



**Partnership Scholars Program**

**Class of 2018**

**Southern California Graduates**



# Norberto

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Norberto and I am currently attending Lennox Academy. I have decided to attend UC Davis next fall and study Spanish. I really enjoy helping those around me, and this is why I am strongly considering becoming a high school Spanish teacher. Being able to have a college education will be my reward for all the hard work and sacrifice that my family and I have gone through. This is important to me is because I am expected to be the first one in family to attend college. A goal of mine is to make my mother proud. Her dedication to us has propelled me to become the best I can be. Her hard work and dedication to push forward through economic difficulties has shaped me into the person I am today.

Throughout my six years in PSP I have evolved and become more confident in my decision-making. In the past, before being part of PSP, college was never in my thoughts. Throughout middle school and high school everyone has been preparing for next big step: college. I was never exposed to college visits, or learning about how to pay for college. PSP did a great job at exposing me to many resources like college visits, and financial aid workshops. I now see it is evident that without PSP I wouldn't be thinking about attending college.

Through PSP, I have also been able to develop a great bond with my mentor and other scholars. I am so grateful for all the time and support she has provided me. Ms. Rios has helped me with all my academic struggles. One of the most impactful events was when she helped filled out my application for Lennox Academy. I lacked motivation to attend a charter school, I thought it would be too hard for me. I wanted the easy way out, but she believed in me, and encouraged me to apply to Lennox Academy. Today, I am extremely thankful for her support because she played a major role in everything I have accomplished at Lennox Academy. One of our most memorable outings was taking a trip to visit schools in Northern California. This trip was extremely impactful for me because I got a different view of campuses that were further away from home. Before this trip I was very skeptical about going to college far from home. However, after being exposed to these campuses I knew for sure I wanted to attend one of them. The school that stood out to me the most was UC Davis. Thanks to this trip I know for sure where I want to spend the next four years of my life. Another memorable outing that had great impact in my life was being able to visit other states like Chicago and New York. It was great experience to be able to be exposed to a different environment in a different state. It is crazy to believe that even though we all live in the same country, there are many differences in each state. These trips have played an important role in my life. My family would have never been able to afford something like that.

I thank PSP for the great impact it has had in my life. It is safe to say that without PSP I wouldn't be the person I am today. I am sure that anyone that has the opportunity to be part of this experience, will be extremely blessed.

Entering UC Davis, Fall 2018

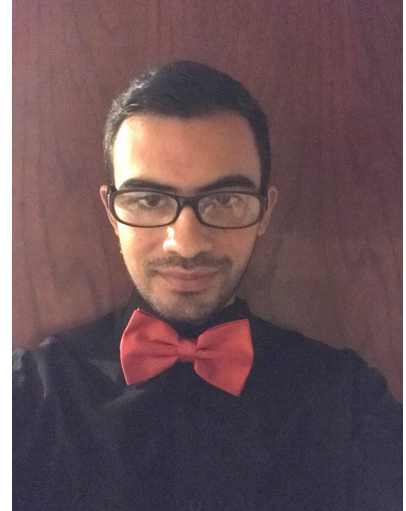


# Diego

## Partnership Scholar

### Class of 2018

### Lennox Region



My name is Diego and I attend Lennox Academy. After applying to many universities I decided to attend a transfer pathway with El Camino College that will allow me to enter Loyola Marymount University in one year. I will major in Civil Engineering. I chose this career pathway because my school is heavy on STEM and that played a big influence on me. I see myself getting a job helping build new infrastructure. Going to college this fall means a lot to me. It is an accomplishment that I will be attending a college, as many people do not get the opportunity to go.

My mentor is Mr. Boone. He has been my mentor since I was admitted to the program. He is always there for me and is always a text away. He is always willing to go out with us and I always have a blast with him. The most memorable experience I had with my mentor was ice skating. This was the most memorable because he was skating like a professional and as soon as he passed by me, he fell in the ring. He has helped me academically by taking me to see different college campuses. Since I was going to different trips, I was getting a feel of different universities and finding the right match for me. He has taken us on many trips including to San Francisco, San Diego, Las Vegas, various ethnic restaurants, and many other cool events.

PSP supported me through helping me travel and explore. My very first year I went to San Diego, and visited the campuses and explored the city of San Diego. My second year in the program, I visited San Francisco. It was a great experience as I have never visited before and I was able to tour Berkley and Stanford. PSP played a big role in helping me decide a future college. My junior year, I attended the PSP college retreat and in one of the seminars they made us research schools. This was the first time I searched for schools and I realized that I wanted to stay close to home.

