty, staff and administration for their ongoing support of these student leaders.

Sincerely,

Lynn Tincher-Ladner

Lynn Tincher-Ladner, Ph.D.
President and CEO
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

2021 ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD WINNERS

FIRST TEAM (30)

Brooke Arelano, Citrus College
Shailah Arreola-Bittner, Mt. San Antonio College
Enrique Baranda, Mt. San Jacinto College
Shoshana Brustin, Santa Monica College
Jose Fernandez, Porterville College
Jenai Funk, Southwestern College
Manraj Gill, College of San Mateo
Paloma Pearl Herrera-Thomas, College of the Siskiyous
Preston Hong, Saddleback College
Meera Joseph, Chaffey College
Afnan Khawaja, Napa Valley College
Alejandro Martin-Cruz, Southwestern College
Jessica Morales, Cerritos College
Rachel Morse, Taft College
Seth Nasr, College of the Canyons
Yasaman Nassab, Irvine Valley College
Alexis Nguyen, Irvine Valley College
Kristen Palacios, Mt. San Antonio College
Sheila Prostek, West Hills College
Joelle Schumacher, San Diego Mesa College
Oscar Silva, MiraCosta College
Noreen Singh, Skyline College
Brianna Tammar, Sierra College
Erin Tan, Mt. San Antonio College
Thomas Taylor, Allan Hancock College
Rafael Valdovinos, Jr., Allan Hancock College
Jennifer Wick, Mt. San Jacinto College
Angelina Wilson, Feather River College
Justin Yeo, Orange Coast College
Anthony Yu, Skyline College

SECOND TEAM (30)

Garrett Stefan Andersen, San Diego Miramar College
Kimberly Barajas, Santa Monica College
Sarah Bonillas, Mt. San Jacinto College
Rosanna Burgos Pujols, Saddleback College
Christopher Burroughs, MiraCosta College
Ilyne Junuen Castellanos, Hartnell College
Shawna Clark, Butte College
Elisa Dephilippis, San Diego City College
Esmaa Elgarguri, Las Positas College
Christian Yahir Gonzalez Ruiz, San Diego City College
Karina Hernandez, Hartnell College
Sarah-Jayne Holm, Sierra College
Rosemely Hurtado, Las Positas College
Margot Glyn Eliarda Juan, Solano Community College
Maryam Khan, Southwestern College
Alexis Kline, West Hills College
Allison Langston, Taft College
Fatima Lopez Lopez, Santa Ana College
Cindy Lopez-Ordoñez, Mt. San Jacinto College
Isaac Lum, Citrus College
Neyda Macias, Santa Ana College
Adam Marlow, College of the Siskiyous
Arianne Marie Omila, Napa Valley College
Tristan Perez, Long Beach City College
Sabrina Sablan, Merritt College
Matthew Sereno, Orange Coast College
Diego Sotomayor, Chaffey College
Karla Tirado, San Diego Mesa College
Paul Vera, Porterville College
Xiomara Villarreal-Gerardo, Southwestern College

2021 ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD WINNERS

THIRD TEAM (28)

Bohan Bai, Fullerton College
Lawanda Barrow, MiraCosta College
Catherine Bartle, Santa Ana College
Bradley Beecham, Shasta College
Gurleen Bhinder, Chaffey College
Braden Burns, Fullerton College
Nicholas Chan, Las Positas College
Ethan Cole, Butte College
Shabnam Habibi, Grossmont College
Delanee Haskins, MiraCosta College
Imelda Hernandez-Villa, Cuyamaca College
Rebecca Lake, American River College
Olivia Long, Feather River College
Raydeen Lopez, Long Beach City College
Stefanie Mutialu, Merritt College
Saul Navarrete, Porterville College
Amy Perez, Southwestern College
Ariel Pons, Mendocino College
Rex Rawls, Grossmont College
James Roberts, Mt. San Jacinto College
Alma Rodriguez, Solano Community College
Ysabelle Nina Salazar, College of the Canyons
Karina Sanchez, Southwestern College
Rachele Sermeno, American River College
Henry Siqueiros, Mt. San Jacinto College
Samantha Tamayo, Southwestern College
Aujanæ White, West Hills College
Christie Williams, Mendocino College

All-California Academic **1st** Team



Brooke Arellano
Age: 22
College: Citrus College
Major: Pre-Allied Health, Psychology, and Public Health Sciences | GPA: 3.86

Brooke Arellano is a student from Citrus College with a Pre-Allied Health and Psychology degree hoping to obtain a future career in medicine. Three years ago, Brooke moved back out here from Montreal, Canada, and found herself at Citrus College becoming a member of Phi Theta Kappa. Today, Brooke is President of the chapter Beta Nu Eta and VP of Communications for Alpha Gamma Sigma and has maintained a GPA high enough to be on the president's list since Fall 2018. This year, Brooke is looking to transfer Fall 2021 into a UC. Since moving out here, Brooke has managed to uphold two to three jobs while keeping up her school work and spending time with her family and friends.



Shailah Arreola-Bittner
Age: 22
College: Mt. San Antonio College
Major: Environmental Science | GPA: 3.66

Shailah Arreola-Bittner has served in several different leadership positions within various organizations that embodied many of her passions such as environmental sustainability, community service, and student advocacy. Some of her proudest achievements include fundraising \$2,000 so that Mt. SAC's Environmental Action Club could expand the Mt. SAC Wildlife Sanctuary, helping earn funds for future sustainability efforts, and lobbying student government officials as well as administration to protect the rights of Latinx and Muslim students. Shailah hopes to transfer to either UC Berkeley, UC San Diego, or UCLA, where she will continue to research sustainable practices and study environmental policy. In her free time, Shailah enjoys watching tv shows with her boyfriend and spending time with friends and family.



Enrique Baranda
Age: 20
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Business Administration and Sociology | GPA: 4.0

Enrique Baranda, a 4.0 GPA Honors Student & PTK Member at Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC), has been selected as a 2021 Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar, earning him a scholarship. He serves as a student leader on-campus as an ASC Student Mentor for the Accommodation Service Center and Honors Student Mentor for the Honors Enrichment Program at Mt. San Jacinto College. In addition, Enrique also serves as the Regional Southeast District Vice President for the Nevada/California Region and Chapter Leadership Officer for the Beta Delta Omega Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society concurrently. Enrique, a first-generation Latino college student, hopes to transfer to Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee, and major in Human and Organizational Development for Fall 2021.



