



2022

PHI THETA KAPPA AWARD WINNERS

ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
ACADEMIC TEAM AWARDS



COMMUNITY COLLEGE LEAGUE
OF CALIFORNIA



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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Larry Galizio".



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



Table of Contents

2022 ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD WINNERS

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	
National Awards.....	4
Recognition of the All-California First, Second, and Third Teams.....	6
First Team.....	8
Second Team.....	14
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, **114** 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

Hello All-California Academic Team Winners. My name is Myriam Moody, I am the Nevada-California Regional Coordinator of Phi Theta Kappa. Though we are not able to be in person this year, I wanted to reach out and give you my heartfelt congratulations. You have succeeded in winning this particular award. Your hard work, your tenacity, your desire to never give up, has brought you this far, and I can't wait to see how much farther you are able to go with these attributes.

The sky is the limit, so don't hold yourself back, don't let anybody hold you back. I applaud the support team that you have around you, they are very important. They're your cheerleaders, they're your coaches, they are that shoulder for you to lean on when you need that little bit of respite. Some of you may say, I am my own cheerleader, my own coach, my own shoulder. I understand that. And I applaud you for being able to know when to rest and when to cheer yourself on and when to get some coaching.

Some of you are Phi Theta Kappa members. Hello, nice to meet you! Some of you I may have seen at a regional convention, some of you I have yet to meet. Regardless, if your journey is taking you into a new college in the fall or your journey has you continuing at the college that you're in, keep your eyes open, keep your ears open, keep your heart open. There's many more adventures ahead of you. There's many more opportunities to discover and to find and to take advantage of.

I applaud you once again, congratulations on this achievement.

Bye!

Myriam S. Moody



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

Leaders

Dear Honorees, Families and Friends,

On behalf of Phi Theta Kappa, I would like to congratulate those selected for the 2022 All-California Academic Team!

The 2022 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-Lander



Lynn Tincher-Lander, Ph.D.
President & CEO
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

National Awards

Phi Theta Kappa provides funds for national scholarship programs including the **All-USA Academic Team Scholarship**, the **New Century Pathway Scholarship**, and the **Coca-Cola Academic Team Scholarship**. Each college submits one nomination for the All-USA Academic Team, which puts their student into national competition for the three national awards.

After all rounds of judging is completed, the top 20 scoring students are named to the **All-USA Academic Team**.

Next is the **Coca-Cola Academic Team**, which names the next 150 highest scoring students.

- The first set of 50 students are **Coca-Cola Gold Scholars**.
- The second set of 50 students are named **Coca-Cola Silver Scholars**.
- The last set of 50 students are named **Coca-Cola Bronze Scholars**.

Lastly, the top-scoring student in each state, the District of Columbia, and a sovereign nation is named for **New Century Transfer Pathway AND New Century Workforce Pathway Scholarships**, totaling up to 104 scholarships.

The Coca-Cola Academic Team is a part of the All-USA Academic Team program. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation sponsors the Coca-Cola Academic Team program by recognizing 50 Gold, 50 Silver, and 50 Bronze Scholars with nearly \$200,000 in scholarships annually. Each scholar also receives a commemorative medallion.

“The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation has a long history of providing financial assistance to outstanding students at community colleges,” said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. “We are proud to partner with Phi Theta Kappa to make it possible for more deserving students to achieve their educational goals and support tomorrow’s leaders of the global community.”



All USA Academic Team Scholar and Coca-Cola New Century Transfer Scholar
Brianna Huynh, American River College

Coca-Cola New Century Workforce Scholar
Jesse Parrott, Orange Coast College

Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar
Elham Mausumi, Las Positas College
Morgan Reyes, Orange Coast College

Coca-Cola Academic Team Silver Scholar
Anna Nahm, Irvine Valley College
Isabella Solorio, College of the Canyons

Coca-Cola Academic Team Bronze Scholar
Anna Mahoney, Cañada College

Congratulations



2022 ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD WINNERS

FIRST TEAM (36)

Jack Ambrose, Skyline College
Nadia Ansari, Sierra College
Kaylee Black, MiraCosta Community College
Julia Chernova, Merritt College
Raymon Curtis, Shasta College
Simona Di Sabatino, Santa Ana Community College
Breeanna Fleener, Mt. San Jacinto College
Careesa Garcia, Long Beach City College
Andrew George, Saddleback College
Madison Gray, Feather River College
Rachel Heinz, Citrus College
Brianna Huynh, American River College
Joshua Lin, San Diego Miramar College
Samantha Lucas, Butte College
Anna Mahoney, Cañada College
Catherine Martinez, Mt. San Antonio College
Radhika Mehra, Santa Monica College
Emery Mena, Sierra College
Maya Montez, Long Beach City College
Anny Gabrielly Moreira da Silveira, Cañada College
Anna Nahm, Irvine Valley College
Joshua Excequel Nora, Napa Valley College
Brianna Okonek, College of San Mateo
Marina Onaca, College of the Canyons
Maria Guadalupe Pacheco, Southwestern College
Jesse Parrott, Orange Coast College
Morgan Reyes, Orange Coast College
Pamela J. Samuels, Merritt College
Andrea C. Solis Olguin, Solano Community College
Isabella Solorio, College of the Canyons
Scarlet Stever-Current, Modesto Junior College
YungYi Sun, San Diego Miramar College
Michael Tippett, Columbia College
Truc Tran, Orange Coast College
Amy Westen, Mt. San Jacinto College
Victoria Zafra, Napa Valley College

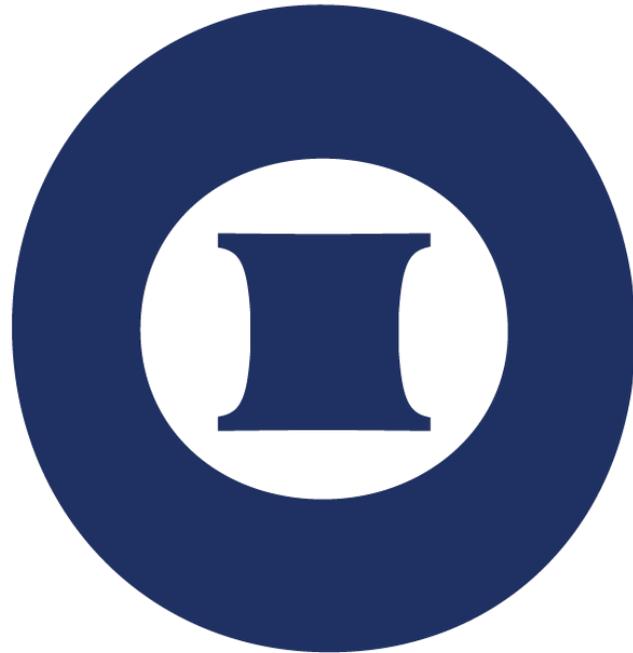
SECOND TEAM (38)