Entering El Camino College,  
Fall 2018



# Stephanie

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Stephanie and I went to Lennox Academy. I am very proud to say that I will be attending UCLA this fall. I have decided to major in Nursing because I have always wanted to enter the medical field and help people. Making it this far in my educational career has been one of my biggest achievements so far. Just like many students around me, I will be a first generation college student which is why I am so motivated to reach greatness. Being able to continue my education is a privilege that I do not take lightly but instead it is an accomplishment for the rest of my family to follow.

My mentor is Ms. Guerrero, and she has been my mentor for the past six years. Since the very beginning she has been very supportive and caring. She has always wanted the best for my well-being and she has always been so understanding and has helped me get to the place I am now. I appreciate all that Ms. Guerrero done for me and I will forever cherish the memories we have together. The most memorable outing I have experienced with Ms. Guerrero is when I went to the theater to watch The Lion King live at the Pantages Theater. I would have never expected to love going to the theater that much if it weren't for Ms. Guerrero. She always tries to push us to try new things and I am very grateful for that.

I realized that I want to go into nursing because PSP has encouraged me to pursue this dream. At first I always thought that I wouldn't be good enough to enter the medical field or be accepted to a university that has a good nursing program. Being in PSP has taught me to be confident and not be intimidated to go after anything I want. I will carry that mentality throughout my entire future and I thank the program for it.

This past summer PSP held the college retreat at UCLA and being there just made me realize that I couldn't see myself attending any other school. I was so sure that I would apply to the school regardless of how competitive it may be. I owe a lot to PSP, and they have offered me so many resources that have helped get me to the place I am now. For example, the summer retreats that they offered helped me work on preparing for the college application process and the SAT prep that I was offered helped me score higher on the test. Having a mentor has been a great resource because I always have someone who is willing to revise my papers or write letters of recommendation.

Entering UCLA, Fall 2018



# Cindy

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



I am Cindy and I went to Hawthorne High School. I have decided to enroll at Cal Poly Pomona and will be majoring in Spanish. My career goal is to become an interpreter for nonprofit organizations. Going to college this fall is very exciting for me because it's a new chapter in my life and I know I will be successful. My hard work and dedication toward my studies will also serve as motivation to my younger sibling since I am the first to attend college in my family.

My mentor is Ms. Guerrero, and she has seen me grow for the past six years. I truly have a great bond with her, so much so that I considered her as my second mother. She has given me a lot of support these past years and advice whenever I'm going through personal challenges. One of my most memorable moments with her was during a trip to Disneyland in 2014. My peers and I ordered a little too much ice cream and we gave it all to her because we couldn't finish the three scoop ice cream cone. This was very memorable because she couldn't even finish it either and we all started laughing so much. She has helped me a lot with editing essays for my English classes over the past years and has given me the support when it was time to apply to college. It has been great having her as a mentor, she has helped me to develop a strong sense of confidence.

Being part of PSP has helped me to keep on the path for college success. It has given me the opportunity to visit new places that I could never afford. I realized that being in this program has given me the tools I need in order to become successful in life. Becoming successful in life is very important to me because it ensures that I make great decisions in my choices about my career. Without this program I wouldn't be where I am right now. I'm looking forward to taking challenges in life as soon as I enter college demonstrating to my parents my hard work skills and perseverance. I feel extremely proud to have been part of PSP.

Entering Cal Poly Pomona, Fall 2018





# Yarazeth

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Yarazeth and I will be graduating from Hawthorne High School. I have decided to attend CSU Northridge in the fall where I will be majoring in Public Health. I chose this major because I am interested in becoming a doctor as well as giving back to my community in a rewarding and impactful way. I am very excited to go to college because it will be a stepping stone for the future that I will lead and of course, my family will be very proud. Additionally, I know that it will help me become a more independent person, granting me lots of experiences that will serve as lifelong lessons. I am enthusiastic about creating many memories and meeting new people. When I first joined PSP, I was afraid to step out of my comfort zone. However, throughout the six years of being in PSP, I am now willing to try new things and take risks which contributed to my character development. When I applied to PSP in 7th grade, I joined because of my interest in one day attending college. I wanted to make things easier for my parents as well because I knew they would not be able to give me the opportunities PSP offered. I am very glad I was able to become a PSP scholar because they have given me the tools I need that have put me on the path towards college.

