



# COLLEGE AWARENESS PROGRAM



## CLASS OF 2017



**MOTIVATE**



**EDUCATE**



**INVEST**



# IN THEIR OWN WORDS

*"Thank you for the generous donation you have made to SteppingUP. I have learned so many things about college and education. My favorite experience was when I got to spend **one day with a college student** that attends Soka University. I got to experience a little of what college is like and some of the teachers included us in part of the class."—Valerie*

*"If it wasn't for the group sessions I would be ill informed of things happening around me such as in my local governments and Presidential Election. One event I really enjoyed was the **Leadership Academy** during the summer that motivated me to become a great leader one day." - Jonathan*

*"If it wasn't for the people helping us, we wouldn't have gone this far in our college opportunity. We have had the ability to **apply to multiple colleges and universities** like CSULB, CSUF, CSUDH, Cal Poly, Golden West, OCC and many more - Angel*

*"SteppingUP helped me go through **College Financial Aid and the ACT test** application online.—Brandon*

*"SteppingUP has allowed me to visit different universities like Soka or UCLA which are **places that my parents would not be able to take me.**" - Grecia*

*"Thank you for the generous donation you have made to SteppingUP. Because of you, I have been going to all the CAP meetings and because of the CAP meetings I have been learning **how to protect myself and how to plan for college.** One event I enjoyed the most is the **beach cleanup community service** because I got to meet kids that newly joined SteppingUP." - Darlene*

*"You have given me the opportunity to be part of another family. **THE ADVISORS** there **MOTIVATE ME** each day to do my best in school and inform me with all the information needed so I can get to college. - Kelly*

*"**Career Day** helped me know how it really feels like to get an interview for the job that you want."  
- Annett*

*"SteppingUP has allowed me to prepare for what I want to be in the future which is a dentist. One event I enjoyed the most about SteppingUP is the **STEM Academies** that they have because I got better at doing Math. It also has helped me get better at understanding how to do science labs and experiments."  
- Jasmine*

*"I want to thank you for the generous donations you have made to SteppingUP because they have been able to provide CAP meetings in which I learned how to be in a healthy relationship." - Aitxa*



# EDUCATING OUR FUTURE

## OUR GOAL

Increase the number of underserved students of extremely low-income families graduating high school on time and becoming first-generation college graduates.



**In 2017**, OCCHC/SteppingUP's College Awareness Program (CAP) expanded to serving 473 students as a result of our generous donors. We are pleased to share that each of our 29 seniors graduated high school on time with 100% of them stepping up to college. Of the 29 students, 62% are currently attending a 4-year university which is higher than the national average of 44% of high school completers that immediately enroll into a 4-year college according to the National Center for Education Statistics. CAP provided weekly academic advising with 57 events through the help of over 25 CAP Alumni and 25 college interns from local colleges.

# 236

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES  
SINCE 2006 WITH  
99% ENROLLING INTO  
COLLEGE**

# 2,227

**CAP STUDENTS  
SERVED  
SINCE 2006**

# 43



**COLLEGE GRADUATES  
93% ARE 1ST GENERATION WHO  
OBTAINED A BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN  
4-6 YEARS -EXCEEDING THE NATIONAL  
AVERAGE OF 59% & COMPARING TO  
14% OF LOW INCOME STUDENTS THAT  
RECEIVED A DEGREE IN 8 YEARS.**



# 300+

**PARENTS INVOLVED**

# 75,000+

**ADVISING HOURS PROVIDED  
SINCE 2006**



## ASHLEY STEPS UP TO UC BERKELEY

Ashley has dreamed of becoming a doctor since she was diagnosed with a medical condition and worked to take every measure to make that dream a reality with the help of CAP. In Spring 2018, Ashley will transfer to UC Berkeley, one of 9 college campuses she visited with CAP's 7-Day Northern California College Tour where she and 40 other students had the opportunity to stay in a college dorm and picture themselves as the first in their family to attend college. Ashley, picture left with SteppingUP Program Director, Monica Cardenas, will major in Biology to pursue her dream of becoming an Oncologist. Way to go!



**- Alejandra L. -**

Alejandra joined CAP in 2013 as a sophomore in high school and became involved and feels CAP helped her improve her communication skills and learn about financial aid opportunities as being the first in her family to attend college. This fall, Alejandra will attend Chico State University where she will major in Animal Science and in 10 years sees herself as a veterinarian.



