



Partnership Scholars Program

Class of 2018

Northern California Graduates



Kate

Partnership Scholar Class of 2018 North Coast Region



My name is Kate and I am currently attending Fort Bragg High School. I will be graduating on June 8th, 2018. I am planning on attending Dominican University in the fall and majoring in Education and hopefully getting a minor in Italian. I chose this major because I have always wanted to be a teacher and I am hoping to be able to give back by educating children and giving them the power of knowledge. I want to teach in a foreign country and give underprivileged children the same opportunities I have been given. Going to college this fall is so important to me because my parents have sacrificed so much for me to be where I am today and I want to show them that all their hard work was not in vain.

My mentors are Susan and Sarah. They are two women who live here on the North Coast and have been both mine and Yahaira's mentors for the past six years. I really appreciate all the time and dedication they put into helping Yahaira and me get to know the world a little better. My most memorable experiences with them have been on our college trips because we got a lot of time in the car to talk and we learned a lot from them. They are both very involved in the Mendocino Music Festival and have taken us to some amazing concerts. They have been so supportive throughout school. Sarah worked as an English teacher and therefore always offered to look over our papers. Susan always made sure I had someone supporting me in math because I struggled quite a bit. They have been great mentors for us and we have received a lot from them and this program.

Applying to Partnership Scholars has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. I remember the day of my interview I was so nervous that I almost did not go in. I am very happy that I did walk through that door. I have met incredible people and have been helped very much throughout these last six years. I hope I am able to one day give back to my community the same way Dr. Langer and the amazing people in this program have done for me.

Entering Dominican University, Fall 2018



Oscar

Partnership Scholar Class of 2018 North Coast Region



Coming from a low-income, traditional Mexican family has made it difficult to reach my full potential. My parents did not grow up in the American education system, which has made it challenging for them to understand and give advice in regard to classes, extracurricular activities, and summer programs. As a result, I alone have had to discover, academically, what is best for me and my future.

As a middle schooler I was concerned about my future and searched for resources that could possibly help. I discovered a program known as Partnership Scholars or PSP that is dedicated to helping low-income, high-achieving students in their search for academic success. In preparation for the upcoming school-year I came to the realization that I required a variety of school supplies, including a computer. However, I knew my family lacked the funds for such educational necessities. PSP not only provided me with a new computer, but they also gave me essential school supplies such as textbooks and backpacks. Moreover, PSP has allowed me to tour campuses which has taught me the importance of a college education. My visits to these colleges have given me a new perspective for my future, aiding me in my decision to apply.

Before entering PSP, I had never been to any city or urban area; I was completely sheltered from the outside world and had little idea what lied beyond my rural town. Through multiple excursions I have been able to experience different cultural cuisine, customs and performances. On one particular occasion, I was able to visit the David Hockney exhibit at De Young museum. Hockney exclusively paints digitally and seeing his art had a significant impact on me. I was fascinated by his stylistic approach and was inspired to replicate it. This is just one of many experiences that I have been able to learn from and apply to my life.

This program has taught me that through hard-work and perseverance personal setbacks can be overcome and used to motivate individual growth. PSP continues to positively affect my life and has instituted an unrelenting academic vigor.

Entering Diablo Valley College, Fall 2018



Celeste

Partnership Scholar Class of 2018 North Coast Region



My name is Celeste, and I attended Fort Bragg High School. I plan on attending Santa Clara University in the Fall of 2018. At the moment I do not have an intended major, however, I am enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences. I thought this college suited me best because I am very interested in social sciences like psychology and political science. I can see myself pursuing a job in both of these fields, with some examples being a Marriage and Family Therapist, or maybe a job with the local Congressman. My only greatest goal since I can remember is to go to college, and successfully graduate. Having the ability to say I'm finally going to college in the fall is incredible, and still rather hard to believe. I am extremely excited and I invite this new chapter in my life with open arms. This is something PSP has helped with immensely, because of the amazing trips I have been able to go to, and experience.