My mentor is Ms. Hernandez and she has been my mentor throughout the time I have been a part of PSP. I am very thankful for how she has prioritized my group and I because I am aware that she has various responsibilities. She is always willing to assist us with any matters, whether it is school related or not. Our most memorable outing was when we went to New York because it was my first time travelling to the East Coast and I had a lot of fun with her. I enjoyed visiting all the places we went, but my favorites were the 9/11 Memorial, Times Square, NYU, and Central Park. I am glad I was able to share these experiences with her. Her time and effort has been very valuable to me as a student.

The fact that I was able to visit various university campuses made me understand what to look for in a college. For example, I realized that the ideal college distance for me would be one that was close to home. The experiences that the program offered definitely would not have happened if I was not a part of it. Overall, PSP was a unique opportunity that I am lucky to have been a part of. I appreciate the program because I always knew I wanted to go to college, but this program guided and gave me resources and experiences which made me realize which college was ideal for me. I was given the exposure to all the different paths available to me that I normally I would not have encountered on my own due to the small contained community that I live in. PSP has opened many doors for me. It exposed me to many experiences, events, and people which are not easy to come across. PSP also served as motivation to keep my grades up because I was aware that I had requirements to fulfill. I am very fortunate for this wonderful program because I would not be where I am today if it was not for it.

Entering CSU Northridge,

Fall 2018

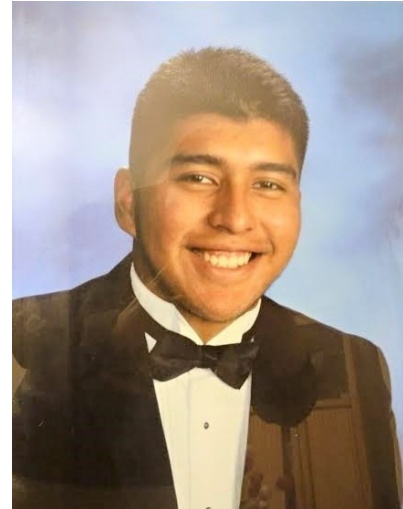


# Braulio

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Braulio and I attend Lennox Mathematics Science Technology Academy. I will be furthering my studies at UC Davis and I intend to major in Economics. I hope to go into business one day and do something in management or accounting. This career path is correct for me because I love handling money. Going to college for me is a final culmination of all the hard work I have put into my studies thus far. It is the first step that I take into the real world and it is the first time in which my actions will have real consequences on my future life.

I am extremely proud to say that I had the best mentor in PSP. I had the luck of meeting Mr. Boone in elementary school and I built a relationship with him since then. We actually took two trips during third and fourth grade. One trip was to Washington, DC and the other was to Boston, MA. While these trips will forever be in my memory, the trip in which we went to San Francisco along with Mr. Paredes and all his scholars was the most memorable trip. I fell in love with the bay area on that trip and was able to share that experience with many close friends. Mr. Boone has not only been there to help me experience new things but also has advised me on many financial issues and life itself. I hope to one day be successful like him.

Due to the two trips which I took up to the bay area I knew that I wanted to live there even if it was for a short amount of time. Luckily I will only be about an hour and a half away from the bay area when I go to Davis. PSP helped me realize that I had to go to a four year school. I'm glad and appreciative for what PSP has done for me. Because PSP supported me, I felt that I was capable of taking on any challenge and exposed to a world which I would not have not known before.

Entering UC Davis,

Fall 2018

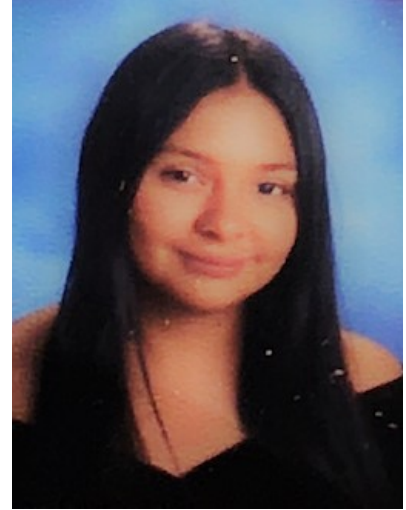


# Maria

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Maria and I went to Lennox Academy. This fall I will be attending UC Irvine where I will be majoring in Biomedical Engineering. I chose this major because it will allow me to help people who were born without limbs and provide them with an alternative. I have chosen to follow this career path because this major involves helping and working with people, mathematics, and science. Going to college is a big step for my family and me. It means that my parents did not sacrifice everything and came to this country for no reason. They came to give us an opportunity at an education which means a better life for their children. Going to college means making my parents proud of me.