Fadhil Al Salihi, MiraCosta College
Breena Becker, Moorpark College
Erika Bruciaga, Ohlone College
Tavan Cerda-Ofogh, Saddleback College
Erika Coon, Porterville College
Jeson Cornu, San Diego Mesa College
Noa Dori, Moorpark College
Kelly Dozier, Bakersfield College
Andrea Escalante, Southwestern College
John Fletcher, Santa Barbara City College
Valerie Grimaldo, Cerritos College
LaQuita Hurns, Chaffey College
Omar Jamjoum, Ohlone College
Quy Le, Santa Monica College
Raquel Licon, Chaffey College
Kelvin Lopez, Los Angeles Valley College
Kimberly López, San Jose City College
Feras Machta, Santiago Canyon College
Nathaniel Mathew, Cerritos College
Natasha Mayo, Columbia College
Christian Menera, Mt. San Jacinto College
Carie Millard, Santa Barbara City College
Eythana Miller, Shasta College
Connor Mollon, Los Angeles City College
Cody Montoya, American River College
Marwa Mustafa, Chaffey College
Nicole Peña, Santa Barbara City College
Cherry Quitugua, Solano Community College
Olivia Reed, Santa Barbara City College
Heidi Roberts, Allan Hancock College
Joanna Sanchez, Fullerton College
Amanda Sayaseng, Skyline College
Jun Shi, Mt. San Antonio College
Zuhra Totakhail, Folsom Lake College
Miryana Valenzuela, Los Angeles Valley College
Isaiah Veal, Chabot College
Jiles Wallace, Feather River College
Shantel Williamson, Victor Valley College

TY COLLEGE RS

THIRD TEAM (40)

Afaf Albaneh, College of Alameda
Seth Anderson, Feather River College
Noel Arikew, Berkeley City College
Maribel Avila Flores, Mt. San Jacinto College
Anahit Badalyan, Victor Valley College
Alex Bader, Palomar College
Fawzia Bakhit, Cuyamaca College
Artrice Bennett, Cuyamaca College
Britney Best, Barstow Community College
Gurleen Bhinder, Chaffey College
Paulina Burruel, Bakersfield College
Noe Cervantes, San Jose City College
Natalie Chavez, Butte College
Thao Chung, San Diego City College
Javier Corona-Rosas, Porterville College
Sasha Cowser, Cosumnes River College
Irma Cruz-Dogan, Mt. San Jacinto College
Rusty Finona, West Hills College
Jessica Gonzalez, Norco College
Christine Govas-Robert, San Diego Mesa College
Katherine Haas, Shasta College
Jairo Jojoa-Ortega, Santa Rosa Junior College
Elham Mausumi, Las Positas College
Jordan McArthur, Palomar College
Robyn C. Miller, College of the Siskiyous
Chi Nguyen, Santa Ana College
Marilen Ojare, Southwestern College
Kim Pantoja, Berkeley City College
Stephanie Perez, West Hills College
Devin Peters, Norco College
Amelie Phua, Irvine Valley College
Christine Pindel, Victor Valley College
Aleksandra Ristova-Sanyal, San Diego City College
Rosa Rodriguez, Fullerton College
Jane Sanchez Hernandez, Hartnell College
Mohabat Shams, Sacramento City College
Fabian Tramkim, Coastline College
Megan Trotta, Folsom Lake College
Adena Trujillo, Santiago Canyon College
Brandi Wallis, Barstow Community College



All-California Academic 1st Team



Jack Ambrose
Age: 19
College: Skyline College
Major: Communications
GPA: 3.92

Jack Ambrose is a student at Skyline College in San Bruno, and a member of PTK. Jack has grown up in Pacifica, working to strengthen his community while being employed at a summer surf camp and participating/volunteering at various surf events. He has recently acquired a love for live music, and plans to take his talent for photography to become a photographer with an emphasis on the music industry. After struggling with his academics in high school, Jack has decided to make school a priority during his time in community college and is proud of what he has been able to achieve academically. He is planning to continue his educational journey and transfer to the University of California, Los Angeles for a bachelor's degree in Communication during the coming Fall semester.



Nadia Ansari
Age: 20
College: Sierra College
Major: Managerial Economics
GPA: 3.74

Nadia Ansari has been an active member of the Placer County community. Driven in helping others, Ms. Ansari has spent her two years at Sierra College sitting on the gender equity committee and the citizens bond oversight committee, determined to give all students a voice on campus. A Phi Theta Kappa national member of the Beta Mu Zeta chapter, Nadia had taken multiple leadership roles as the VP of Membership and the committee founder of the Salaam Committee, determined to provide education and resources to Afghan refugees in the Sacramento area. As of spring 2022, Nadia Ansari and the Salaam Committee have provided over \$3,000 in donations and food. Nadia aspires to enter the nonprofit sector post-university, hopefully crafting her 501c3 specializing in sustainable low-income housing efforts.



Kaylee Black
Age: 22
College: MiraCosta Community College
Major: Biology
GPA: 3.6

Kaylee Black is a fourth year student at MiraCosta College. They began their undergraduate studies in Theater, then Child Development, and now are in their upper-graduate STEM studies in Biology specializing in Ecology/Conservation. They are transferring to California State San Marcos in Fall of 2023. Kaylee has worked very hard to get to where they are today, and is grateful for the experiences MiraCosta has given them. Kaylee works at the STEM Center at MiraCosta teaching Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Statistics and was named Tutor of the Month in December 2021. Having faced obstacles as a student with disabilities, and also a Queer Non-binary person in a STEM field, their experiences make them work harder than most but they always want to encourage others to follow their dreams.



Raymon Curtis
Age: 51
College: Shasta College
Major: Forest Science and Technology
GPA: 4.0

Raymon Curtis came to Shasta College through a program called STEP-UP, who's mission is to provide support for students who have been formerly incarcerated. Overcoming a lifetime of personal hardship and trauma, Raymon excelled in his studies, and became a member of PTK in 2020. Having a natural affinity for others with traumatic pasts, he joined and was subsequently elected to serve as president of Shasta College Club SOAR (Students Overcoming and Alleviating Recidivism). He was recognized for his leadership ability by his PTK chapter Beta Mu Mu, and was elected to serve as chapter president Fall 2021. After completing his A.S. in Forest Science and Technology and obtaining his Firefighter I certificate through the Shasta College Fire Academy this Fall, he intends to work as a wildfire mitigation professional.