I wholeheartedly feel like one of the luckiest people in the Partnership Scholars Program due to having Joan as my mentor. She has been my mentor for almost 6 years, and always gave me the most incredible amount of support and advice for any situation I had. My mentor is family to me now, and always will be. I am extremely grateful for her, and her dedication to me since the beginning. To choose a favorite trip is almost impossible, but the biggest trip we went to together was going to Washington D.C. We spent the time visiting museums and learning about all of the historic buildings and monuments. I absolutely loved it, and hope to return one day.

PSP was one of the first places that told me that just because private universities are more expensive, doesn't mean I can't attend one. They opened my eyes to the reality of financial aid, and gave me the courage to apply to every school I wanted: big or small, private or public. The summer programs at the universities in Southern California gave me excellent experience in dorms and how it felt to be actually living on campus. Through PSP I gained access to a vast array of opportunities and overall equipped me with the skills I needed to succeed from public speaking to financial literacy. I cannot wait to see what my future holds, and am excited to see how the scholars after me continue to succeed and thrive in and out of the program.

Entering Santa Clara University, Fall 2018



Shalaya

Partnership Scholar Class of 2018 North Coast Region



My name is Shalaya and I go to Mendocino High School. I plan to attend Cabrillo Community College in Santa Cruz California. Since I was a freshman, I have had an interest in working in schools, doing counseling and especially teaching health to freshman. I have dabbled in different ideas throughout my high school career, but at this point I am really looking forward to taking every opportunity to gather job experience throughout the first years of my college career. That is one of the many reasons I chose community college. I plan to get experience through working jobs at teen clinics, as well as places such as project sanctuary. Going off to college next year is obviously a mixture of completely terrifying, and beyond exciting. I am looking forward to having my own apartment, and having total freedom. It is however so scary to think I will be away from my parents. I have an amazing support system here, and I will without a doubt be lonely as ever without them. Over the time with the program my personality has only grown and flourished. This program has opened me up to so many opportunities I would have never gotten the chance to be a part of without it; in turn helping me build my resume and meet new people who will affect my life positively, forever.

Through the help of my gracious and powerful mentor Barbara, I have been kept on top of my life in a way I could have never imagined. Together, we have gotten through the milestones which make high school so difficult for teens, and she has always been there to ease my burden without taking responsibility for my actions. With her qualified knowledge of difficult things such as taxes and beyond, I have always felt in strong steady hands when it came to getting my adult tasks done. My most memorable outing with my mentor was to a zip line course in Santa Rosa. My mentor and I, along with three other scholars and their mentor got to take part in one of my favorite activities - zip lining! This trip was just all around a good time. It was a perfect way to push my comfort zone a little while having tons of fun! On this trip we also got to have a picnic lunch in a beautiful garden, which was a perfect end to a awesome day.

From the start of my time with Partnership Scholars Program, I have felt nothing but love and care from everyone I have met. I have always felt like a high priority for any mentor or director that I've had the pleasure of working with. The friends I have made, whether they be other scholars from around America, or people I have met at any event I was ushered towards by the program have made an everlasting impact on me. The girls from Fort Bragg that I have habitually traveled with on small trips to Ukiah, Santa Rosa, or San Francisco have become lifelong friends who I am able to pick out in a crowd and have a killer time with no matter where we are. At events such as the College Access retreat down in LA, I was able to meet scholars who had completely different lives than me, but were going through the same things, and could relate to the struggle of growing up, and the positives of being with the program.

The trips and tours I've taken with the Program have helped me make some of the greatest decisions of my life so far. On the college tour trip in the Pacific Northwest, I got to witness the intensity of on campus life of a four year college. Although I did thoroughly enjoy that trip, it truly made me realize that 4 year college and on campus life is not what I am looking for. It was on this trip that I first mentioned to someone else about my thoughts on starting at a community college, and the advice I got back from the mentor chaperones solidified this idea as a major option. I have not visited Cabrillo Community College with the program, but I have visited UC Santa Cruz, which I may transfer to when I'm ready to move on from Community College.

I am so glad I have gotten to be a part of this program. I know that the experiences and tools I've gained over the years will help me forever down the line, and I had a blast getting to know everyone involved.