Partnership Scholars Program is full of opportunities, support, and a family that developed throughout the years. My mentor is Ms. Guerrero, a teacher at Lennox Middle School. She is always available, especially when we need help writing essays and when we have questions about scholarships. She has been with me throughout my middle school and high school journeys and hopefully she will be there when we start a new chapter for our college journey. Ms. Guerrero is full of wisdom and gives us advice and encourages us to try new things. She is an amazing mentor. We have gone on many outings but one of the most memorable outings that we have gone to was when we went to San Francisco and spent three nights and four days over there. We did a lot of fun and exciting things and we visited a lot of colleges in the area. On the second day as we were falling asleep the fire alarm rang in our hotel and it was funny to see everyone's reactions.

The PSP program has given me a lot of support during these six years. They have given me academic and moral support. They have given me the opportunity to get a tutor when I was struggling with a subject, and allowed me to pay for school supplies and books that I needed throughout the school year. They are always checking up on how scholars are doing and encouraging them to do better, and give it their all. PSP is one of the factor that I have to thank because it helped me walk the stage and become class of 2018.

Thanks to PSP I chose my career path. When we went to Oregon and visited all those college campuses made an impact on my major choice. We visited colleges such as Lewis and Clark and Reed College, and I noticed that their majors there included one called Biomedical Engineering. After the trip I researched what Biomedical Engineering meant and I knew this career was for me. Thanks to this trip I realized what career path I would like to take.

The PSP Program leaves a positive effect on the scholars. They provide us with support and are always there for anything we do. We have a support system I am really grateful for. I am grateful that I had this opportunity.

Entering UC Irvine,  
Fall 2018





# Stephanie

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Stephanie and I attended Lennox Math Science & Technology Academy. After viewing my college options, I have decided to attend California State University of Northridge. I am still indecisive about what major I want, but I know that it is between Biochemistry and Public Health. I want to become an anesthesiologist and having a Bachelors in either major will allow me to get into medical school and pursue my career. Personally, going to college for me will be the greatest accomplishment because no one in my family has been to college, nor have they even finished high school. Once I step into college I will feel extremely proud of myself and know that I have come a long and it will all pay off soon. I know that going to college will make me a role model to not only the young ones but also the adults in the family.

My mentor is Maria and I chose her to be my mentor because she was my sixth grade teacher and I liked the way she was. When I was her student she would always push me to do better and would encourage me to get out of my comfort zone and do things I wouldn't normally do. She would always compliment me on what a great student I was. She had talked to me about the Partnerships Scholars Program and told me about how awesome it was, therefore, when I was in seventh grade I decided to apply. When I got the news that I had been selected as a scholar I ran to her room to give her the news and I asked her to be my mentor. She had built so much confidence in me and I was really grateful. Throughout the years we have grown together and our relationship has become stronger. She gives me a lot of advice and is always there when I need her. Not only has she been there for me academically, but also personally. When I tell her something that is going on in my life she is always there to support me and give me advice. She has every quality that makes her more than just an awesome mentor.

Being a part of PSP has allowed me to continue in wanting to major in the medical field because I have gotten the privilege of visiting many colleges. I have visited LMU, USC, and UCLA. The retreats that PSP would organize also helped me in determining the career path I want because I got a lot of new information and there were speakers that shared their experience. Two of them shared how being a doctor was awesome. I already knew I wanted to be in the medical field since I was small, but that helped me make my final decision. PSP has supported me so much by allowing me to do things I couldn't have imagined I would have done ever. I had never gone to any amusement parks because my family can't afford that, but with PSP I was able to have this experience. I have also gone to plays, museums, and San Francisco; I have also now purchased a computer. Honestly, without PSP's support I wouldn't have been able to do any of this. I am extremely grateful I have been able to be a part of this great program that has so much to offer.