Simona Di Sabatino
Age: 56
College: Santa Ana Community College
Major: Paralegal
GPA: 3.99

Simona is originally from Italy and lived in the Caribbean before relocating to California. Her passion for travels has lead her to seek a job in the international tourism industry. She is trilingual and has accrued a twenty-five years experience as a tour guide, specialized in National Parks and Native-American Reservations in the U.S. She is a wife and a devoted mother of three teenagers, and has dedicated endless hours of volunteering when her children were in Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts' troops. She will graduate in June 2022 with an ABA approved Paralegal Associate Degree and a Pathway to Law-School certificate. She will then transfer to San Diego State University to pursue a BA in Criminal Justice. She is currently working at a Trusts & Estates law firm.



Breeanna Fleener
Age: 31
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Political Science
GPA: 3.63

Breeanna Fleener aspires to become an attorney. Her career choice was influenced by her interest, and what would allow her to make an impact and help others. Her motivation is her children, Walker and Wolf. Breeanna is fortunate to have her family as a support system, and attributes her successes to God.



Careesa Garcia
Age: 30
College: Long Beach City College
Major: Sociology
GPA: 3.7

Careesa is a full-time working mother of two and a first-generation college student. She recently received her Associate Degree in Sociology at Long Beach City College in December 2021 and transferred to Arizona State University where she is majoring in Educational Studies. She discovered her passion for education while working in her current position as a program coordinator at the University of California, Irvine. Over time while working in a higher education institution, being a mom, and taking courses at LBCC, she cultivated her true purpose: to serve her community, particularly in diversity, equity, and inclusion within the education sector. In her free time, she loves to dance, cook, travel, and mostly spend quality time with her husband and two daughters.



Madison Gray
Age: 20
College: Feather River College
Major: Psychology
GPA: 3.93

Madison is hardworking, passionate, caring, and inspiring young women with many dreams and aspirations. Madison has been on the dean's list every semester she has attended FRC and enjoys participating in community service events during her free time. Madison was awarded an All-American award from the ACVA Community College Association for her achievements in Indoor Volleyball and was the co-captain of her team that went to the State Tournament this Fall. Madison's goal for the future is to help young children and their families in hospitals during hard times and plans to achieve a master's degree in Psychology. Madison would like to thank God, her family, friends, teachers, and most importantly her coaches and teammates for motivating her to be better every single day, in all aspects of life.

All-California Academic 1st Team



Brianna Huynh
Age: 19
College: American River College
Major: Mathematics
GPA: 4.0

Brianna Huynh is passionate about mathematics, education, and public service. During her time at American River College, she has become heavily involved in the campus community through athletics and student leadership. In her final year, she served as captain of the track and field team, president of the college's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, and Director of Finance in the Student Senate. Her caring professors and experience as an embedded tutor in calculus classes have motivated her to pursue a career in teaching. After graduating with multiple associate degrees this spring, she will be transferring to a four-year university to pursue a Bachelor's degree in Mathematics.



Anna Mahoney
Age: 22
College: Cañada College
Major: Sociology and International Studies
GPA: 3.92

Anna was born and raised in Wisconsin, always passionate about volunteerism and learning about the world. Upon returning from a year-long high school exchange in Belgium, she moved to California to become a student and proud PTK member at Cañada College. During her first semester she created and led a music club that she continued through the pandemic where students collaborated and performed at more than 30 nursing homes in the community. She also served on the programming board and Student Senate as Vice President and Senator all while nannying and teaching swimming lessons 30-40 hours per week. Currently she is in South America for 6 months volunteering for a NGO school, an indigenous community and more before transferring to a university this upcoming Fall 2022.



Catherine Martinez
Age: 19
College: Mt. San Antonio College
Major: History
GPA: 3.92

Catherine Martinez is a first-year History major at Mt. San Antonio College. Aside from her involvement as an academic achiever on campus, she is involved in the Mt. Sac chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, as well as Student Court, where she serves as an Associate Justice. Catherine also volunteers as a Blood Donor Ambassador for the Red Cross. After completing her AA-T in History at Mt. Sac, she hopes to transfer to UCLA. After completion of her undergraduate degree, she plans to attend law school and pursue a career as an attorney.



Emery Mena
Age: 19
College: Sierra College
Major: Marketing and Public Relations
GPA: 4.0

Emery Mena will graduate in the Spring of 2022 from Sierra College with an A.A. in Marketing and has plans to transfer to obtain a B.A. in Public Relations. Having held a variety of leadership positions over her academic career, Emery has developed a passion for servant leadership. Some of her favorite outreach projects include creating a gift giving program for underprivileged youth called "Sierra Buddies" and instituting a reading program for children with English as their secondary language. Emery hopes to utilize her leadership and communication skills, along with her creative and organizational gifts to make a broad impact in the field of Public Relations. Some of her hobbies include: writing, photography, reading, and the performing arts.



Maya Montez
Age: 20
College: Long Beach City College
Major: Psychology
GPA: 4.0

Maya Montez, an honors student since elementary school, has always taken pride in excelling throughout her academic career. She currently attends Long Beach City College and has earned a place on the Dean's List with Great Distinction every semester. With a 4.0 cumulative GPA, Maya is in the Honors Program as well as the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. Upon graduating high school, she finished top 10% of her class and graduated with the coveted Summa Cum Laude title. Maya's recent accolades include conducting her own psychological study, earning a scholarship from the Honors Transfer Council of California, and being named a Gold Scholar on Coca-Cola's 2022 Academic Team. This young woman plans on founding her own clinic to provide mental health services for underrepresented populations in society.



Anny Gabrielly Moreira da Silveira
Age: 22
College: Cañada College | Skyline College
Major: Cognitive Science
GPA: 4.0

Anny Moreira is from Rio, Brazil, where she went to law school for two years. She moved to the US in 2019 with her mom and cat. After learning English in less than a year, Anny became an English tutor at the Skyline College learning center. She has also worked as a website prototype tester at User Testing, igniting her passion for user experience research and cognitive science. Anny volunteers by teaching English to underserved Brazilian students and participates in her college's honors program, having written various research papers. She is the VP of Scholarship for the Beta Zeta Nu chapter of PTK, and her collaboration with peers contributed to their awards for Most Distinguished Chapter and first place in the Honors in Action project in the Nevada/California region.



Anna Nahm
Age: 22
College: Irvine Valley College
Major: Economics
GPA: 3.98

Anna Nahm is an Economics major and Pre-Law student at Irvine Valley College, known to her peers as a bold student leader and advocate. She is an active president and vice president in four different clubs, in addition to serving as the Vice President of Leadership for Phi Theta Kappa and Chief Justice of the Associated Students of Irvine Valley College. Anna is a student who empowers others; she is shaped by her own life hardships and leads with grace, compassion, and a genuine passion to share her knowledge and learned skills. Anna will be transferring to a four year university in Fall 2022 where she will be continuing her studies, getting involved in her new community, and working towards her career goal of becoming an attorney.