Shoshana Brustin
Age: 20
College: Santa Monica College
Major: Technical Theatre | GPA: 3.9

After graduating from an arts high school in Nashville, Tennessee, Shoshana Brustin decided to begin their higher education studies at Santa Monica College. An active member in the GSA, student government, and student-led sustainability workshops at SMC, Shoshana intends to transfer in the Fall of 2021. Shoshana plans to pursue a career in costume design and is committed to creating a more equitable theatre and art world. Shoshana hopes that through costumes they can bring people joy and new ways of self expression.

All-California Academic **1st** Team



Jose Fernandez
Age: 27
College: Porterville College
Major: Business Administration | GPA: 3.8

Jose Fernandez is a full-time student double majoring in Business Management for Entrepreneurship along with Business Administration at Porterville College. He recently received his Certificate of Achievement for Entrepreneurship as well as his Job Skills Certificate for Entrepreneurship in the summer of last year. Jose will receive his Associate Degree in Business Management for Entrepreneurship along with his AS-T for Business Administration this semester. His plan is to transfer to Fresno State University. Jose's goals are to complete college and use all the learned knowledge and necessary skills to be a successful business owner. Jose's ten-year goal is to run a successful operating business.



Jenai Funk
Age: 20
College: Southwestern College
Major: Political Science and Business Administration | GPA: 3.9

Jenai Funk is a young leader who is bringing positive change around the world. Because her passion is helping people, her goal is to lead research and work in the field while helping communities worldwide, ultimately becoming the first female Secretary General for the United Nations. She served as the Vice President of College Project for PTK Alpha Pi Epsilon chapter, Senator at Large for the Associated Student Organization, and the President of Creative and Performing Arts Club. Since she was 11, she has volunteered for different NGOs in the United States and Mexico eventually becoming a director for Love Empowered. Before college, Jenai had been a dancer for 14 years receiving distinction from the Royal Academy of Dance. Now, she has received prestigious awards for her academics and leadership.



Manraj Gill
Age: 20
College: College of San Mateo
Major: Mechanical Engineering | GPA: 4.0

An ardent traveler and adventure seeker at heart, Manraj Gill intends to pursue his career in product development and entrepreneurship. He is most passionate about progressive and emerging technologies relatively unheard of today (the startup kind). Manraj previously served as the PTK President at his community college and is an active advocate for starting grassroots initiatives. Amid COVID-19, he co-founded TEDxCollegeofSanMateo to unite a strained campus community impacting the lives of 45,000 individuals district-wide. He is currently involved in YCombinator's startup school where he hopes to find his next niche to work on. In his free time, he loves hiking, binge-watching YouTube and going on impromptu food hunts.



Paloma Pearl Herrera-Thomas
Age: 21
College: College of the Siskiyous
Major: Liberal Arts and Sciences | GPA: 3.96

Paloma Pearl Herrera-Thomas is highly involved in the College of the Siskiyous campus community. She served as secretary and is currently President of the Associated Student Board (ASB), and works as a Peer Tutor for English, Biology, Environmental Science, Public Speaking, and Student Skills. In the ASB, she works hard to vocalize and meet diverse student interests and needs. Having faced obstacles as a disabled student, her experiences encourage her to work extra hard, helping to form her core beliefs and values and to cultivate compassion for others. These skills are reflected in her tutoring, as she specializes in working with disabled and ESL students. She looks forward to transferring to a four-year university to study environmental science in order to fight for a healthy relationship between humans and the natural environment.

All-California Academic **1st** Team



Preston Hong
Age: 19
College: Saddleback College
Major: Mechanical Engineering | GPA: 3.89

Preston Hong is a member of the Saddleback Associated Student Government as the Director of the Honors Student Council, in addition to being team captain of the Saddleback Track and Field team and Vice President for the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter. He also is the student government and athletic representative for the college's mascot workgroup, treasurer of the campus chapter of the Society of American Military Engineers, and a member of the Association of Computing Machinery. Preston plans to transfer to Stanford University and pursue a degree in mechanical engineering.



Meera Joseph
Age: 27
College: Chaffey College
Major: Political Science | GPA: 4.0

Meera Joseph is a second-year Political Science student at Chaffey College. She is enrolled in the Pathway to Law Program at her college. She is passionate about justice and equity and hopes to pursue law school one day. She hopes that in pursuing this degree she can provide women who face domestic violence exceptional and affordable legal care and create policies that offer women greater protection. She currently serves as the president of her college chapter, Beta Kappa Pi. She is also working part-time at her school in helping design student services by working with the administration. Outside of school, she enjoys baking, singing, sketching, and sewing.



Afnan Khawaja
Age: 19
College: Napa Valley College
Major: Computer Science | GPA: 4.0

Afnan Khawaja is a first-generation college student from a low-income background, who immigrated from Pakistan in 2016. Afnan is currently a student at Napa Valley College and is majoring in Computer Science. He plans to transfer to UC Berkeley and strives to become a software engineer. Currently, he serves as the Executive Vice President for the Beta Beta Sigma chapter and serves as the student government's Events Coordinator. After he becomes a software engineer, he wants to make an impact in society through his career and community service. After seeing his grandfather paralyzed, not being able to move or talk, Afnan was motivated to develop technology that would help the unfortunate live a normal life with little to no cost for low-income families.



Alejandro Martin-Cruz
Age: 19
College: Southwestern College
Major: Communication | GPA: 3.8

Through discipline and organization, Alejandro Martin-Cruz was able to continue his full-time education at Southwestern College throughout the pandemic. Alejandro has received high grades on his courses despite having a cognitive disability, which in reality has helped him plan ahead and think ahead of the curve. Having been raised by great parents who have introduced him into the limelight of being an actor and working with the media, communication will be the most essential major that will help him throughout his life and career. Southwestern College has provided enough help for him to continue his education beyond transferring by helping him find the meaning for his dedication and by changing him to become a very productive high earning person.



Rachel Morse
Age: 30
College: Taft College
Major: Psychology | GPA: 3.94

Rachel Morse is a student at Taft College studying Psychology. She is a mother to a beautiful little boy who is the best thing that has ever happened to her. Rachel's dreams and passions are to help heal others who suffer from childhood traumas, addictions, abuse, human trafficking, and anything that needs healing within the human heart, mind, and soul. She will be transferring to CSUB in the Fall of 2021 to pursue her bachelor's degree in Psychology and later a master's degree or a Ph.D. Rachel hopes to help relieve human suffering throughout her future career and is honored to be recognized as a part of Phi Theta Kappa.