Entering Cabrillo Community College,

Fall 2018



Jasmin

Partnership Scholar Class of 2018 North Coast Region



My name is Jasmin and I am from Fort Bragg, CA where I graduated from Fort Bragg High School. I will be attending Dominican University of California and majoring in Business Management. I choose this major because I am interested in being able to own my own business and be able to express my thoughts without having restrictions. I also want to be able to impact my community in a positive aspect with the business in which I decide to own. For me going to college means a lot, I will be the first person in my family to attend a University and hopefully graduate from one. It has been one of the greatest moments of my life to be able to continue my education and go further into what will soon be my future. My goal is to graduate from Dominican and make my mom proud after all the hard work she has put into getting me there. Due to PSP I am now an outgoing and confident person. When I first joined I was extremely shy and not very opened to anyone. Now that I have been in the program for four years I can say that I have broken out of my shell and am a lot more confident speaking publicly and to others. When applying for this program I already knew a little about it since my older sister was in the program. I didn't give all my effort into the application process because I didn't think it would be so competitive to get in. When I was denied my seventh grade year I was extremely upset but continued to work hard for my education. But then my eighth grade year I was elected again and did not take this opportunity for granted. I did my best to get into the program and I did. My experience was amazing, I expected a lot less than I received and it wasn't just about the places in which I went to but more like the memories I made with other people and most importantly growing a strong relationship with my mentor.

My relationship with my mentor is one that I will never forget. She has always been very supportive of the things that I choose to do. She has always believed in me and been very supportive with my grades no matter low or high. When I was struggling she was sure that I could get the best help in order to keep my grades close to perfect. My most memorable outgoing was when I went to Washington D.C for the first time. Although I did not go with my mentor she made it possible so that I could be a part of that trip. It was an amazing experience being able to go across the country and visit my cousin as well that I hadn't seen for over three years. I got to visit different museums and got very lucky in certain activities. When at the capital we got free passes to go through the tour and didn't have to wait in a huge line to be able to go. We also decided last minute that we wanted to attend a baseball game since the field was a block away from where we were staying. When we went to get our tickets from the booth we met a lady that was in charge of seating people above the dugout. She told us to find her when we got to the game and she would get us better seats than the ones we had. When we arrived we got to sit right above the dugout. It was a trip to remember. Overall my mentor has always been extremely supportive. She would teach me new techniques of studying when mine weren't working. When ever we did certain activities she always made sure I enjoyed them to the full potential. She has been a great mentor and I am hoping that my connection with her will never die.

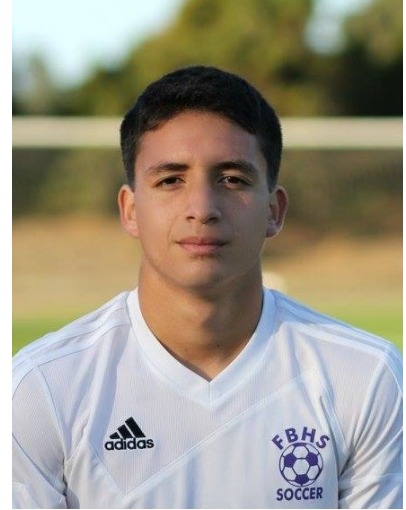
The PSP experience didn't help me decide to go to college because I already had the dream to go, but it did help encourage me to stay on the college path. Being in the program helped me get a better idea of what college I want to attend and get more information about the process and college life. It also helped me stick to business management and helped me realize that it's what I really want to major in. I did not attend the college in which I will be attending with PSP but they have supported me throughout my years of high school by providing trips so that I can see the different colleges that I could have possibly attended. It also helped me get all the knowledge that I need in order to be well informed on the different steps for success.

Entering Dominican University,
Fall 2018



Kevin

Partnership Scholar Class of 2018 North Coast Region



My name is Kevin and I am graduating from Fort Bragg High School. I will be going to Mendocino College in Ukiah and I'm not sure what I will be majoring in. By going to college I know that I will be doing something that will prepare me for my future career.