Marina Onaca
Age: 44
College: College of the Canyons
Major: Social and Behavioral Science
GPA: 3.82

Marina Onaca is the Founder/CEO of WWCE and LifeTraveled. These organizations provide global skill-building experiences for over 2,000 individuals in the U.S. and 35 countries annually by implementing public diplomacy programs in close partnership with the U.S. Department of State. Marina serves on the Board of Directors for The Alliance for International Exchange and the Advisory Board for Oaks Christian School. In addition, she is the VP of College Project for the PTK ALPHA NU XI Honor Chapter. Marina is passionate about social justice and equity and plans to transfer to UCLA's Education and Social Transformation major to continue her education. As a graduate of Pathway to Law School, Marina wants to pursue a law degree and affect change by creating policies that offer underserved populations equitable access to education.

All-California Academic 1st Team



Jesse Parrott
Age: 49
College: Orange Coast College
Major: Radiologic Technology
GPA: 3.94

Jesse is enrolled in the Radiologic Technology program at Orange Coast College. He is a member of the PTK Honors Society, Beta Mu Alpha Chapter. With a previous associate of arts degree in computer graphics, Jesse is a returning student with many years of experience in digital marketing working as a Graphic Designer and Systems Analyst. Jesse volunteers at Hoag hospital in Newport Beach, California, where he works alongside nursing staff performing patient care. He has always been passionate about taking care of people, enjoys working with technology, and loves physics. Jesse is looking forward to a new career merging the art and science of radiology to provide medical images that will help doctors diagnose patients.



Morgan Reyes
Age: 20
College: Orange Coast College
Major: Biology
GPA: 4.0

Morgan Reyes is a second year biology major at Orange Coast College. Her goal is to transfer to a UC in Fall 2023 and eventually attend medical school to become a pediatrician. Morgan is passionate about medical research, health education, and chronic illness advocacy. Her research project, "A Comparative Approach to the Treatment Options for Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome", has been presented at several collegiate level conferences and now serves as a well-used resource for physicians, patients, and their families on the condition. Additionally, Morgan serves in leadership positions on campus as president of OCC's pre-health honor society and College Project co-chair for her PTK chapter. In her free time you can find Morgan singing with Meistersingers choir, taking her three dogs to the park, or attending pre-med conferences.



Pamela J. Samuels
Age: 57
College: Merritt College
Major: Communication Studies, Journalism, Social and Behavioral Sciences
GPA: 4.0

Pamela Samuels' life experiences influence every goal she sets. As a non-traditional student, Pamela is a former international flight attendant on a brand new journey in education. Pamela serves as the chapter president for PTK at Merritt College while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She is the recipient of the 2022 Coca-Cola Academic Team Gold Scholar award and the 2021 Coca-Cola Leadership of Promise award. Merritt College is Pamela's home campus as she works towards her associate's degree in Communication, she is also pursuing associate degrees in Journalism at Laney College and Social and Behavioral Sciences at Berkeley City College. Pamela lives by her self-created mission statement, "We do not do this world alone, hold out your hand and I will help you up," reflecting her passion to serve the community.



Andrea C. Solis Olguin
Age: 22
College: Solano Community College
Major: Civil and Environmental Engineering
GPA: 3.86

A nomad at heart and curious by nature, Andrea Solis is actively engaging in communities through work and service. Solis is an international student that actively seeks challenges in many aspects of her life. After studying languages abroad, Solis decided to study topics related to environmental science, the human landscape and sustainability by embarking on a STEM education in the United States. Solis is the Vice President of the Beta Mu Gamma Chapter and is co-founder of Solano Community College's STEM Club. She engages in community work by volunteering at the local wildlife center and coordinates mental health workshops with STEM students at Solano. In the coming years, Solis hopes to transfer to a 4-year-institution and earn her Bachelor's of Civil and Environmental Engineering.



Isabella Solorio
Age: 19
College: College of the Canyons
Major: Biology
GPA: 3.72

Isabella Solorio is a first generation college student who has been majoring in biology at College of the Canyons while acting as the Alpha Nu Xi Chapter president of Phi Theta Kappa. She's currently a co-lead for art in COC's HASP project, earned a fellowship with A Band of Voters through her work with Engage the Vote, and is involved in COC's MESA program as both a member and as a part-time worker. Before coming to COC, she earned her CCMA in 2020. After achieving her Bachelor of Science degree she aims to become a doctor in the field of optometry or ophthalmology. Her goal is to help in aiding lower income communities in gaining back the gift of sight both through her research and her work within the communities.



YungYi Sun
Age: 20
College: San Diego Miramar College
Major: Electrical Engineering
GPA: 4.0

YungYi Sun is a student at San Diego Miramar College studying math and physics. He serves as the treasurer for the Beta Iota Lambda chapter of PTK in hopes to revive the chapter back to its pre-pandemic prominence. While serving in leadership positions, he is also fostering his professional career as a Quality and Reliability intern at NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center reviewing Small Satellite missions. He plans to transfer to pursue a Bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, seeking a career developing cutting-edge science equipment. He has a deep passion for personal health, 70s rock, and word puzzles. He hopes to one day use his experiences to help inspire future generations in a career in STEM.



Amy Westen
Age: 29
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Criminal Justice
GPA: 3.92

Amy Westen is a PTK student at Mt. San Jacinto College (MSJC). She once served as Executive Finance Officer and is currently President for her chapter, Beta Delta Omega. Despite living with Autism Spectrum Disorder, she has continued to motivate herself to succeed not only in academics but also in life. She is clearly a motivated and responsible student who has become an optimistic, courageous, and determined leader. Amy plans to transfer to California State University, Fullerton, in the Fall of 2022 to obtain a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice with a minor in Spanish. Her dream is to get a Private Investigator's license in hopes of working with law enforcement to bring one family closure and justice and become a disability advocate.

All-California Academic 2nd Team



Fadhil Al Salihi
Age: 41
College: MiraCosta Community College
Major: Computer Science
GPA: 4.0

Fadhil Al Salihi is a computer science major who enjoys space exploration, traveling, and taking photographs. He views social media as a tool for motivating others to achieve their goals. Fadhil believes computer science is the best major in the world. Learning how to think like a scientist and programming are the keys to making it excellent. As a CS student, you learn to be innovative, think big, and get things done. You might even get the chance to work on great projects with amazing people and witness your ideas turn into movements, companies succeed as a result of them, and discover that innovation is based on creativity and hard work. As a result, the computer is similar to air conditioning in that you get less and less able to live without



Erika Bruciaga
Age: 21
College: Ohlone College
Major: Psychology
GPA: 4.0

Erika Bruciaga is an extremely hard-working student who was recently admitted to UC Berkeley. While in community college, Erika became Recording Secretary for her college's honors society. As Recording Secretary for Beta Tau Mu, Erika gained leadership and management skills. She was even given the opportunity to host several scholarship workshops that were a part of the Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society. She inherited her work ethic from her hard-working parents. Being a first-generation college student has made her independent, driven, and confident. She is passionate about psychology and advocating for mental health. Beyond college, Erika aspires to be a psychiatrist to aid people and support mental health awareness.