Entering CSU Northridge,

Fall 2018

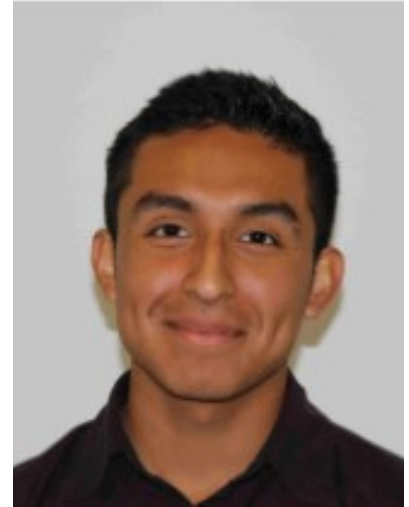


# Richard

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Richard, and I attended Choate Rosemary Hall, a boarding school in Wallingford, Connecticut. I am fortunate to be attending Columbia University in the fall of 2018. While I still do not know what I will be majoring in, I will be taking on Columbia's Core Curriculum which will allow me to explore a variety of fields and interests. I chose to attend Columbia University because of its extensive, rigorous, and intellectually challenging core curriculum that has educated its students for several years. Because I am still undecided I am still unaware of the career I will be pursuing in the future. However, I am excited to take advantage of the opportunities that are available in New York City.

Going to college is a major accomplishment for my family and me. I will be the first in my family to graduate from high school and attend college. For me going to college will symbolize the success of my family and will ultimately create a new path for my family.

I have had a strong relationship with my mentor for the past few years. My mentor has guided me and supported me with all the endeavors I chose to pursue in high school. Without my mentor, I would not be the same student that I am today. My most memorable outing with my mentor thus far has been going to see musicals like "Newsies" and seeing ballets. Before PSP, I would never have imagined going to these types of events because they are well out of my price range. These experiences have exposed me to the world of the arts and have fostered an appreciation for acting, dancing, and singing that was once non-existent. This has even led me to participate in my school's musical this year- Bring It On.

College visits and the annual college retreat helped me learn about and understand the college process even further. These events helped me make the decision that I thought would be best for me in the future. I am beyond grateful to have had PSP along my side throughout my six years in the program. Without their help, I would not have had the financial resources to have had the experiences that I have had and the success that I have had in my school. Not only have they provided me with a computer, school supplies, and life-changing experiences, PSP has created a sense of confidence within me that allows me to be the passionate student I am today.

Entering Columbia University,

Fall 2018



# Manuel

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



I have decided to attend California State University, Northridge where I will be majoring in Electrical Engineering. I chose this major because I am very interested in problem-solving and hands-on projects. I know with electrical engineering I will be able to do all of that and work on big real world projects. Going to college in the fall is very important to me because it has been my goal since I started school.

I will be the first in my family to go to a four-year university and I want to make my parents very proud. I applied to the PSP program expecting help with my school work and being able to go to small trips with my mentor, but my experience with this program has surpassed my expectations because I was able to go out of state to Washington State and it was an amazing experience.

My mentor is Ms. Rios and she has been mentoring me for six years, since I was a 7th grader. My relationship with her is great because we get along very well and she is always there to give me advice when I need it. She is one of the people who inspired me to want to dorm at the university because I want to have a full college experience. The most memorable outing I had with my mentor was when we went on a road trip to Northern California to visit many universities. It was about a three-day trip and we had a lot of fun talking and experiencing a new environment. I have also tried many different kinds of foods such as Italian, Cuban, and Indian food, which was very cool.

An experience that helped me decide on the university that I am attending this fall is the PSP College Success Retreat. This basically made me want to go to a school where I could dorm because I enjoyed the couple of days that we stayed in a dorm room at UCLA. Also, it made me want to just experience the university life even more. I did visit the university that I am attending during the fall and I thought the campus was great. It was a big university and it felt like the right place for me.

PSP has supported me a lot throughout my years because they have given us plenty of advice and information about college. This program has helped me prepare mentally to know what to expect once I'm a college student. In all, this program has given me the motivation to attend a four year university, which I am and I'm very proud about that.

Entering CSU Northridge,

Fall 2018



# Jonathan

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Jonathan and I attended Animo Leadership Charter High School. I excelled academically during my tenure and gained a cultural perspective through my talented teachers, who encouraged every one of us to challenge ourselves to the fullest. I have decided to attend UCLA this fall where I will be majoring in Chemistry. I am avidly pursuing a financially stable life, working as an orthopedic surgeon. I have always envisioned myself as physician who is devoted to the diagnosis, treatment, prevention, and rehabilitation of injuries, disorders, and diseases of the body's musculoskeletal system. I will then attend medical school, which will be the most important degree that I receive in my lifespan.