All-California Academic **1st** Team



Seth Nasr
Age: 19
College: College of the Canyons
Major: Communication Studies | GPA: 4.0

Seth Nasr is a student at College of the Canyons, whose goal is to glorify God through each of his goals and ambitions. While in community college, Seth was the Vice President of the College Project for Phi Theta Kappa, and the President of Alpha Omega, Communication Studies Club, and Sigma Chi Eta. He was also a member of his college's Honors Society, as well as the college's award-winning Speech Team, where he won second place at a national tournament for public speaking. Seth strongly believes this was all due to his solid relationship with God and constant support from his loved ones. Beyond college, Seth dreams of becoming the CEO of HOPE Worldwide, a non-profit organization focused on bringing hope and change to places in need around the world.



Yasaman Nassab
Age: 24
College: Irvine Valley College
Major: Psychology | GPA: 4.0

Yasaman Nassab is a fourth-year college student at Irvine Valley College. She is passionate about psychology, mental health, and advocacy. She wishes to be a Marriage and Family Therapist, Clinical Psychologist as well as Life Coach and to help as many people as possible. Her other goals include: fighting for mental health government policies as well as helping global mental health. Yasaman has served 2 years in Student Government, founded the IVC Mental Wellness Club, was a Promise Peer mentor, DSPS note-taker, ICC representative of the Persian Club, and was in the Speech and Debate team as well as the National Honors Society in Psychology, Psi Beta. She has also done numerous initiatives and activities outside of college and is currently developing an app.



Alexis Nguyen
Age: 17
College: Irvine Valley College
Major: Art History | 4.0

Alexis Nguyen lives the Hannah Montana dream, rocking "The Best of Both Worlds" as an aspiring physician majoring in Art History. When she became a Laguna Beach Junior Lifeguard as a little girl, she quickly discovered her love for serving others. At 17-years-old, Alexis is a sophomore at Irvine Valley College, holding eight leadership positions including President of the Honors Program Student Council and Student Government VP of External Affairs. She also serves as a Delegate at the Student Senate for California Community Colleges and has taken her passion for leadership worldwide as Co-Founder and CEO of The International Society of Pre-Health Researchers. You can catch Alexis swimming in the depths of the ocean, playing piano, or spending hours lost in the grandeur of museums, her "Happiest Place on Earth".



Kristen Palacios
Age: 34
College: Mt. San Antonio College
Major: Nursing | GPA: 3.65

Kristen Palacios is an extremely hard-working, devoted mother and student who is striving for greatness, one class and one day at a time. Nursing is a true passion of Kristen's and being on this path has been such a rewarding journey for her. Each class and professor at Mt. San Antonio College has truly shaped Kristen as an individual more than she could've ever imagined. Kristen has pushed herself through difficult times and remained positive through all of life's obstacles. Actively a member of the community, Kristen gives back her time in service efforts and wants to make her school and community a better place. Kristen will continue on the path towards her degree and her goals, hoping to make a difference in both patient's lives and the world.

All-California Academic **1st** Team



Sheila Prostek
Age: 39
College: West Hills College Lemoore
Major: Hotel Restaurant Casino Management | GPA: 4.0

Sheila Prostek is a former foster youth and first-generation college student majoring in Hotel Restaurant Casino Management at West Hills College Lemoore. She serves as the Treasurer of the Beta Phi Lambda Chapter, President of the Epicurean Club, and an active member of Phi Theta Kappa since Fall 2020. Sheila is also heavily involved as a volunteer with the Red Cross. In Summer 2020, Sheila was acknowledged for her internship project titled “COVID-19 Best Practices Safety Handbook” which was adopted by the Culinary Department as an additional resource to help provide a safe environment for students and staff. Sheila will complete a variety of certificates along with her degree and transfer requirements by Spring 2022. She is planning to pursue her bachelor’s degree in Hospitality and HR at Harvard or GCU.



Joelle Schumacher
Age: 24
College: San Diego Mesa College
Major: Geography | GPA: 4.0

Joelle Schumacher is passionate about the environment, food, the written word, and transforming political and social systems into sustainable, equitable, and creative spaces. They are one of the co-architects of San Diego Mesa College’s Green Revolving Fund and hope to study food geography in their future. Joelle’s dream is to establish permaculture designed community gardens, localize food systems, and divert food from landfills and put it into the hands of the people. They believe firmly in and hope to work toward building communities, honoring food sovereignty, and transforming urban environments into greener, more vibrant, and more accessible spaces.



Oscar Silva
Age: 26
College: MiraCosta College
Major: Business Administration | GPA: 4.0

Oscar Silva is a first-generation college student at MiraCosta College, who has ambitions to be an entrepreneur and venture capitalist. Participating in the Global Solutions program where students in the U.S. and Iraq work together to design a business concept that addresses an emerging problem in the world, Oscar had the role of being the Marketer and Prototype Developer. The concept was to design and develop a smartphone application that locates infected individuals with COVID-19 and helps them report their quarantine status with the city officials, family members and interested neighbors. Recently Oscar had the opportunity to volunteer for a community advocacy organization, Hazel’s Army, that fights for at-risk and marginalized communities through legislative advocacy and community education. It’s led by Aaron Byzak, who also serves as his mentor.



Noreen Singh
Age: 21
College: Skyline College
Major: Psychology | GPA: 3.95

Noreen Singh is a Psychology major at Skyline College. She is Vice President of Communications of the Beta Theta Omicron Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. Noreen will transfer to California State University Stanislaus to study psychology and plans to earn her Ph.D. Noreen works as a community tutor, providing support to children K-12. During the pandemic, Noreen created “Hope Kits” and delivered them to the children in her community who were struggling with the transition to online learning. Noreen serves as a Multiplying Good Think Big Team member on the youth advisory board. She is passionate about education and equity for minority groups. Noreen strives to empower and inspire others to make a change in their community and accomplish their goals and dreams no matter what may come.

All-California Academic **1st** Team



Brianna Tammar
Age: 30
College: Sierra College
Major: Anthropology, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences | GPA: 3.6

Brianna Tammar is a first-generation college student with a multidisciplinary focus in Anthropology spanning the Americas, emphasizing in cultural and evolutionary aspects of the human experience. In 2016, she spent the summer in the Peruvian Amazon studying the effects poaching had on spider-monkey populations. Her passions within Anthropology have driven her to better understand how humans are influenced by landscapes, how symbolic thoughts are relayed in past and present cultures, and the process of immersion and integration between cultures in the Americas. She will be transferring to UC Davis with associate degrees in Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Anthropology. When she is not studying, she enjoys writing about cultural topics, making art, and being in the outdoors. She is also a member of the archaeological organizations AIA and the SAS.