Erika Coon
Age: 28
College: Porterville College
Major: Commercial Art
GPA: 3.80

Erika Coon is a student from Porterville College. She first started attending Porterville College to finish her nursing degree and apply for the RN program. She currently works as an LVN in a long-term care facility. While taking classes towards her nursing degree, she began taking classes to pursue a degree in Commercial Art. Erika has always loved art, but never believed she could pursue a career in art until one of her professors, Diran Lyons, helped her build confidence in herself and her work. She will now be graduating with an A.A degree in Commercial Art and Liberal Arts/Humanities. She also plans on finishing her nursing degree this year. Erika's goal is to obtain a Bachelor's degree in Illustrative Design and, in the future, apply to the RN program.



Jeson Cornu
Age: 19
College: San Diego Mesa College
Major: Nursing
GPA: 3.61

Jeson is a full-time student at San Diego Mesa College and also a full-time Certified Nursing Assitant. Through his trials and tribulations, Jeson has been capable of persevering as a first-generation college student. The development of him from the teachers and coaches that have impacted his academic journey is highly recognized and he truly admires each and every one. However, the love and support from friends and family are what truly stand out. After multiple college rejections and doubt from peers, Jeson was able to strive for greatness and will be transferring to a Cal State in hopes of receiving a Bachelor's degree in Nursing. In the near future, he will be working as a Registered Nurse and possibly pursue a Master's Degree.



Noa Dori
Age: 32
College: Moorpark College
Major: Health & Nutrition Science
GPA: 4.0

Noa is an honors PACE student & an army veteran at Moorpark College. She made the Dean's Honor List every semester while attending full-time. Noa served in the Israeli Navy (IDF) and has had a successful career touring the world as a performer. She speaks six languages and earned a Gold Album as a singer. She decided to go back to school after 15 years off, thanks to the incredible support of her soulmate Dave and their three children. Noa has packed in two years into three semesters with the help of amazing counselors & professors, such as Jennifer Beal & Matthew Morgan. Noa's passion is to help others find their superpowers & birthright to thrive physically and mentally. Noa is pursuing her RDN & ND doctoral degrees.



LaQuita Hurns
Age: 38
College: Chaffey College
Major: Administration of Justice/Pre-Law
GPA: 3.87

LaQuita Hurns is an Administration of Justice major, Honors and Pathway to Law Student at Chaffey College. She serves as the Vice President of Service and College Project with the PTK Chapter at Chaffey, a Senator with the Chaffey College Student Government, and a member of UMOJA. Since her time at Chaffey, LaQuita has excelled in her academics by making the Deans and Exemplary Honors list, and most recently, was selected as the Scholarship Recipient for the Black Minds Matter Memorial Scholarship. LaQuita exhibits remarkable leadership, critical thinking, analytical, personal and professional ethics. She recently accepted admission to California State University, San Bernardino where she will continue her educational studies in Criminal Justice and Pre-Law. Her diligence and servitude qualities will contribute to her becoming a successful criminal lawyer.



Raquel Licon
Age: 23
College: Chaffey College
Major: English
GPA: 4.0

Raquel Licon is a dedicated and hardworking student with an associate's degree in English. She is transferring to Cal State Fullerton in the fall to finish her bachelor's degree while simultaneously earning her master's. Raquel once found herself on the edge of dropping out of college although she is incredibly resilient and managed to persevere through every trial and tribulation she faced. She has not only been inducted into PTK but has recently been offered admission to four different universities. She plans on becoming an English Professor to not only share her passion for writing but help students reach their full potential and become stronger writers. She thanks her family and friends for motivating her to succeed as well as Professor Keener and Professor Leonor for their overwhelming support.



Kimberly López
Age: 19
College: San Jose City College
Major: Child Development and Adolescent Teacher
GPA: 3.7

Kimberly López is a first-generation student out of her Hispanic family. She is thankful for her family for always supporting her and being by her side throughout her journey. For always believing in her because they taught her to work hard, never give up, and be successful in life. All her hard work is paying off little by little. She thanks God and everyone who has supported her through this journey that hasn't ended. Her thrive has led her to attend SJCC a school that has helped her through her journey bringing her great opportunities. Now going off to SJSU where her journey keeps on flourishing. To get her master's and bachelor's to become a teacher. Which has been her dream since she went to school. Future Teacher!

All-California Academic 2nd Team



Feras Machta
Age: 17
College: Santiago Canyon College
Major: Computer Science
GPA: 3.7

Feras is an excellent, hardworking student that has huge dreams ahead of him. He wishes to change the world with computer science or just with sheer will alone. He plans to work hard to get his PhD and graduate to start a company, hopefully one to rank with the big dogs. Feras loves riding bikes, skating, and sports in general. Feras also loves his school, and is very excited to complete his education and pursue his career!



Carie Millard
Age: 33
College: Santa Barbara City College
Major: Environmental Science
GPA: 3.87

Carie is a non-traditional student going back to school for environmental science after having a long career in the performing arts. She is happy to say that she has been accepted to UC Davis and will be attending there in the Fall, majoring in environmental science and management. She plans to combine her experience through the arts with her acquired knowledge through her current academic path, mixing storytelling and science. Carie believes that the outdoors are a space for everyone, and that we all have a responsibility in healthy stewardship and sustainability of the land. She hopes to lead us in a direction towards a fruitful relationship with nature led by the wisdom and knowledge of our indigenous teachers.



Eythana Miller
Age: 21
College: Shasta College
Major: Political Science
GPA: 3.9

Eythana Miller grew up in the small rural community of Libby in Northwest Montana. She moved to Redding, California at age 17, and began attending Shasta College two years later as a first generation student. She works as a Writing Assistant at Shasta's Learning Center, and serves as President of Phi Theta Kappa's Beta Mu Mu chapter on campus. She plans to transfer to a UC in Fall 2022, studying political science and journalism. She hopes to work in journalism, sharing about human rights, education in third world nations, environmental concerns, and international development, partnering with NGOs and nonprofits around the world who are in these fields to spread awareness of what they're doing.