**- Alejandro T. -**

Alejandro heard about CAP from his older sister, a former CAP Alumni now at Golden West College. He enjoys helping his community and was a member of the Track & Field Team at school. Alejandro is grateful to CAP for helping him gain confidence with his interviewing skills and also enjoyed CAP's STEM Summer. He has selected to major in Civil Engineering at CSULB.



**- Alexa D. -**

Alexa will major in Animal Science at Chico State University who dreams of working with animals as a veterinarian, care giver for animals at a zoo or a teacher at a university. A first generation college student, Alexa, is looking forward to meeting new people and credits CAP for improving her Leadership skills, researching colleges and learning about FAFSA and financial aid opportunities.



**- Aline A. -**

Aline is the first in her family to attend college and is an example to her younger siblings who have also joined CAP. She will attend Cypress College in the fall and with plans to transfer to CSU Fullerton and major in Child Development & Education Studies.



**- Alma V. -**

Alma is an avid tennis player who joined CAP as a sophomore in high school where she gained guidance in how to apply for college and what to look for in planning her future. Alma will begin at Coastline College in the fall and transfer to New York University where she dreams of becoming a Prenatal Nurse or OB/GYN.



**- Alondra J. -**

Alondra is an athlete who enjoys playing basketball and softball. She will study Music Therapy at Orange Coast College and dreams of being a Music Therapist. Alondra thanks CAP team for the amount of support she received during her hardships and shares that she will bring with her the time management, resume building and scheduling skills she learned at CAP.



-Alondra S.-

Alondra will be attending CSU San Francisco this fall with an intent to study Liberal Arts. She enjoys playing softball and basketball and singing in the choir. Alondra is the first in her family to go to college and an example to her younger siblings that they can graduate on-time and be the first generation in their family to attend college. Alondra hopes to become a teacher!



Brandon M.

Brandon is looking forward to attending classes at Golden West College in the fall where he will focus on Mechanics. His favorite activity was CAP's Book Club and feels his CAP Advisor exposed him to different colleges, field trips and was helpful in learning how to be more responsible.



-Angela A.-

Angela steps up to Orange Coast College in the fall with a plan to transfer to Cal State Fullerton to pursue becoming a counselor or social worker. She enjoys meeting new people and notes our STEM Summer Academy and Holiday CAP meeting as her favorite memories.



Brandon V.

Brandon has a passion for working with marine animals and will attend Orange Coast College with a major in Marine Biology. He credits his CAP advisor for keeping him on track with his high school classes and had never been away from home until CAP's Northern California College Tour. He will transfer to pursue his dream and maybe even to a college up north.



--Ashley P.--

Ashley's favorite memory was CAP's 7-Day Northern California College Tour visiting over 9 college campuses with the opportunity to stay in a college dorm and picture themselves as the first in their family to attend college. Ashley was exposed to UC Berkeley and in Spring 2018 she will transfer there with a major in Biology to pursue her dream of becoming an Oncologist.



Carolina M.

Carolina came to CAP after watching her older brother join the program and become the first in their family to attend college at SFSU. She will attend Cal Poly Pomona with an emphasis in Liberal Arts and be another example to her family showing her younger siblings that they too can step up towards a brighter future.



-- Daniela G. --

Daniela dreams of becoming a writer and is looking forward to exploring the campus at CSULB where she will major in English with an emphasis in Creative Writing. She will bring with her the knowledge she learned from her advisors including units needed to graduate, tests to take and not just getting to college, but through college.



-- Edwin S. --

Edwin is the first in his family to attend college and will attend Orange Coast College with a major in construction and aspires to construct for a larger company worldwide. He credits CAP for exposing him to the different options he could have after high school.



-- Diana R. --

Diana's favorite field trip with CAP included a trip to UCLA and learning about different cultures. She aspires to be an Elementary School teacher and will begin her journey at Golden West College majoring in Child Development.



-- Genesis P. --

Genesis joined CAP where weekly academic advising helped her *"inside and out of school"* and also assisted in choosing classes, FAFSA and a variety of school topics. Genesis learned how to take notes, how to approach a professor and how to prepare for an interview. She believes the college tours motivated her by giving her a taste of what her future could be. Genesis will attend Fullerton College and major in Broadcast Media.