Erin Tan
Age: 19
College: Mt. San Antonio College
Major: Computer Engineering, Mathematics | GPA: 3.94

Erin Tan earned her associate degree in Science in Mathematics for Transfer at Mt. San Antonio College, and transferred in the Spring 2021 semester to Georgia Tech on her way to earn a bachelor's degree in Science in Computer Engineering. While at Georgia Tech, Erin is still devoted to giving back to the student community at Mt. SAC, where she is currently still serving as the president of the Computer Science Club and the Google Developer Student Club Lead of the chapter that she founded there in Fall 2020. Before she transferred, Erin was also a programmer for Mt. SAC's VEX U Robotics Team and conducted research on virtual machines, where her abstract was published in the HTCC publication, *Building Bridges*. Outside of school, Erin also enjoys baking and doing freelance photography jobs.



Thomas Taylor
Age: 28
College: Allan Hancock College
Major: Mechanical Engineering (Mechatronics) | GPA: 3.67

Thomas Taylor is an aspiring mechanical engineer. He is currently attending Allan Hancock College; having earned associate degrees in mathematics, physics, chemistry, and engineering. He is ready to continue his education at a state university. Thomas stays busy working as a casino manager full-time overnight, tutoring STEM subjects part-time, undertaking independent study projects in robotics, and doing free-lance engineering work. Despite having a full plate, Thomas consistently earns Dean's List and honors recognitions. Inspired by his wife who has battled lupus for a decade, his passion is in research and development of products that empower those in chronic pain. He has published several free use designs for 3D printing that ease household tasks.



Rafael Valdovinos Jr.
Age: 40
College: Allan Hancock College
Major: Psychology and Social Work, Addiction Studies and Co-Occurring Disorders | GPA: 3.92

Rafael Valdovinos Jr.'s lived experience drives his passion to empower those impacted by systemic barriers, mental health disorders, substance use disorders, and incarceration. He has spent over a decade mentoring men and sharing his experience at juvenile custody facilities and adult prisons. Currently, Rafael is an advocate in the AHC Beyond Barriers Re-entry Program under the Rising Scholars Initiative while in a leadership position in the Beyond Incarceration Greater Education (BIGE) Club. Rafael earned an AA in Psychology and begins a BA in Social Work concurrently finishing an AS in Addiction Studies and Certificate in Co-Occurring Disorders. He will be the first college graduate in his family and is the first Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship Semi-finalist from his community college. He humbly credits his success to his advocates, family, and friends.

All-California Academic **1st** Team



Jennifer Wick
Age: 19
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Nursing | GPA: 3.87

Jennifer Wick has grown up in Menifee for most of her life. She is driven to have a successful life and inspires to be a registered nurse. Her goal in life is to be there for people during some of their hardest times. Jennifer lives life through a positive outlook. A positive outlook has gotten Jennifer through the bad times and the good times; it is one of the many things that makes her who she is. She also is who she is because of her supportive family. She owes a great deal of every success to them. They forever have her back for whatever future she succeeds in life. Jennifer's family has been there for her through every downfall and uprise, every failure and success.



Angelina Wilson
Age: 18
College: Feather River College
Major: English | GPA: 3.8

Angelina Wilson is a first-generation college student with a passion for English studies and higher education. She seeks to provide educational resources to diverse student populations, specifically first-generation and incarcerated students. She served as Liaison to the incarcerated student program at Feather River College and worked as a tutor to help students like herself overcome educational challenges and better their lives through education. Angelina plans to continue her educational path by transferring to a UC in the Fall and is excited to meet the challenge of a bigger university. Angelina is grateful to PTK for creating the opportunity for recognition of her academic merit. In order to continue striving for excellence, she believes students must be recognized not for notoriety but for validation of their efforts.



Justin Yeo
Age: 23
College: Orange Coast College
Major: Biology | GPA: 4.0

Justin Yeo is an international student from Singapore who majors in Biology. He served in the Singapore Army for two years after graduating from high school and was a Sergeant in an Armor Battalion. Currently, he serves as the Vice President of Scholarly Activities at Phi Theta Kappa's Beta Mu Alpha Chapter and has also completed Orange Coast College's Honors Program. Justin led his chapter's Honors in Action research project, where he and his team researched the safety and efficacy of vaccines and interviewed an infectious disease expert from USC. They then held a live Zoom event, which drew an international audience of more than 100 people, to educate people on vaccines and address circulating misinformation. After earning his bachelor's degree, Justin hopes to pursue post-graduate studies in either medicine or physical therapy.



Anthony Yu
Age: 20
College: Skyline College
Major: Business Administration | GPA: 4.0

Anthony Yu is a student at Skyline College who is currently studying Business Administration. He is the President of the Beta Theta Omicron chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society for 2020-2021. He is also the Co-President of the Alpha Beta Chi chapter of the Kappa Beta Delta International Business Honor Society and serves as a Student Council Senator for the Associated Students of Skyline College. Anthony will be transferring to a four-year university after two years at Skyline College in pursuit of a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. Anthony enjoys traveling, listening to music, writing and spending time with his family. Along with his future endeavors, Anthony will continue to give back to his community.

All-California Academic **2nd** Team



Garrett Stefan Andersen
Age: 20
College: San Diego Miramar College
Major: History | GPA: 3.53

Garrett Stefan Andersen is a History major at San Diego Miramar College. An active honors student, he recently presented his research on the Vikings, their motivations, and their impact in Eastern Europe and Islamic Spain at the annual Miramar College Honors Symposium. A creative writer, who often focuses on historical topics, Garrett is receiving his AA in History from Miramar in Spring 2021. He will transfer in Fall 2021 to pursue his bachelor's degree. Garrett is a long-time regular at many local museums, and he ultimately wants to share his love of history by teaching history at the high school or college level.



Sarah Bonillas
Age: 35
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Nursing | GPA: 3.78

Sarah Bonillas will be graduating from Mt. San Jacinto College this semester and will receive her Liberal Arts Degree in Math & Science, Soc & Behavioral Science, and Humanities & Comm, as well as an Associate of Science Degree. She made the President's Honor List every semester she attended full-time. Sarah has been working in the substance abuse field and decided to go back to school after 15 years off, thanks to the support of her husband, Gabriel, and their three children: Brennan, Carlin, and Katara. Sarah is pursuing a career in pediatric oncology and dreams of working for St. Jude's Children's Research Center. The civic-minded focus that is PTK has been her inspiration and motivation to look for solutions to issues within her community.