Connor Mollon
Age: 27
College: Los Angeles City College
Major: Political Science
GPA: 3.73

Connor Mollon is a Political Science student at Los Angeles City College. He intends to double major in Political Science and Economics after earning his Political Science Associate's Degree from LACC and transferring to a four-year university in Fall 2022. Connor is a returning college student, having spent 8 years in the workforce after dropping out due to financial difficulties and health problems. He has earned consecutive 4.0 term GPAs since coming back to college in Spring 2021 and is on the Dean's Honor Roll at LACC. Connor is also a member of LACC's Ralph Bunche Scholars honors program. He plans to seek a career in public office.



Marwa Mustafa
Age: 18
College: Chaffey College
Major: Law/Policy, Political Science
GPA: 3.83

Marwa Mustafa is a dual enrollment student at Chaffey College. She currently resides as the president of her college chapter; Beta Kappa Pi, the ICC representative for the Pre-Medical club, and serves as the president of the National Honor Society, Pre-Medical Society, and the Multicultural Club at her high school. After graduating high school this spring she is set to complete her Political Science degree, transfer to a UC, and eventually attend law school. Marwa is passionate about community building, equity for minority groups, and human rights. PTK has provided Marwa with a variety of successful endeavors including the college project that she worked on; "PTK Students Sharing Strategies For Success". Marwa is tremendously thankful for all the opportunities that she has received.



Nicole Peña
Age: 33
College: Santa Barbara City College
Major: Accounting
GPA: 4.0

Nicole Peña is a 2nd year Accounting major at Santa Barbara City College after returning to school 13 years later. She is an extremely hard-working and dedicated student. Over the last decade, she pursued a successful dance career, performing in major production shows on cruise ships and traveling all around the world. Now she is a dance teacher and choreographer at a competitive dance studio while pursuing her degree. Nicole has remained a positive and loving individual even through many tragic events throughout her life. She is inspired and encouraged by the strong mentors she has, as well as a few incredible professors she's had at SBCC. Nicole will fervently continue the path towards her degree, personal goals, and dreams.



Heidi Roberts
Age: 28
College: Allan Hancock College
Major: Nursing
GPA: 4.0

Heidi Roberts is a dedicated student and mother, as well as a dedicated member of both the Phi Theta Kappa and Alpha Gamma Sigma honor societies. As this semester comes to an end, Heidi will be graduating with an associate's degree in math and science; whereafter, she will use it to transfer to a Texas university to obtain her bachelor's degree in nursing. Heidi's ambitions are fueled by her passion to make a positive impact on the lives of others as well as to make a positive difference in the healthcare industry. Heidi ultimately plans to advance her education by achieving a doctorate's degree in nursing with an emphasis in anesthesiology.



Amanda Sayaseng
Age: 20
College: Skyline College
Major: Computer Science
GPA: Computer Science

Amanda Sayaseng is a first-generation college student studying Computer Science at Skyline College, where she also works as a Peer Instruction Leader. In addition to being a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Amanda is also a part of the Engineering and Tech Scholars cohort, Honors Transfer Program, and is the president of the Women in Science and Engineering Represent (WiSER!) club on campus. While her interests revolve around computer science and engineering, she is passionate about medicine and research. She would like to work at the intersection of medicine and engineering, finding ways to improve medical technology to make quality health care more affordable and accessible.

All-California Academic 2nd Team



Jun Shi
Age: 21
College: Mt. San Antonio College
Major: Psychology
GPA: 3.87

Jun Shi is finishing her second year at Mt. San Antonio College, where she is majoring in psychology. As far as she can remember, her mother has told her to be a kind person. Her mother let her know that helping others does not need to be rewarded, and a kind act does not need to be remembered by others. Because of her teaching, Jun has strong empathy. She felt that is why she came into this world and the purpose of her life, which was to become a sun to light up the lives of people around her. That is also the reason why she decided to major in psychology. In the future, she hopes to use the power of psychology to help others more professionally.



Zuhra Totakhail
Age: 35
College: Folsom Lake College
Major: Computer Science
GPA: 3.9

Zuhra Totakhail is a student at Folsom Lake College currently working toward an associate's degree in Computer Science and plans to transfer to Sac State University to pursue a bachelor's degree. She has proven her resilience as a student in these past two years due to many changes at school as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the challenges of transitioning to the new learning environment and becoming a home school teacher for her two children, Zuhra maintained her high-grade point average. In addition to balancing school and family, Zuhra also works for Los Rios Call Center, fulfilling an important role in supporting other Los Rios college students. She is looking forward to finishing her degree and working in the field of computer science.



Miryana Valenzuela
Age: 35
College: Los Angeles Valley College
Major: Sociology, Social & Behavioral Sciences, and Anthropology
GPA: 3.94

Miri is a first generation student from Argentina who believes that dreams are always within reach. For the last decade, she has used her experience as an immigrant to help others overcome systemic barriers. She has dedicated her life to combining her passions of social justice, environmental solutions, advocacy, and multicultural studies while serving the community. Her short term goal is to obtain bachelor's and master's degrees while developing innovative strategies for public policy. Her long term goal is to fund an after school program in Argentina where children can expand their academic endeavors by using open education resources and mentorship. In 2018, she joined the National Language Service Corps as an interpreter, and is currently an intern for USAID where she aspires to strengthen global communities.



Jiles Wallace
Age: 45
College: Feather River College
Major: Fine Arts and Humanities
GPA: 4.0

Jiles Wallace is the first incarcerated student affiliated with Feather River College to be selected as an All-California Scholar. He is a registered alcohol and drug technician (RADT), who is in the process of becoming a certified alcohol and drug counselor (CADC I). He serves as a Treatment Team Member in the New Options for Wellness Program where incarcerated individuals receive a psychological education and treatment that addresses issues such as: addiction, childhood trauma, anger management, domestic violence, and sexual health. Jiles assisted in the development of Survivor to Thrive and The Addiction Awareness Program, which teach incarcerated individuals to accept accountability for their actions. In addition, Jiles participates in the Mule Creek Juvenile Program where he mentors system impacted youth from local communities.



Shantel Williamson

Age: 31

College: Victor Valley College

Major: Business Administration

GPA: 3.7

Shantel Williamson is a student currently attending Victor Valley College, majoring in Business Administration. Shantel will graduate in Fall 2022, whereas she will earn an Associates degree and Management Certificate of Achievement. Shantel is considering transferring to the University of Utah after graduation, in which, she will earn a Bachelors degree and later in the future pursue a Masters degree. Shantel has been very successful in her life. Before she relocated to Apple Valley, CA, Shantel lived in Santa Maria, CA where she was worked as a Copy n Print Sales Associate at Office Depot. She became employee of the month twice as well as earned an Associate's Degree in English from Allan Hancock College in May of 2017. Shantel loves cactuses and has collected 25 of them.