My mentor, Bronwyn is a good person. She has been my mentor for the past five years and she has really helped get through school and the PSP. I appreciate the time she has given up to help me and will always remember how she has helped through tough situations. Our most memorable outing was going to watch the San Jose Earthquakes game in Santa Clara. She has helped me a lot by asking if I ever need help, and keeping me on the right track when it came to school.

The PSP experience that helped me decide that I wanted to go to college was the soccer camp in Santa Clara for five days. I've visited Mendocino College many times. The PSP program helped me do a lot of things, and if it weren't for this program, I would have never met my great mentor.

Entering Mendocino College, Fall 2018



Daniel

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

North Coast Region



My name is Daniel and I am from Fort Bragg, CA. I attended Fort Bragg High School and have decided to attend UCLA in the fall where I am going undeclared in Life Sciences. I picked this because am not quite sure what I want to do but I am interested in the life sciences. I will be the first in my family to graduate high school and attend college. Being the oldest of four, I hope the example I provided for my younger siblings will motivate them to follow in my footsteps and to strive for what they want to achieve. I am extremely excited to go to college as I will be in a completely new environment filled with rich diversity and endless opportunity. Coming from a small town like Fort Bragg, I have always wanted to live in a large city like L.A., and now I will. Also, I hope that by going to college I can figure out what I would like to do the rest of my life.

My mentor is Nancy and she has been my mentor for the last three years. I am thankful for having her as my mentor and appreciate all the time she has dedicated to me. She has been there whenever I needed help. In the summer of 2016, I injured my knee, which inhibited me from running and playing soccer comfortably. She directed me to a chiropractor who figure out what was wrong with my knee and helped in my recovery. Our most memorable outing was when we went to a college soccer game between Stanford University and UCLA. I am a huge soccer fan so being able to watch a game in real life was awesome!

PSP has helped me to make my college choice decision. I don't think I would have ever visited or even considered UCLA if it wasn't for PSP. In the summer of 2017, I attended the PSP retreat at UCLA. After being on campus for a week and taking a tour of the campus and learning more about it, UCLA started to appeal to me. It was not until I started doing extensive research when deciding whether to go to UC Berkeley or UCLA that I figured out that UCLA was the school for me. Furthermore, PSP has supported me academically, personally, and through the college application process. I know that if I had not gone to the retreat, I would have had a much harder time in my college applications. Academically, PSP has motivated me to get the best grades I could get and to venture out of my comfort zone. By getting out of my comfort zone, I have gained new and amazing experiences I probably would not have gained. In the end, PSP not only helped to get me where I am academically but also helped shape me into the person I am today.

Entering UCLA, Fall 2018



Yahaira

Partnership Scholar Class of 2018 North Coast Region



I'm graduating from Fort Bragg High School and I will be attending Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in the fall with the intended major of mathematics, to become a high school math teacher. My teachers have pushed me to stretch myself in ways that I didn't think were possible. Math has been a strong suit for me and I want to spread the inspiration that my teachers gave me. College used to be a dream and now that it's my reality, my journey to this point seems unreal.

Entering seventh grade, I was a timid, closed young girl who struggled with confidence in herself. After concerts, summer camps, art gallery showings, plays, college trips, and much, much more, I am here as a senior who can proudly say that most of my growth has come from this program. Having an involved mentor was also the vehicle for a more advantageous experience. Susan has been my mentor throughout the six years of this program. Susan always showed me support through my academics by offering tutoring through my challenging courses and regularly meeting me for follow ups on my grades. She also showed me the world of fine arts and performative art through plays, musicals, big band concerts, and art shows.

My most memorable outing was when I took an overnight trip to Berkeley with two other mentees. We visited a couple of colleges and I went to my first college basketball game. The bonding experience was the most memorable. I feel that I connected with my mentor over her upbringing and her interest in creating change. She showed me the importance of breaking out of my comfort bubble to find my interests. I realized that I have a passion for seeing films by attending the Mendocino Coast Film Festival and viewing the local art galleries. She has opened a door into higher interest in the little things in life. I will absolutely keep in contact with her in the future.