Rosanna Burgos Pujols
Age: 20
College: Saddleback College
Major: Biology | GPA: 3.73

Rosanna Burgos Pujols is from the Dominican Republic and is currently a sophomore at Saddleback College studying Biology. Rosanna started as an ESL student in the Fall of 2017. She will receive her associate degree in Biology this semester and will be transferring to a UC in the Fall to pursue Neuroscience and Cognitive Science. She is part of her school's Honors Program and is the current Chapter President of Beta Epsilon Beta PTK Chapter. She is fascinated by the brain and its influence on a person's behavior. She also loves to research areas such as Criminal Psychology, Schizoaffective Disorders, Schizophrenia, Psychopathic Behavior, and Sleep Disorders. In her free time, Rosanna likes to listen to music, paint, read, and spend time with friends.



Christopher Burroughs
Age: 46
College: MiraCosta College
Major: Environmental Sustainability | GPA: 3.91

Christopher Burroughs is currently a student at MiraCosta Community College and the VP of Scholarship for PTK. He is also the Treasurer of the Black Student Union and a semi-finalist for the Jack Kent Cooke Transfer Scholarship. As a formerly incarcerated student, Christopher uses his experience to be of service to other justice-impacted members of his community. Christopher's passions include building community gardens and teaching people how to grow their own food. Teaching youth to develop a relationship with nature and become environmental stewards is one of Christopher's life missions. In the Fall of 2021, he will be transferring to SDSU to pursue a degree in Environmental Sustainability.

All-California Academic **2nd** Team



Ilyne Junuen Castellanos
Age: 19
College: Hartnell College
Major: Political Science and Spanish | GPA: 4.0

Ilyne Junuen Castellanos is the proud daughter of Mexican immigrants and a Political Science and Spanish major at Hartnell College. She was born and raised in Salinas, California where she works as a bilingual journalist and a peer mentor at her community college. Upon transfer, Ilyne hopes to major in International Affairs and Latin American Studies, and in the future, work as a foreign service officer. She is passionate about language learning, communication, and community building and hopes to bring those interests to her future university and career.



Shawna Clark
Age: 23
College: Butte College
Major: Social and Behavioral Science | GPA: 3.8

Shawna Clark is attending Butte College and will be graduating with Honors in the Spring. She is very dedicated to her academics and extremely involved with her school. She is in student government as well as over a dozen other committees focused on enhancing the status of Butte College and the quality of learning for students. She is the 2021 President of her Phi Theta Kappa chapter and was previously the Vice President of Affairs. She is transferring in the Fall of 2021 to the Oregon Institute of Technology. Shawna plans to obtain her bachelor's degree in the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Program. It has been a dream of hers to be a part of the medical field. She is very excited and grateful for this next chapter in her life.



Elisa DePhillippis
Age: 29
College: San Diego City College
Major: Biology Allied Health | GPA: 3.95

If you have to dream, exaggerate. This is my motto daily.



Christian Yahir Gonzalez Ruiz
Age: 20
College: San Diego City College
Major: Aerospace Engineering | GPA: 3.85

Christian Yahir Gonzalez Ruiz moved to the United States from Mexico three years ago. He learned English in six months and is a first generation student. He is a Mexican student who would like to be a NASA engineer in the future, working on the exciting project of colonizing Mars. He enjoys reading philosophy and science books. Mathematics is his favorite subject. He plans to transfer to UCLA to pursue a bachelor's degree, master's degree and Ph.D. in the near future.



Karina Hernandez
Age: 20
College: Hartnell College
Major: Biology | GPA: 3.6

Karina Hernandez is a first generation college student who will be transferring to a four year college. Karina is thankful for her parents, boyfriend, friends, and everyone who has come into her life. Karina is a biology major and aspires to become the first physician in her family. She looks forward to giving back to her community one day and growing as an individual.

All-California Academic **2nd** Team



Sarah-Jayne Holm
Age: 20
College: Sierra College
Major: Business | GPA: 4.0

Sarah-Jayne Holm earned her associate's degrees in Business and Humanities at Sierra College. Her PTK faculty advisor sparked a love in her for Humanities which turned into a raging flame. She fell in love with elegance found in cultures and charm found in people, but she also discovered beauty found in suffering. She applied this unconventional view to her own experiences, when she underwent a life saving open heart surgery. She plans to continue her education at the University of Washington where she will pursue a career in Advertising for the Healthcare industry so she can inspire hope in patients like herself. In her personal life, she has chosen to pursue drinking iced coffee and continuing to learn about the individuals who taught her to find the romance sprinkled in tragedies.



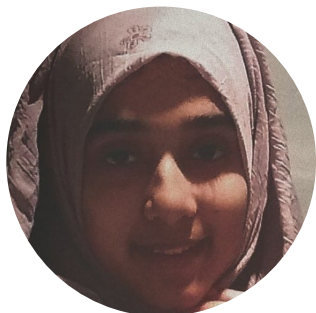
Rosemely Hurtado
Age: 19
College: Las Positas College
Major: Biology Pre-Med | GPA: 3.92

Rosemely Hurtado is an academic honor student at Las Positas College. She is majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Pre-Medicine. While at LPC, she has been a member of the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society and currently serves as Membership Chair. She served as President of the Hispanic Serving Institution STEM Club and she is a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Mathematics Honor Society. Rosemely plans to transfer to the University of California, Davis in Fall 2021 where she'll be able to complete her bachelor's degree. After graduation, she plans to attend medical school with the goal of becoming an Internal Medicine Doctor. In her free time, Rosemely enjoys volunteering at Stanford Health Care, going on walks, playing the ukulele, and spending time with her family and friends.



Margot Glyn Juan
Age: 21
College: Solano Community College
Major: Biology | GPA: 4.0

Margot Glyn Juan is a Biology major at Solano Community College. Ms. Juan is a first-generation college student who immigrated from Tagum City, Philippines to the United States when she was 14 years old. She currently serves as the Secretary of the Associated Students of Solano Community College and the Finance Committee, a subcommittee of the student government. She is also involved in other clubs, such as the Phi Theta Kappa Beta Mu Gamma chapter of SCC and Filipinx-America Students of SCC. Ms. Juan has been on the President's Honor List throughout her college career. She plans to transfer to the University of California, Davis to attain her bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences and then go to medical school in the hopes of becoming an internist.



Maryam Khan
Age: 21
College: Southwestern College
Major: Biological Sciences | GPA: 4.0

Maryam Khan is a Sophomore at Southwestern College. She plans to transfer to a 4-year college this Fall to pursue a Biological Sciences major. As a pre-med student, Maryam's goal is to ultimately become a surgeon.