-- Dianne E. --

Although Dianne will enter CSULB undecided in her major, one thing is for sure; she knows she wants to do anything that helps make a difference in the lives of others. Dianne was struggling in her classes and credits her CAP advisor for guiding her in successful study habits that she will take with her as the first in her family to attend college.



-- Jasmine P. --

Jasmine joined CAP after seeing her sister's success in the program who now attends CSULB. Jasmine will join her sister at CSULB in the fall majoring in Computer Science and dreams of becoming a Computer Engineer at a *"cool company like Google"*.



-- Jennifer L. --

Jennifer will be attending Orange Coast College in the fall focusing on Dentistry and feels *SteppingUP* helped her learn how to manage her time and money. She dreams of becoming an Orthodontist.



Jonathan M.

Jonathan was a member of his high school's Track and Field Team and shares that *SteppingUP* helped him to think about his future and the future of others through community service. He will attend CSULB with a major in Sociology and hopes to become a Lawyer.



-- Joselin B. --

Joselin will attend Fullerton College this fall where she plans to study Biology with a goal of transferring to a UC campus. Joselin sees herself finishing medical school and becoming a Pediatric Oncologist, working with children who are diagnosed with cancer.



-- Juan M. --

Juan was also a member of his high school's Track and Field Team and joined *SteppingUP* in 2012 where he was first exposed to UC Merced on CAP's Northern California College Tour. This fall he will step up to the campus as an Engineering Major and would like to become a Chemical Engineer.



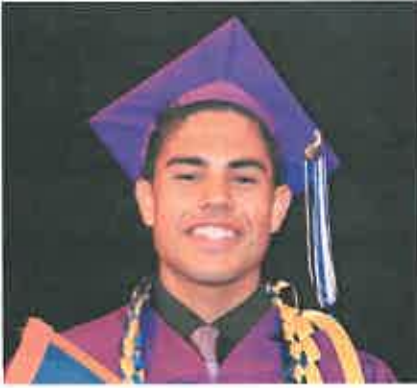
-- Juan M. --

Juan's favorite memory of CAP was the Northern California College Tour where he feels he "*opened up more*" and toured Northern California for the first time. Juan will attend San Jose State majoring in Computer Science. His dream job is working for Sony.



-- Lizet O. --

As the first generation to attend college in her family, Lizet is also heading up north. She looks forward to attending UC Merced and will major in Civil Engineering.



-- Martin A. --

With CAP, Martin learned how to socialize, ask for help when needed and advocate for himself. It exposed him to college campus life through tours & networking. Martin will attend CSUF in the fall majoring in Business where he dreams of becoming a business owner to give back to his community as an entrepreneur and philanthropist.



-- Michelle L. --

Michelle is an athlete who enjoys volleyball and track. CAP helped her to become more informed about future options, financial aid, scholarships and a career. She will attend Golden West College to focus on Animal Sciences and dreams of becoming a Veterinarian.



-- Omar D. --

Omar joined *SteppingUP's* College Awareness Program as a freshman in high school. His favorite memory was the STEAM Academy. Omar will step up to CSUF in the fall and although he may not be sure about his major, he is focused on becoming a business owner one day.



--- Rick J. ---

Rick's favorite field trip was to Soka University because he feels it was a wake up call for him to get ready to plan for college. He learned about student life in college and with the help of his advisor will attend CSUF to major in History.

*"My favorite memory at SteppingUP is when we found out that I got into Cal State Fullerton. It was honestly a surprise to me and I was grateful that (my advisor) Oscar had really helped me to get there. Oscar showed me how to do the requirements of the university, how to navigate the website and reminded me of deadlines."*

- Rick J.



-- Valleria G. --

Valleria is the first in her family to attend college. She will be attending Cal State Long Beach. She has not chosen a major but is looking forward to experiencing college and is excited to find out what she is most passionate about.