Partnership Scholars played a critical role in the career that I plan to pursue in the future. I plan to become a teacher to educate students in low income areas. It has the same core values as the program which is to help bridge the education gap of students that come from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. All students should have equal opportunities to have a growing education. I did visit the college that I'm attending with the help of the program that paid for my traveling expenses. PSP made it possible for me to realize that attending college was an obtainable goal and that I should pursue higher learning.

Entering Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Fall 2018



Karina

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



My name is Karina and I will be attending UC Davis in the fall intending to major in Business. I picked this major with the interest in leading and becoming a part of a group of people that work for the beneficial cause of others. My background in leadership, planning, organizing for MESA and my involvement in clubs has lead me to see a passion in a kind of work that most teenagers would not do. Career wise, I have not completely decided on what I want to do but the management side or marketing side of business currently attracts me and is what I will work towards. When I think of attending school in the fall all I can feel is excitement towards living in a new place, having independence, learning and having a whole new experience. Although I feel excitement, I also feel a bit of worry and fear but I know everything will turn out fine and I may enjoy myself more than I expect.

My mentor, Jen. is the most down to earth, realistic and understanding person I have ever met. She's always calm and so knowledgeable I feel I can always rely on her. When we were flying to Seattle and our flight was delayed, she was the most unworried mentor on the trip and not bothered by the inconvenience. When most people would get mad and upset for something out of our control she remained relaxed. Along with that, she really helped me through the college application process. When I had trouble with my last essay and it was not how I wanted it, she helped me transform it into exactly what I was looking for. I do not think I would have made it without her help.

Being accepted to Partnership Scholars made me realize I could do a lot more than I believed, and that the risks I take by trying something unpredictable are worth the try, regardless if I succeed or fail. That was the first of many things I learned as a Partnership Scholar. Through the program I got see so many new place and opportunities that I am so grateful to have been able to experience. Partnership Scholars overall added to the journey of my life any person would had through learning from my experiences. Partnership Scholars, through ideas directly taught to me or the experiences along the way, has become a chapter in my life that has shaped who I am today.

Entering UC Davis, Fall 2018



Armando

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



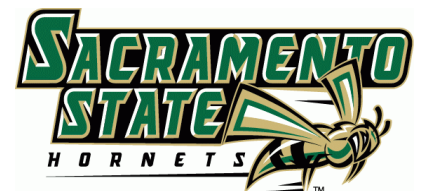
My name is Armando and I go to Ukiah High School. Starting this fall I will be attending Sacramento State University with an intended major of mechanical engineering. Since my junior year I have become really interested in physics which has really influence my decision in choosing mechanical engineering. Going to college has been a goal that I've had all my life because I want to give back to my parents and my future family. I later hope to go to graduate school to pursue Aerospace Engineering and someday work for either Boeing or SpaceX. PSP has helped me meet new people and be more social for which I am really thankful. Going to college will mean the world to me because I have been working hard all of my life and it is finally my time.

Throughout PSP I have had three mentors which have all helped me very much. First came Jill. My favorite outing together was a trip into San Francisco where we got to eat really good food and watch an outstanding play. With Jill I was introduced to the big picture of college and she opened my eyes to all the opportunities and careers. Next came Marsha. She really helped me through the application process and was always there if I needed help. My favorite memory with Marsha was watching her eat animal fries from In-N-Out for the first time, she was completely amazed! Currently I have Jim as my mentor. He has helped by letting me realize that the real world is almost here for me. He has motivated to finish my senior year on a strong and to strive for my goals. My favorite outing with Jim was going white river rafting in the American River back in eighth grade. All three of my mentors have helped me reach the position I am at now, a future college student.

Although I did not visit Sacramento State with PSP, visiting many other schools helped me decide that I would like to go to a big campus with many people. After going to the University of Washington I got really interested in engineering because of a workshop they had where many majors were discussed among them mechanical engineering. It caught my attention because it had all my favorite subject to mixed into one. PSP helped me by helping me come out of my shell and realize that there is a lot to do in this world and the possibilities are endless.