All-California Academic **2nd** Team



Alexis Kline
Age: 24
College: West Hills Community College Lemoore
Major: Elementary Teacher Education | GPA: 3.8

Alexis Kline is a future teacher. She realized her love for working with kids in high school while working at a daycare. She hopes to make a difference in kids lives while making a difference in her own life. Alexis enjoys being outdoors and exploring. She is a slight adrenaline junkie as well as a homebody. Besides her bed, the beach is Alexis' happy place. Alexis can't wait to be in the classroom teaching and to make that her new happy place. Her preferred grade levels to teach are kindergarten to third grade.



Allison Langston
Age: 27
College: Taft College
Major: Criminal Justice, Business Administration, Political Science | GPA: 4.0

Allison Langston is 27 years old and a first generation college student currently enrolled at Taft College and Bakersfield College. This is her fourth semester in college and she is actively pursuing three associate degrees including Criminal Justice, Business Administration, and Political Science. Allison maintains her 4.0 as well as participates in extracurricular activities such as writing for her school's newspaper, holding a community service leadership position with NSLS, and also holds a treasurer's position on Taft College's newspaper committee. Allison Langston is passionate about her three children, school, life, and the well being of all people. She is also very driven and goal oriented. Allison is set to graduate spring of 2022 and her dream is to transfer to UCLA and study Political Science and Criminal Justice.



Fatima Lopez Lopez
Age: 20
College: Santa Ana College
Major: Psychology | GPA: 4.0

Fatima Lopez Lopez is an International Student from Hidalgo, Mexico pursuing a career in Psychology. She will transfer to CSUF for the Fall semester. Fatima is a woman who dreams big and believes in herself. She has a family who always supports her in everything. That is why she is studying abroad. She is amazed by all the opportunities this country has to offer, including Phi Theta Kappa. When she knew she could become a member, she did not think twice. She is an excellent student and is gaining life experiences that will provide her richer a perspective. Fatima wants to help others while continuing to search for her passion.



Cindy Lopez-Ordoñez
Age: 25
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Microbiology | GPA: 3.5

Cindy Lopez-Ordoñez is a first-generation college student attending Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC). Her journey in higher education was derailed after being dismissed from the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). She returned to receive an education at MSJC. Since then, she has participated in organizations that have been fundamental to her success. She currently serves as an Honors mentor, her chapter's Scholarship Officer, and member of The Talon, a student-run newspaper. She is passionate about sharing resources (i.e. scholarships, internships, and summer programs) with her peers because of her positive experience in them. Her ultimate goal is to attend medical school to serve underserved communities in the U.S. and abroad (Guatemala, in particular). She also hopes to mentor the next generation of physicians and scientists.

All-California Academic **2nd** Team



Isaac Lum
Age: 21
College: Citrus College
Major: Biology | GPA: 3.7

Isaac Lum is a high school drop out and first-generation student attending Citrus College. He has a passion for helping people and is trying to become either a pharmacist or disease detective for the CDC. His passion for helping others leads him to volunteer for many community service opportunities. His favorite community service work is in the medical field such as giving vaccines for the flu, more recently COVID-19. He is in Citrus College's honors program and is the current Vice President of Service for his Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Beta Nu Eta. As his chapter's Vice President of Service, it is his responsibility to lead the chapter's College Project. The College Project he led won second most distinguished College Project in his region and top 50 College Project internationally.



Neyda Macias
Age: 20
College: Santa Ana College
Major: Sociology | GPA: 3.5

Neyda Macias is a student at Santa Ana College and is pursuing her associate Degree in Sociology and another associate in Community Services. She hopes to attend UC Irvine and earn a bachelor's degree in Sociology which will assist her in pursuing a career as a social worker. She is a student assistant at Santa Ana College and has helped to establish a center on campus that assists students with meeting their basic needs. This work has helped Neyda establish a vision for her future. Neyda volunteers with many organizations. This allows her to see the world through other's eyes and encourages empathy, compassion, and advocacy. Neyda is humbled by the beautiful souls she has met while volunteering for different agencies.



Arianne Marie Omila
Age: 20
College: Napa Valley College
Major: Psychology | GPA: 4.0

Arianne Marie Omila is a psychology major, artist, and aspiring user experience designer. She has an immense passion for implementing creative solutions in an otherwise complicated environment. Arianne has learned to apply this passion in her life to adjust to the still-foreign American lifestyle after migrating from the Philippines two years ago. In an effort to belong to this space and create valuable connections, she worked hard and earned a board position in Beta Beta Sigma, Napa Valley College's PTK chapter. After participating in fundraisers and other chapter projects, she then decided to join the college's Augmented Reality Club, in which she is the Lead UX/UI designer. Arianne's ultimate goal is to bridge the gap between the Arts and the Sciences through her learnings in psychology and design.



Tristan Perez
Age: 20
College: Long Beach City College
Major: English | GPA: 4.0

Tristan Perez is a full-time college student and plans on attending CSUF in the Fall of 2021 to complete his bachelor's degree in English. He has traveled to over 15 different countries and lived in 2. Tristan has also applied for an internship with the State Department, which will begin next year. He hopes to use his overseas experience to succeed in the internship. Tristan's ultimate goal is to attend UCLA's School of Law where he hopes to use his skills and knowledge to best serve the citizens of the U.S. and those that seek citizenship. Tristan is committed to providing swift and fair justice for all people that require it. He has made the honor roll list and dean's list every year since high school.

All-California Academic **2nd** Team



Sabrina Sablan
Age: 33
College: Merritt College
Major: Business | GPA: 3.77

Sabrina Sablan is currently attending Merritt College in Oakland, California. She is a member of the Beta Theta Lambda Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. She is majoring in Business and plans to graduate and then transfer to a 4-year in 2022 obtaining a BA in Business. She enjoys spending time with her children and traveling. She is also a first generation college student in her family.



Matthew Sereno
Age: 21
College: Orange Coast College
Major: Psychology | GPA: 3.95

Matt Sereno is a Huntington Beach, CA native who enjoys surfing, jiu-jitsu, playing drums, reading, and playing with his dogs. His favorite books are *The Great Gatsby* and *The Things They Carried*, and he currently works as a tutor at OCC. Since the age of 10, he has wanted to be a clinical psychologist, and he will pursue this dream by attending the University of California, Irvine in the Fall of 2021 for Psychological Science. After earning his bachelor's degree, he hopes to earn a doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology and serve as a therapist and/or researcher and/or professor and/or consultant. However, he also hopes to have a family and social life in his late 20s and 30s, so he will probably need to narrow his vocational goals.