# CAP COLLEGE GRADUATES



## **UC BERKELEY**

Maryam, Public Health '16

## **UC SANTA BARBARA**

Isai, Communications '17

Stephanie, Sociology '17

Eddie, Global Studies '16

Jennifer A., Psychology/Spanish '16

## **UC SAN DIEGO**

Ana, Biology/Biochemistry '17

Edwin, Cognitive Science '13

## **UC IRVINE**

Alexis, International Studies, '17

Erica, Public Health Policy '17

Jessica, Social Policy & Public Service '17

Jessica, Urban Studies '16

## **UC RIVERSIDE**

Gaviota, Psychology '17

## **UCLA**

Lucia, Linguistics & French '16

## **UNIVERSITY OF SAN DIEGO**

Eduardo, Sociology '17

## **UC SANTA CRUZ**

Karissa, Sociology '17

Lucero, Sociology '16

Hayley, Film & Digital Media '15

## **CSU LONG BEACH**

Alejandra, Recreational Therapy '17

Daniela, Sociology '17

Itzel, Communications '17

Mayra, '17

Monica, Communication Studies '17

Ingrid, Political Science '16

Ismael, Health Care Administration '16

Oscar, Health Care Administration '16

Pauline, Marketing '16

Rowenda, Psychology '16

Eva, Sociology '15

## **FCC**

Yulma, Cosmetology Certificate '16

## **SDSU**

Brenda, Psychology '17

## **CAL POLY POMONA**

Karla, Sociology '17

## **CSU DOMINGUES HILLS**

Natalie, Child Development '17

Marissa, Human Services '16

## **CSU FULLERTON**

Mayra, Health Science '17

Antonio, Cinema & Television Arts '17

Jennifer D.—Psychology '16

Dolores, Psychology '16

Marco, Health Science '14

Yvonne, Human Service '15

Lisbeth, Communications '15

## **HUMBOLDT STATE UNIV.**

Louis, Journalism '15

## **CARRINGTON COLLEGE**

Katherine, Veterinary Technology '17

## **CONCORDE CAREER COLLEGE**

Rosibel, Medical Assisting '15

## **MEET JOSUE...**

Josue is a 21-year old alumnus of OCCHC/SteppingUP from Ocean View High School in Huntington Beach and a first generation college student at California State University, Long Beach. He dreams of a career in law enforcement and for the past two years, Josue has been employed as a Cadet with the Huntington Beach Police Department. Josue has been passionate about helping his community since he was a child, a value that he will take with him as he continues to pursue his career in law enforcement. He is set to graduate from CSULB in Spring 2018 with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Criminal Justice.





# YOU MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

**In 2017,** over 110 volunteers and interns have donated more than 5,000 hours of service through community service events, beautification projects, STEAM & Leadership Academies, CAP's Annual Career Day, internships and more valued at an estimated \$96,246.

# 25

**INTERNS FROM LOCAL COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES**

# THANK YOU

# 115

**VOLUNTEERS**



# 3,987

**HOURS VOLUNTEERED**

# \$96,246

**DONATED IN SERVICE**



## IN THEIR OWN WORDS...

*"I know that my job as an academic advisor was to help mentor, guide and support students, but this job meant so much more. I felt like the students helped ME grow and learn more. My students come from an underrepresented, low-income, immigrant background...a direct image of myself. The fact that I could directly relate to my students was, in my mind, an advantage. I could understand their troubles and helped find a solution; they saw that I overcome my obstacles and it served as an inspiration to them. Although They are truly the future of this country and I am glad that I was able to be part of their growth."*

*- Linda, Academic Advisor*

# THANK YOU!



Jeff & Linda Schulein

Barbara Baldwin Hook

California Endowment

Davis Landscape

Diane Stewart

Ben & Maureen Baldwin

NeighborWorksOC

Pacific City Bank

Aracely Fuentes

Allen & Holly Baldwin

Bob & Lois Johnson

Brenda J. Rodriguez

Children A Priority

Chris Fancy

DiMarco Araujo Montevideo

Rev. Edward Poettgen

Elsa Monte

Scott & Erin Gunther

Federal Home Loan Bank of  
San Francisco

Frances Morgan

Jim Yacenda

John Palacio

Dr. Jose Moreno

Joseph Boyle

JPC Maintenance

Karla Lopez del Rio

Dr. Luis Ortiz-Franco

Margarita Muniz

Maura Schafer

Melody Winter Head

Miguel Zamudio

Oscar D. Rodriguez

Opus Community Foundation

Robert Lopez Accountancy

Robert Redding

Rossina Gallegos

Rusty Kennedy

Samuel Romero

SteppingUP Parents

Tara Thach-Le

WNC & Associates

Yesenia Ochoa



### **Our Mission**

To transition extremely low-income families towards greater self-sufficiency by assisting them with HOUSING and EDUCATION.