Entering CSU Sacramento,

Fall 2018



Cindy

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



I have decided to attend the University of California, Santa Barbara in the fall of 2018, where I will be majoring in pre-biology. I think the career path for me in the future is being a medical interpreter, mixing my love for both medicine and the Spanish language. This holds a special place in my heart because it holds the memories of me as a little girl interpreting for my mother and family, being able to fulfill my dream of playing doctor. Going into college this fall not only is a form of validation of all my hard work, but is a symbol of inspiration for my youngest brother; that no matter the obstacles of being a first generation college student or being financially unstable, nothing should stop you from pursuing your career.

Applying to PSP was the biggest risk I ever took. During these six years I was definitely able to blossom into a fearless young leader I became the President of Club Latino, and got a position on the Graduation Committee and attended the Inter-Council Club. I came out of my shell and became active.

I would like to thank my mentor, Elizabeth. Throughout these six years it has seemed that I have known her forever, yet at the same time it seemed like all our time passed in the blink of an eye. Whether it was just a five minute phone call checking in to going out to the Farmers Market, I cherish every single minute we spent. I am forever grateful for her dedication and time and all those edited essays she gave me. However, my favorite memory will always be when we went to Hopland to the Solar Living Institute where we walked around admiring all the nature and just enjoying our time together. It feels so long ago yet I can still feel the breeze on my skin as we sat under a willow tree eating dried seaweed. Elizabeth has been there with me through all the hardships and all the victories, not only academically but personally. But most importantly, she was always there when I needed her and I know that no matter where I go she's only one phone call away. I am proud to not only call her my mentor but my best friend as well.

Partnership Scholars Program helped me solidify my choice in career. Being lucky enough to travel out of state and visit schools from Seattle to New York, helped me gain insight on the different lives of students and the backgrounds they come from. Hearing their stories motivated me to continue in pursuit of my education. I am passionate about my career and PSP has played a huge roll in my life. From offering the many resources of tutoring, mentoring, and experiencing all types of culture and education, I can say with certainty that without PSP I wouldn't be where I am today.

Entering UC Santa Barbara,
Fall 2018



Mymy

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



My name is Mymy and I went to Ukiah High School. I have decided to attend University of California Irvine where I will be majoring in Computer Engineering. I decided on this major because I always had an interest in math and technology and would like to look into it more while I'm in college. I'm still indecisive of what career path I plan to take however I know I will discover more about myself as I head off to college. Going to college means that I have accomplished my first goal in life. Going to college also means I have accomplished my parent's dream. The main reason for my parents coming to America was not only to be financial stable but for me to have a more successful future. I am the first person in my family to go to college and I know my choices will not only impact myself but also the people who are important to me.

Before I applied to the Partnership, I would have never seen myself choosing a school in Southern California. Through PSP, I was able to leave my comfort bubble and expand my view about the world and myself. I changed from a shy seventh grader to a confident individual. There was a point where I was reluctant to apply to PSP considering I never thought I could get in but now I have never regretted my choice.

My mentor's name is Jen. She has been my mentor for five years and I'm thankful for all the time she helped me. If I was struggling with my academics or scheduling with PSP she was always there for me. Even when she was busy, she notified me beforehand and guides me to ask other mentors in the program. She always keeps me up to date with my deadlines and is always there to support me through my struggles with either school or college decision. Jen also supported my choice to go Southern California and I am grateful for all she has done. When I had difficulties with my financial aid documents, I texted her and even though she is busy, she took time to meet up. Even though my time in Partnership Scholar Program is ending, I know that my relationship with my mentor Jen will never end. I had so much fun having Jen as my mentor and I will miss her as I head off to Southern California.

Through PSP, I was able to expand out of my comfort zone and try new things I wouldn't have dreamed of. Because I was able to visit so many colleges through my high school years, I was able to pinpoint which schools I wanted to apply to. I visited UC Irvine early probably during my freshman year, and I loved the simplicity of the campus and its atmosphere. Now that I applied and got accepted, I want to thank PSP for giving me the opportunity to visit the campus and guide my path to my future. Without being able to visit so many campuses from different regions, I wouldn't know how I would be comfortable going to college far away from home. Being in PSP, I was also able to pay for tests such as APs and SAT without worry about the payment. I was also able to pay for all my college applications without worrying about my family's situation. I'm grateful for what PSP has granted me and I will never forget my experiences through this program.