All-California Academic 3rd Team



Seth Anderson
Age: 19
College: Feather River College
Major: Kinesiology
GPA: 3.68

Seth Anderson is a full-time student-athlete who maintains over a 3.6 GPA and helped his football team go undefeated and win FRC's first league championship. Seth aspires to become a licensed nurse practitioner and one day open his practice. While championships and awards may seem impressive, Seth is most proud of his new friends and the memories acquired along the way. He'd like to thank his mom for raising him all alone and doing everything she can to support his goal. He'd also like to thank Feather River College for helping him discover not only who he is but the heights he someday might reach.



Noel Arikew
Age: 20
College: Berkeley City College
Major: Sociology and Biology
GPA: 3.89

Noel Arikew is a student at Berkeley City College, who is double majoring in Sociology and Biology. He is interested in the intersection between science and sociology. He is a devoted student who is active in his community as he organizes different programs to assist first-generation low-income students to succeed in their studies. He plans on transferring to UC Berkeley and is also actively working towards his goal of being a Public Health Educator through active community service.



Maribel Avila
Age: 26
College: Mt. San Jacinto College
Major: Business Administration
GPA: 4.0

Maribel Avila Flores is a Latina woman, wife and mother of two children. She graduated from Bellflower High School in 2014. In August 2020, she resumed her studies online at Mt. San Jacinto College and became a member of the PHI THETA KAPPA honor society and is one of five MSJC students to have earned places on the prestigious California Academic Team 2022 Phi Theta Kappa. She is focused on her studies for a better future for her and her family.



Fawzia Bakhit
Age: 51
College: Cuyamaca College
Major: Child Development
GPA: 4.0

Fawzia Bakhit is a 51-year-old married mother with two daughters. She came from Egypt to the US on April 21, 2018, with her family of four. She's hard-working, optimistic, selfless, and wants a better future for herself and her family. Though she doesn't speak very good English, she went to college and is majoring in child development. Between going to college, being a mother, doing homework, and doing chores, things can get very tough and exhausting, but because of her being a hard-working person, she is able to manage it. She also tries to improve her English every day by reading so she can work and make a better future for herself and her family. She tries to set a good example as a mother, student, wife, individual, and citizen.



Artrice Bennett
Age: 25
College: Cuyamaca College & Grossmont College
Major: English
GPA: 3.70

Artrice Bennett is graduating from Grossmont College class of '22, with an Associate's degree in English and Social and Behavioral Sciences, as well as a certificate of achievement awarded in English. She is transferring in the fall to the University of California, Riverside to pursue a Bachelor's degree in English. After obtaining her Master's, Artrice plans to make a career out of teaching English at a community college. She has been on the Cuyamaca and Grossmont President and Vice President's honor list two years in a row, and is a proud member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society. She hopes to leave her impact on the world through her poetry, as well as inspiring and teaching others to share their stories creatively.



Britney Best
Age: 29
College: Barstow Community College
Major: Biology and Chemistry
GPA: 3.92

Britney Best is a full-time student, double majoring in biology and chemistry at Barstow Community College. She is a member of the Beta Lambda Chi chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, as well as the S-STEM program. Because of her passion for science, upon graduation in Spring of 2023, Britney hopes to transfer, and in due time, pursue a career in epidemiology and virology. In her spare time, Britney has participated as a peer tutor and as a judge for the Riverside County, CA science and engineering fair, all while working and raising her child. She is thankful to her family, especially her fiancé and her mother for their continued support, and her daughter for inspiring her to strive.



Gurleen Bhinder
Age: 22
College: Chaffey College
Major: Nursing
GPA: 4.0

Gurleen Bhinder is a first-generation college student. Her ambition is to earn a bachelor's degree in nursing. She is putting forth a lot of effort to achieve her goals. Gurleen is grateful to her parents, brother Jaskaran, Uncle Kuku, friends, professors, and everyone who has come into her life to push and support her in achieving her goals. She hopes to give back to her community and flourish as an individual one day.



Thao Chung
Age: 23
College: San Diego City College
Major: Electrical Engineering
GPA: 3.86

Believe yourself. Never give up. You don't know what will happen tomorrow so just try your best. Break the cocoon and become a beautiful butterfly.

All-California Academic 3rd Team



Javier Corona-Rosas
Age: 22
College: Porterville College
Major: Computer Information Systems
GPA: 3.68

Javier Corona-Rosas is a first-generation lifelong learner, student worker, and leader at Porterville College. He currently engages students in the learning process for virtual reality training as a PC tech Navigator. Javier exemplifies leadership by serving students as a council member of the Associated Students of Porterville College. Javier gives back his time by volunteering in community events such as maintenance work and assisting at the Porterville College Library. Javier enjoys working with video editing software, developing websites, and spending time with family during his free time. Javier plans to obtain a degree in Computer Information Systems and aspires to further his education in the future.



Sasha Cowser
Age: 33
College: Cosumnes River College
Major: Business Administration
GPA: 3.6

Sasha Cowser lives in Sacramento, CA, but she is originally from Decatur, GA. She will graduate with an associate degree in Business Administration in May 2022. She will then pursue a bachelor degree at Eastern Oregon University. Sasha works full-time as a supervisor for the State of California, and she is also a part-time Zumba® Fitness instructor. When she is not studying, working, or teaching she enjoys spending time with her immediate family and her friends.



Rusty Finona
Age: 20
College: West Hills Community College Coalinga
Major: Kinesiology, Health Sciences
GPA: 3.74

Rusty Finona is a sophomore at West Hills College Coalinga as a Kinesiology Major. Through the Spring semester of his Sophomore Year, he has accumulated an impressive 3.74 GPA. His stellar academic achievements include President's List 4.0 GPA (Fall 2020), Dean's List 3.8 GPA (Spring 2021), Dean's List 3.59 GPA (Fall 2021). Rusty also excelled as a student athlete for the West Hills Falcons Football team. As a Freshman he was selected as Team Captain by his peers and coaches for his leadership and work ethic. His performance on the field led to his selection to the 2021 All-Valley League Defensive Team by league coaches and he was selected 2021 Falcons Defensive Player of the Year by his teammates. Rusty was also selected to the 2021-2022 CCCAA All-State Academic Football Team.



Elham Mausumi
Age: 20
College: Elham Mausumi
Major: Psychology
GPA: 3.94

Elham is a first generation college student with goals to pursue medicine as a psychiatrist. During her time at Las Positas College, she was the Vice President of the psychology club and the Community Service Chair of the Alpha Gamma Sigma honor society. She was also a member of the national honor society for psychology, Psi Beta, and completed her college's rigorous honors program by completing honors research projects in numerous subjects. In her free time, she has been actively volunteering for multiple non-profit organizations including the International Bipolar Foundation, and is also a crisis counselor for the Crisis Text Line. Elham hopes to help reduce mental health stigma and contribute to a happier and healthier world.