Diego Sotomayor
Age: 23
College: Chaffey College
Major: Economics | GPA: 3.62

Diego Sotomayor was born in Lima, Peru and got the opportunity to move to the U.S. He started by learning English in an Adult School and in his second year, he enrolled in Chaffey as a Business major. He dedicated two years to doing community service in Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church where he learned many things. He also was the treasurer and Vice President for the EOPS campus club. In his last year, Diego wanted to work for the student community so he decided to run for Director of Finance to gain experience in the economics field to make the community better for the students. Diego is hoping to attend UC Berkeley to finish his bachelor's degree in Economics.



Karla Tirado
Age: 19
College: San Diego Mesa College
Major: Political Science | GPA: 4.0

Karla Tirado is an international student from Mexico majoring in Political Science at San Diego Mesa College. She is particularly interested in the fields of human rights, immigration, and peace & security. In her college, she serves as the President for the Beta Beta Upsilon Chapter, the Associated Students Vice President, and the delegate for the Student Senate for California Community Colleges. In addition, Karla was recently appointed as an External Affairs Intern at the Office of the Governor and as a Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarship semifinalist. She finds passion in volunteering in Tijuana and San Diego, aspiring to positively impact both of her communities. Karla is expecting to transfer to a California 4-year university in Fall 2021, intending to focus on International Relations.

All-California Academic **2nd** Team



Paul Vera
Age: 38
College: Porterville College
Major: Agribusiness | GPA: 3.76

As a first-generation nontraditional student, Paul Vera decided to return to college in 2018 to pursue his dream of becoming an Agriculture Teacher/Professor. As of 2020, Paul has already completed an AS-T degree in Agribusiness and an AA degree in Social Science. He will also be completing an AA degree in Liberal Arts & Humanities in Spring 2021. He will be transferring to Fresno State in the Fall. Outside of school, Paul works full-time for the Porterville Unified School District as a Behavior Intervention Specialist. Working in education has been a very rewarding experience and has inspired him to become a teacher. He also loves animals so being able to merge his passion for working in education and fondness for animals would be a dream come true.



Xiomara Villarreal-Gerardo
Age: 19
College: Southwestern College
Major: Communication and Journalism | GPA: 3.58

Xiomara Villarreal-Gerardo graduated high school early at the age of 16 and began her college journey right away. In December 2020, she received her first associate degree in Communication Studies and will be receiving her second associate degree in Journalism in Spring 2021. Xiomara became a member of PTK last year and is grateful to have joined. At a young age, Xiomara found joy in storytelling and developed the dream of being a Sports Journalist and a fiction writer. Currently, she is the Sports and Campus Editor of the Southwestern College Sun, a national award-winning student newspaper. Outside of academics, she enjoys writing fiction stories that vary in the genres of thriller and fantasy. Xiomara got accepted into SDSU for Fall 2021. She will pursue a bachelor's degree in Liberal Arts Communication.

All-California Academic **3rd** Team



Bohan Bai
Age: 18
College: Fullerton College
Major: Economics | GPA: 3.82

Bohan Bai is a very dedicated and responsible young adult. She will be transferring to a UC in Fall 2021. She is not only committed to academic works but also to community services. She saw the dilemma of poverty-stricken students in China lacking access to educational resources and found an online volunteer teaching platform - Lumio Education - that offers free online English lessons for students. Bohan acted as the technical operations, teacher trainer, and grammar teacher for the teaching team. She designed the teaching site and wrote the user handbook (in both English and Chinese) for the teaching app used by her team. Additionally, Bohan has a broad range of interests including painting, computer programming, and handcrafting.



Lawanda Barrow
Age: 43
College: MiraCosta College
Major: Accounting & Medical Office Professional | GPA: 4.0

Lawanda Barrow served 20 years in the United States Air Force. After retirement, she started a new career path with MiraCosta Community College in Accounting and Medical Office Professional. She is currently volunteering with VITA as a Site Coordinator and Tax Preparer. She was placed on the President's List for the Fall of 2020. She is a full-time student married to an active duty Marine with a 2-year-old and 14-year-old daughter. She gives praise to her husband for his support to finding a new path in life after the military.



Catherine Bartle
Age: 35
College: Santa Ana College
Major: Speech and Language Pathology Assistant | GPA: 3.70

Catherine Bartle became a single mother when her son was six weeks old. It was then that she decided to change her career and start her educational path towards becoming a Speech and Language Pathologist Assistant (SLPA). After three years of hard work, she will be graduating this spring with associate degrees in SLPA, Psychology, Liberal Arts SBS, and AHC and certificates in American Sign Language and Support for Students with Special Needs. Catherine has been on the Dean's List multiple times for academic performance. She has been involved with SAC by performing with her college's dance division for events and holds an officer role as the secretary of the SLPA club. Catherine thanks her family for their endless love and support while she demonstrates to her son the importance of persistence.



Gurleen Bhinder
Age: 21
College: Chaffey College
Major: Nursing | GPA: 4.0

Gurleen Bhinder was born in Punjab and is now living in the USA with her family. She is a first-generation college student in her second year at Chaffey College. Gurleen worked as a student ambassador of the high school outreach program at Chaffey College. She is also part of the honors program this semester. Gurleen loves volunteering and helping in her community. She aspires to become a Nurse Practitioner hoping to transfer next semester to begin her journey in the healthcare field as a nursing student. Gurleen believes everything that happens to us is already planned by God and that we need to find our path to achieve it. "I am very blessed I want to thank my god and my family, for giving me the opportunity to study in order to accomplish my goal."

All-California Academic **3rd** Team



Braden Burns
Age: 30
College: Fullerton College
Major: Business Administration | GPA: 4.0

Braden Burns is a re-entry student who decided to attend school again after a ten-year hiatus. He is transferring to Cal State Fullerton this coming Fall where he will pursue a degree in Finance. He works full-time as a service dispatcher for a heavy equipment rental company. After graduating, he hopes to apply his knowledge in Finance to his current career in the rental industry.



Nicholas Chan
Age: 20
College: Las Positas College
Major: Automotive Technology | GPA: 3.61

Nicholas Chan is a student at Las Positas College. His goal is to get an associate degree in Automotive Technology. Working with cars has been his passion. Nicholas works part-time while he is attending college. In addition to school, Nicholas is a student-athlete. He was awarded the 2019 CIF State Champion in his high school's Swim and Dive team, where Nicholas competed in Men's Diving. He also enjoys volunteering in Boy Scout of America, where he achieved becoming an Eagle Scout. He plans to serve in Automotive Industry after he graduates.