Entering UC Irvine, Fall 2018

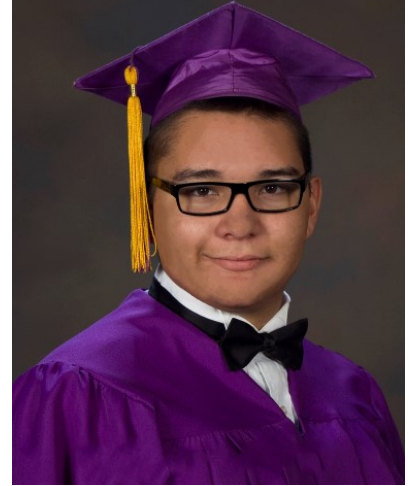


Takota

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



My name is Takota . I am not just a citizen of the United States, but a proud member of the Pomo nation. I will be attending U.C., Merced. After completing the general education course work, I will be pursuing a career in computer engineering.

Computers, how they operate, and how we can use them to improve our lives, have always been fascinating to me. In the future, I can see myself entering the field of Information Technology and eventually working into either Artificial Intelligence, robotics, gaming, or something that hasn't even been conceived of yet! I expect that as I learn more and mature in the coming years of higher education, new and interesting opportunities will present themselves. The ability to pursue an exciting career in a field I am passionate about is the essence of why going to college means so much to me. Also I will be part of a younger generation of Indigenous Americans who look to higher education as a means of improving the quality of lives for our families.

Because I have lived my entire life on the Coyote Valley Reservation, without P.S.P., I may never have traveled to New York or Pennsylvania, to see a professional play, or have eaten escargot. While in New York I got to see and go on top of the Empire State building. Also I got to go down into Grand Central Station. The architecture and the art work were spectacular. In Pennsylvania, I visited this interesting school called Dickinson College. They had these dorms called the "Dog House" because it was the job of the students who lived there to raise and train puppies to become service dogs. During one of the trips we had a reservation to this fancy French restaurant. We had to dress nicely before going and one of the requirements of being part of Partnership Scholars is to try new foods, so one of the mentors ordered a plate of escargot and butter. The butter barely helped with the snail, it tasted all buttery and was slimy. I did not enjoy it. I had never gone to the Cheesecake Factory before Partnership Scholars. It was all sugary and fattening, but delicious!

As I was checking each college, I saw very few Native Americans in attendance and that was the motivation for me to actually follow through with my dream of a college education. Without the support of PSP and my sponsors, it would have been very difficult to get this far. The equipment and school supplies the program provided to me helped greatly with the day to day work of a student. The trips and activities helped to broaden my horizons – making it possible for me to see a light of hope in the future. In addition to the PSP, my tribal elders and the education department at our reservation provided me with support, always encouraging me to push forward. Just knowing that there is a great big world out there is very exciting and I look forward to participating in it.

Entering UC Merced,

Fall 2018



Brittney

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



The Partnership Scholars Program has positively impacted my life more than I thought ever possible. Looking back on the past six years I have been in the program has made me realize that each academic achievement I had earned was due to my hard work, but was driven by the motivation this program instilled within me. While there were a myriad of tragic and unfortunate conflicts that arose within my personal life that began to impact my attitude towards school and caused my motivation to plummet, this program's requirements and their emphasis on going to college and how much of a better life the said above will give you kept me going. This program kept me going through the deaths, relapses, and accidents of loved ones, it gave me hope for a better life. This program has showed me what happiness and success feels like.

While I have always loved school and knew of it's importance, I believe that without this program I would not have made it this far, I would not have stepped out of my comfort zone, and most of all, I would fall into the most life consuming disease all of my family has obtained; addiction. With the constant fear of becoming my family, along with the continuous support from this program, I have made it. I have learned so much about myself and what I want and don't want in life during these past six years that I finally feel confident in myself and know that I CAN and WILL achieve what I put my mind to.