Kim Pantoja

Age: 48

College: Berkeley City College

Major: Communications, Social and Behavioral Science, Sociology, Arts and Humanities, Social Work and Human Services

GPA: 3.96

Kim is a loving mom and dedicated student. Her desire to empower her children has inspired her to complete undergraduate fieldwork in teen mental health and suicide prevention. As a person who has spent a lifetime in service, her educational goals are a reflection of her calling to serve humanity. Kim's personal experience with overcoming adversities has given her special insight into the problems many underserved people face. She is motivated by her deep belief that all people have the right to live with dignity and human dignity relies upon economic justice. Her goal is to obtain her Juris Doctorate, continue to be an advocate for human rights, and model; "Empathy coupled with bravery leads to advocacy, and through advocacy, we can finally live in true freedom and equality."



Stephanie Perez

Age: 46

College: West Hills Community College Lemoore

Major: Nursing

GPA: 3.78

Stephanie has served in several different leadership positions within various fraternal organizations, especially those focused on community service. Most currently, she volunteers to raise funds to find the cure for Diabetes with the Order of the Amaranth and Dogs for Diabetes with the Order of the Eastern Star. Stephanie hopes to complete her BSN at National University where she will then continue in her ambition of becoming a midwife. In her free time, Stephanie loves to camp, read, and travel, especially to Disneyland, but mostly enjoys spending time with her family, especially her grandson and her two dogs.



Amelie Phua

Age: 20

College: Irvine Valley College

Major: Communications

GPA: 4.0

Amelie Phua is a Communications major at Irvine Valley College who is passionate about social media and digital marketing. She has served as the Vice President of Membership for the Alpha Omega Mu Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, Public Relations Representative for UNICEF, and a peer mentor for incoming students at IVC. She is also involved in volunteering at her local rescue mission where she works with children. Outside of this, Amelie has undertaken many roles to further her career which include managing a company's TikTok account—with one video amassing over 2 million views—in addition to now interning at a nutrition company where she does influencer marketing and outreach. She has since earned an AA in both Communication Studies and Social and Behavioral Sciences for transfer.



Christine Pindel

Age: 48

College: Victor Valley College

Major: Science, Math

GPA: 3.723

Christine Pindel has been working on a double associate's degree at Victor Valley College. The degrees are based in science/math and business technology. She would like to move onto getting a bachelor's in business organization. She is a full time student and a full time single mother. She has worked hard to get to where she is now and has had plenty of obstacles in the way. Determined to finish and move forward in life.

All-California Academic 3rd Team



Aleksandra Ristova-Sanyal
Age: N/A
College: San Diego City College
Major: Political Science
GPA: 4.0

Aleksandra Ristova-Sanyal is a Political Science Major who is also interested in human behavior and the social sciences. Her passion for human rights, justice, tolerance, and conflict resolution put her back in school to acquire the skills needed to work towards a better tomorrow. She plans to transfer to UCSD and get her bachelor's degree so that she can pursue a career in international politics, where she hopes to combat injustice around the world. Aleksandra was born and raised in the Republic of North Macedonia and moved to San Diego with her husband in 2019.



Rosa Rodriguez
Age: 40
College: Fullerton College
Major: Early Childhood Education
GPA: 3.8

Rosa is a hard working mother of 4. Through struggles and illnesses has been committed to continuing her educational goals to becoming a Special Needs educator. Her gritty behavior has pushed her to remain steadfast in her classes and her family has been supportive of her path as well. Following her time at Fullerton College her path will continue to CSUF to earn her teaching credential and her bachelors degree. Her educational journey might not be traditional but her vision is to inspire and challenges her peers and those who feel that it's too late to go back to college. Her statement to her class and age range is never give up and education is always attainable as long as you're willing to take the first step.



Mohabat Shams
Age: 27
College: Sacramento City College
Major: Nursing
GPA: 3.63

Mohabat Shams is a student at Sacramento City College dual majoring in journalism and Pre-Nursing. Her hobbies include writing, watching movies, hiking, and dreaming big. Also she is eager to earn academic excellence. Mohabat is also a DSPS proud member. She credits her success to good friends and family support around her. She is currently taking Biology 430 and Journalism 411 classes for the Spring 2022 semester. She has two more classes to take before enrolling in nursing program. She is very excited about her academic achievements and thanks everyone for celebrating it together with her.



Fabian Tramkim
Age: 48
College: Coastline College
Major: Emergency Management
GPA: 3.83

Fabian escaped Vietnam after the war in 1977. He was rescued by a Dutch oil tanker and lived in a refugee camp in Singapore for six months. He received political asylum from the Dutch Government and lived there until 2001. He then immigrated to the United States and started work at South Coast Plaza Security. He has been employed with the same company for the last 19 years. In 2020, Fabian decided to go back to school and major in Emergency Management/Criminal Justice to complement his job. During his short time at community college, Fabian was able to obtain 3 Associate degrees. He obtained a degree in Emergency Management from Coastline Community College as well as a criminal justice degree and social and behavioral science degree from Goldenwest College.



Megan Trotta
Age: 22
College: Folsom Lake College
Major: Liberal Studies
GPA: 4.0

Megan Trotta is a second-year liberal studies student at Folsom Lake College. Her goal is to teach English and Art to children around the world. Megan plans to transfer to a university to further her education to pursue a bachelor's degree in Liberal Studies and later a master's degree or a Ph.D. Megan hopes she can help children who struggle to get an education because of their economic and environmental settings to grow and expand their knowledge. Outside of school, Megan enjoys drawing, spending time with her two birds, cooking, and spending time with her family. She is very honored to have joined Phi Theta Kappa and is looking forward to what is ahead for her in the future.



Brandi Wallis
Age: 29
College: Barstow Community College
Major: Computer Business Information Systems
GPA: 3.31

Brandi Wallis is a 29 year old student who is currently going to college and working in the field of computer business information. She is a first generation college student and the first person to graduate from high school in her family, her parents did not finish high school nor attend college. Brandi's goal is to help individuals troubleshoot issues with their computers or network. Brandi has a disability that makes school challenging. She is working to raise her GPA up from 3.31.



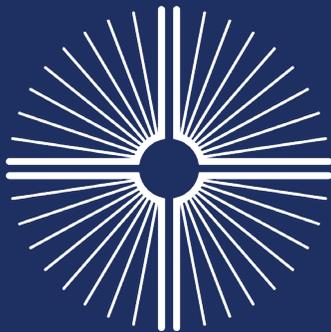
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