Shabnam Habibi
Age: 22
College: Grossmont College
Major: Biology | GPA: 3.83

Shabnam Habibi is a full-time student at Grossmont College. Shabnam will be a first-generation graduate, with an associate degree in biology. In the fall of 2020, Shabnam will be transferring to UC San Diego to pursue a B.S. in Human Biology. After graduating, Shabnam plans to attend medical school to pursue their dream career of becoming a physician. Coming from a country where people are in need of healthcare, Shabnam feels drawn to this major by the desire to help others and accomplish their goals. A life lesson Shabnam learned is that opportunity knocks at the door but once. After becoming a physician, Shabnam wants to help and push communities, especially immigrants, towards success.



Imelda Hernandez-Villa
Age: 45
College: Cuyamaca College
Major: English | GPA: 3.82

Imelda Hernandez-Villa is a first-generation college student. As a wife and mother, Imelda has worked hard to get to this moment in her education journey. After 24 years, she decided to go back to school, and will soon be transferring to SDSU with an associate degree in English. Imelda always worked a full-time job and was only able to go to school part-time because home and being a mother was her top priority. While her daughter was in the high school theatre program, Imelda served as Treasurer of the Drama Booster Club. During this time, she found her passion in theatre and the arts. She plans to earn her bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Theatre at SDSU.

All-California Academic **3rd** Team



Rebecca Lake
Age: 29
College: American River College
Major: Psychology | GPA: 3.7

Rebecca Lake is a student at American River College pursuing a degree in Psychology. She has chosen this degree to help those in need as well as be the best version of herself possible. She finds peace and comfort in finding her inner self, not by being who she wants to be, but by pursuing what God has planned for her. She hopes to help many who are lost in this world, to help them rewrite their own stories because it is never too late to change yourself and your future. It brings her heart joy to see many of those around her change to who they are destined to be.



Olivia Long
Age: 19
College: Feather River College
Major: Agriculture, Biology | GPA: 3.9

Olivia Long is currently a sophomore at Feather River College double majoring in agriculture and biology. During her time at FRC, she has been the recipient of an advanced math award for her skills in calculus, and acted as an academic coach in subjects such as calculus and biology for dozens of students on campus. She enjoys aiding in the sustainable food project in her community as it furthers awareness of ethical food practices and affordable, healthy produce. Outside of school, Olivia studies embryology and development of bovine and equine species in pursuance of her passion of genetics and genomics. Olivia plans on completing a bachelor's degree in animal science and going on to a career to better improve the lives of animals that are so underrepresented in our society.



Raydeen Lopez
Age: 19
College: Long Beach City College
Major: Nursing | GPA: 3.7

Raydeen Lopez is a student at Long Beach City College studying Nursing. Growing up in a rough neighborhood that was full of poverty. It was tough but it made her the person she is today. Many kids in her neighborhood didn't believe in going to school and would instead join gangs. The pressure of being a first-generation minority student is tough but has made Raydeen a stronger individual and pushes her to accomplish the dreams she always wanted to reach. It only took her a year to finish her general studies and get her associate degree which she will receive in June. Raydeen's goal now is to make a change in this world and be that caring nurse for all people that come in her life.



Stefanie Mutialu
Age: 48
College: Merritt College
Major: Communications | GPA: 3.77

Stefanie Mutialu, a student at Merritt College, served as the Beta Theta Lambda Chapter Secretary in Fall 2020 and is now serving as Chapter President for Spring 2021. She received an Associate in Arts - Transfer in Communication Studies with honors from Merritt College in Fall 2020. She plans on transferring to a four-year UC in Fall 2021 with a major in Communications and a minor in Psychology, with the hopes of working in social justice advocacy, focusing on women and children crisis support and abolishing human trafficking. Additionally, she received a transfer acceptance from UC Davis. As a returning college student, she had 19 years of telecommunication experience in both technical and administrative areas while serving as a labor representative for Communications Workers of America.

All-California Academic **3rd** Team



Saul Navarrete
Age: 19
College: Porterville College
Major: Political Science & Administration of Justice | GPA: 4.0

Saul Navarrete is a Political Science and Administration of Justice major at Porterville College. He is a first-generation college student and Vice President of the Porterville College M.E.Ch.A club. Saul spends much of his time reading and researching topics of politics, philosophy, and entertainment. When he is not hitting the books you can find Saul at the gym or at his part-time job. Once he completes his degree by the end of the Spring 2021 semester, he plans to transfer to a CSU or UC, eager to find internships and learn more about the political and social world. Saul would also like to thank his parents for being extremely supportive of his educational endeavors.



James Roberts
Age: 32
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Automotive Technology | GPA: 4.0

James Roberts is an unapologetic nerd. He is interested in all kinds of hobbies from collectibles to video games. James also likes random science facts. For example, lava snails exist. They live on volcanoes and can withstand the extreme heat. James hopes to one day own his own business.



Alma Rodriguez
Age: 30
College: Solano Community College
Major: Sociology | GPA: 3.85

Alma Rodriguez is a first-generation college student, Latina, student-parent, and a DACA recipient. She is transferring this Fall 2021 to a UC to obtain a bachelor's degree in Sociology. Alma aspires to become an advocate for the migrant and low-income community. She wants to work towards creating a community based on inclusion and equity.



Karina Sanchez
Age: 19
College: Southwestern College
Major: Business Administration | GPA: 3.94

Karina Sanchez is a second-year honors student at Southwestern College pursuing a major in Business Administration. She is currently the Vice President of Communications for her local Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Alpha Pie Epsilon. On campus, she also serves as a Senator at Large for the Associated Student Organization and as President of the Business Club. After class, Karina is a student worker for the Extended Opportunity Programs & Services department. She has had the opportunity to grow through her volunteer work with non-profit organizations by serving as a swim instructor at the YMCA and as a volunteer with Perrito Munguia Rescue. During her free time she enjoys running, horseback riding, and free writing. Her goal is to transfer to a four-year university to pursue her bachelor's degree in Business Administration.



Samantha Tamayo
Age: 20
College: Southwestern College
Major: Criminal Justice | GPA: 3.8

Samantha Tamayo is currently in her last semester at Southwestern College and will be receiving her associate degree this spring. She plans on transferring and finishing her bachelor's degree at San Diego State University. After that, Samantha plans to go to law school and become a Civil Rights lawyer. Off-campus, Samantha is a climate ambassador for the San Diego Urban Standability Coalition, as well as an intern for the American Federation of Teachers.