Attending a four year university is a huge accomplishment for me because the endless hours that were spent on homework assignments and let alone school, paid off in the end. My acceptance to UCLA was a step in the right direction for me because although doubt crept in at several periods of my life, I never lost hope. Hard work pays off and handling this success with the right attitude has made me humble. Setting an example to my little brother is important to me because it has shown him that all the hardships I experienced as a teenager only made me stronger mentally. It also gives me a sense of giving back to my mother, who raised me on her own and helped me stay motivated when I was doing a project or a major assignment. Handing her my diploma from Animo is a promise I guaranteed to her because to my mother, it's a certificate that guarantees her child to succeed in life, especially in this country. Life has its cruel obstacles, but success is as satisfying as we could possibly experience, sentimentally.

My mentor is Mike and he has been with me since seventh grade. We have explored various parts of California together, along with the rest of his scholars, building a strong bond intact throughout the adventures. Traveling to local places such as El Capitan Theatre to seeing the bright lights of New York City really introduced me to the kind of mentor Mr. Boone was. My most memorable outing with Mr. Boone was traveling to New York City, which is the city I most wanted to visit before I joined this program. White snow, strong winds, and double layers of clothing were the factors that made this trip unforgettable. Mr. Boone has helped me stay on task with my grades through constant calls and messages we have had. All in all, Mr. Boone played a major role in my success and created memories along the road.

An experience I recall that made me decide on UCLA was attending the campus a week prior to the decision emails. Mr. Boone and I arranged a campus tour and we ate in the dining halls in order to gain a perspective of college life. It was in fact the first time I had ever visited the campus and I knew when I stepped in front of Powell library, I felt my spirit ignite and knew this campus was for me. I bought a sweater and was ready for decision day, crossing my fingers along the entire process. PSP supported me throughout the years by helping me stay up to date with the program and to remain consistent with my grades. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Entering UCLA,

Fall 2018





# Jessica

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



Hello! My name is Jessica and I'm a senior at Lennox Mathematics, Science, and Technology Academy. I've attended this school since the very beginning and have come to enjoy the students and teachers I see every day. However, things have to end and my life as a high school student is coming to a stop very soon because it's time to grow up and become an adult. It's really scary thinking about it but I have to accept it and the responsibilities. That leads to what I'm going to do with my life. I've decided to focus my studies on becoming a pediatric nurse and helping as many children as I can. I want to become a pediatric nurse because my sister went through a rough surgery when she was one and when I saw how the nurses cared for her, I wanted to do the same to other children who are suffering. I don't like seeing someone so young and innocent going through such pain so I want to do something and be there for all the children out there. To do so, I need to go to school so I will be attending El Camino Community College first for one or two years and transfer to Cal State Long Beach to earn my Bachelors in Science. Entering school this fall means getting closer to my goal of being a nurse to children and becoming an adult.

So far, my relationship to my mentor is sister-like because we like to laugh at anything and have grown up talks about the future or just about life. She's one of the reasons why I decided to become a pediatric nurse after opening up about her personal life and her daughter. She's explained to me and my other friends in our group about what happened to her and it's really saddening. It made me want to do something so that's what lead to my career choice. Besides that, my mentor has been really supportive and helpful along with PSP who has paid for college applications and ACT and SAT tests. They have given many workshops to help me through the college life.

Talking about PSP, I can't thank them enough for the meetings and support they offered for me and other students like me to show us to apply for college, FAFSA, scholarships, and more. They've given me experiences to cherish every single day like leaving my home to see other cities and cultures. I tasted so many delicious foods like Thai and Japanese food and sweets. Back then, I wouldn't believe anyone if I was told I'll be going to New York in the beginning of my high school year. I would have laughed. PSP has been there since 7th grade and I'm glad I was able to share my smile with the new friends I made because of them. I pretty sad that I'll be leaving the program sooner than I thought but I know I'll cherish everything I went through and the new faces I met. Thank you for everything.

Entering El Camino College,

Fall 2018





# Sarai

## Partnership Scholar

## Class of 2018

## Lennox Region



My name is Sarai and I attended Hawthorne High School for the past four years. Beginning in the fall, I will start my journey as a freshman at California State University, Long Beach where I will focus on becoming a nurse. My career choice is one I am passionate about because I have had the wonderful opportunity of exploring a real medical environment as a volunteer at Kaiser Permanente. As a nurse, I hope to specialize with babies and help make a difference in their lives and in their parents' as well. I have yet to be hit with the reality that I will soon begin a new life at a university, however, I look forward to this extraordinary chapter of my life.