I am overjoyed to announce that I will be attending Franklin University Switzerland this upcoming fall to study Environmental Science and Psychology. Applying to this college, I felt hopeless, knowing that I either wouldn't be able to afford it, or that I wouldn't get in, but after help from all the mentors around me, I was accepted with a \$30,800 scholarship each year, making it the cheapest option out of all the colleges I applied to. Being accepted into my dream college in the center of Europe and everything else I was able to accomplish this year makes me extremely appreciative of everything the Partnership Scholars Program has enabled and motivated me to do.

Entering Franklin University Switzerland,

Fall 2018



Ivan

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



My name is Ivan and I attended Ukiah High School. After a tough time trying to decide between UC San Diego and UC Santa Barbara, I have decided to attend UC Santa Barbara this upcoming fall. I plan to major in Biology to be on track as pre-med student. I chose this major because I enjoy learning about the human body and the environment that surrounds it. I am the first of both sides of my family to attend a UC school. Following the steps of my brother, I will be on track for medical school one day in the near future. Looking back when I first entered PSP, I used to be very timid and shy, now I have become more comfortable and I like to express my thoughts in English. I applied to PSP with the hope of exploring new places and become prepared to apply to college and I am sure it did its job. I am now heading to college and very thankful for being part of such an amazing program

My mentor is Susan , she has been my mentor since my eighth grade year and I am very grateful for her time, patience, support and dedication to me. Susan challenged me to practice my English with her, whenever we met we had long conversations. Anytime I struggled, whether it be to meet deadlines or needing a ride after school, she would be present to assist and help me. She has always tried to communicate and bond with my family despite the language and culture barriers that exist. Together we tried different types of cuisine such as Chinese, Indian and Thai. We saw plays and movies, took trips to San Francisco, Sacramento, the petrified forest and the geysers and went kayaking, which were really awesome to experience. Overall, I am grateful for having Susan by my side these past five years.

Being part of PSP helped me decide on a career path by offering me the opportunity to learn about the different paths that exist in the medical field. I was also given the opportunity to travel to less developed countries like Panama and help volunteer in orphanages and research institutes at Bocas del Toro. I got to experience being away from home when PSP offered me the option to visit Seattle for four days. That opportunity allowed me to bond with the other PSP students and now we consider ourselves a family. I will miss with all my heart PSP because it has been there through my struggles and achievements. I am very thankful and sad that the six years have passed already.

Entering UC Santa Barbara, Fall 2018



Sergio

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Ukiah Region



My name is Sergio and I'm finishing my senior year at Ukiah High. I have made my decision to attend Mendocino College in the fall where I will be majoring in Business Administration. I chose Business Administration because I'm interested in becoming the leader of a company. Going to college this fall means a lot to me because this marks a time to reinvent myself, widen my knowledge, and grow. College also means a lot for my family. I remember my family telling me I had to go to college when I was younger. College will be a huge accomplishment for me and my family. At the beginning of PSP I hardly knew anything about college but now when the topic comes up I feel comfortable.

My mentors name is Susan. She is the most loving, caring, and determined woman I know. Throughout my years in the program I've had many struggles but she never lost hope in me and that's what kept me motivated. My favorite thing about Susan is how knowledgeable she is. Susan is always throwing facts about anything, I love it! My most memorable outing was the time Susan took me to Bluebird Cafe in Hopland. It was my first time going and it was my first outing with Susan. She was always reminding me of due dates and offering her help with school. Personally, she opened my eyes to the limitless possibilities there are in this world.

Being in PSP helped me decide what I want to do in college by taking me to workshops and providing campus tours. PSP opened opportunities for me to grow and learn. This program has given me many wonderful experiences and tools that allowed me to visit campuses and widen my possibilities. PSP also prepared me for many important tests like the SAT. They provided me with practice tests and funds to apply to schools. PSP gave me the tools to succeed and widen my future. I am extremely thankful for them being a part of my life.

Entering Mendocino College,

Fall 2018