Barb and Mark have been my mentors for the last three years and I wish I would have met them sooner. They have exposed me to many new cultures and experiences that I would have never known otherwise. I am very grateful for their dedication as my Partnership Scholars mentors and our trips and discoveries together will always be memorable. I will always remember our car trips together. I usually sat in the backseat of the car while Mark tapped the steering wheel as he played oldies, and Barb always had an interesting story to tell. My most memorable outing with Barb and Mark has to be the time we visited Colorado. I had never seen snow in my entire life, but luckily, they gave me the chance to finally throw a snowball and make snow angels. My mentors never made me feel disregarded. Instead, they offered resources to help better my understanding of core subjects such as math. I thank them for all their support as my mentors.

As a student in Lennox, I became very secluded from the rest of the world. However, PSP exposed me to new opportunities such as traveling. For example, Partnership Scholars has given me the chance to explore the history of Washington, D.C., the skyscrapers of New York, and the mountains of Colorado. Without PSP, I would not have discovered my passion for exploring the world. Although we only visited states in America, it was still so foreign to me considering that I had never been anywhere before. My mentors took part in instilling this spark within me, too. My mentors travel regularly which means I have the wonderful opportunity of discovering new cultures, vicariously, through their pictures and stories. PSP is why I chose to study abroad because I would love to work towards my degree as I explore a new country. Partnership Scholars has always supported my education whether it was emotional support, resources, or providing new experiences. I am truly grateful for the PSP program because it helped strengthen my success and future.

Entering CSU Long Beach,  
Fall 2018



# Cynthia

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Cynthia and I attended Animo Leadership Charter High School. I have decided to attend El Camino College in the fall and after two years transfer to UCLA where I will be majoring in Biology. I chose this major because I'm interested in pursuing a career in the medical field, such as becoming a nurse. Going to college means everything to my family and I. This is a big accomplishment for me because I am going to be the first in my family to attend college. I know that going to college will motivate my younger siblings to work hard and persevere to follow my footsteps.

My mentor is Issa. She has been my mentor since I started my journey with PSP and I'm beyond thankful for everything she has done for me. She has always been there for me whenever I'm facing academic and personal challenges. I'm thankful I met her because she has given me a lot of advice for my future and has always guided me down the right path. My most memorable outing with my mentor is when we went to visit New York. This was the first time I visited New York and I'm glad it was with my mentor. I'm grateful for the bond my mentor and I have and I know she will continue to be there for me even after I graduate.

Being part of PSP is something that I will cherish forever. PSP has exposed me to new things and has supported me throughout my high school education. PSP gave me the opportunity to travel to places that I never pictured myself visiting. I had the chance to visit New York and Chicago, which were life changing experiences. PSP also taught me a lot about college by hosting annual retreats. These retreats were so helpful because I was able to experience living on a college campus while also gaining information about how to pay for college and how to apply. However, PSP also gave me the chance to meet a lot of new people. I have made so many new friends thanks to PSP and it has been amazing. When I started PSP I was shy and reserved, but as I grew up my mentor and my peers helped me get out of my comfort zone. PSP has taught me to never give up and to keep striving to achieve all my goals. I'm thankful for this amazing journey with PSP!

Entering El Camino College,

Fall 2018



# Daisy

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

Lennox Region



My name is Daisy and I attended Animo Leadership Charter High School. This fall I will be attending California State University, Dominguez Hills majoring in Business Marketing. I chose this major because I am very passionate about economics, selling and visualizing designs that will attract the consumer. Going to college means the world to me, it means that I will be one step closer to becoming a professional and this makes me feel accomplished. It makes me extremely happy to attend college because I know that my parents are proud of me and soon I will be able to provide a better life for them. My motivation to continue my education has always been my parents but mostly my mom; I know she has been through a lot of suffering and sacrifice in order to give me a good education and a better future. One day I want to look at my mother in the eyes and tell her “I made it!” as I give her a juicy check for herself. I just want to see both of my parents happy and stress free, not worrying about paying bills or bringing food to the table. The reason why applied to PSP is because my mentor motivated me to do so. I honestly did not know what PSP was until I realized that it impacted my life in a positive way and I’m extremely grateful to God and PSP that I was able to be part of this amazing experience.

My mentor is Minerva and I met her when I came to this country. I came to the U.S. almost at the end of six grade year and I can proudly say that I am partly where and who I am thanks to Ms. Rios. She was the one that taught me English, she was the one that helped me every time I couldn't do something, she was there when I was down due to different bullying experiences, she was there every time I had a plan and she made sure to make it possible for me. Without her I would've struggled one hundred times more than I did. She is one of the women I look up to the most, she inspires me every day to be a better student and a wiser and independent person. The experience that I enjoyed the most with my mentor was attending my favorite rapper's concert. I have no words to describe how happy and infinite I felt when I saw NF performing on stage. I was so close to him I couldn't believe it. Going to that concert has been the best experience of my entire life, it is a feeling I can't explain, it's like I was in another planet surrounded by people like me whose motivation to keep on going and be a better person each day was the artist in front of us performing with such an unforgettable passion.

PSP helped me decide which college to attend because we had an individual meeting with my parents discussing the pros and cons of attending certain colleges where I got accepted to and at the end I decided to attend Dominguez Hills because I know that is the perfect school for me. PSP also made sure that my grades stayed on track and they also made sure I was applying to colleges, scholarships and financial aid. PSP gave us the great and advantageous opportunity to use our PSP money to pay for college down payments and orientation fees. This is something very beneficial to all seniors because many of us don't have the money to pay for this fees. PSP supported me throughout the years because they financially and emotionally supported me to continue my education and experience things I never thought I would be able to do. I will always be thankful to PSP for investing time and money in my future, my dreams and academic goals.

Entering CSU Dominguez Hills,

Fall 2018



# Jorge

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

El Monte Region



My name is Jorge and I attended Mountain View High School in El Monte. I am so ecstatic to say that I will be attending UC, Santa Barbara this upcoming fall where I will study Biology and follow the pre-health path. I have decided to major in Biology since I was able to get inspiration through an internship I received my junior year in high school. I was able to intern at the Veterans Affairs Hospital in San Diego, and I was fascinated by the concept of medicine and how it positively affects human life on a daily basis. Going to college is very important to me since I have now paved the way for future generations in my family. Now my family is able to look up to me, and understand that anything is possible with hard work and determination.

While I was a part of the Partnership Scholars Program I was blessed with two amazing mentors, Dr. Ferenczi and Dr. Kalpins, who have been my mentors for the past two and a half years. The memories I have made while on outings with them will forever be engraved in my mind, especially the reunions that took place at least twice a year at my mentor's home. My mentors have been there for me when I needed them the most, especially when it came down to choosing a college that was the best fit for me. However, perhaps my favorite outing with my mentors, was that of our last lunch outing together. It was an amazing two hours, talking about how college life will be and what to expect. As well as a fun time full of heartwarming conversations, and life lessons that will be helpful later on in the future. Attending a four year university sounds a bit intimidating, but I now know that my mentors will be there for me cheering me on every step of the way. They are two humble individuals who I am greatly thankful for.

On the other hand, I give much credit to the Partnership Scholars Program for my academic success. Not only has PSP seen me come out of my comfort zone, but it has been a mechanism that has pushed me towards accomplishing my goals. From the college retreats that take place every summer to the east coast college trips, I have learned so much throughout the six years in the program. The exposure I received during my time as a PSP scholar was something I took into consideration while applying for college. PSP has taught me that my opinion is valuable, and that I also have the ability to make a positive impact on my community. Thanks to the help of the Partnership Scholars Program, I am a first generation Chicano who will be going to college this fall!

Entering UC Santa Barbara,  
Fall 2018





# Cesar

## Partnership Scholar

## Class of 2018

## El Monte Region



In the fall, I will be a full time student at Georgetown University where I will be majoring in Biology of Global Health. Science, from a young age, has always been a captivating subject. I truly believe that the collision of science and health care is one of the most influential ways one can change the world of tomorrow. As a doctor, if this is the route I decide to follow, I may not be able to change the world overnight, but I can change someone's entire life.

I decided to apply for PSP for the endless opportunities that fellow colleagues described. I too wanted cultural enrichment, career exposure, self-growth, and everything PSP would be able to provide me with over the course of six years. With confidence, I can strongly assert that Partnership Scholars Program has refined me into a well-rounded individual in academic and social settings.

My interest in medicine has derived from Shonda Rhimes's *Grey's Anatomy*, and, more importantly, from my mentor, George. Over the course of my PSP career, I learned to voice my opinions and practice what I preach. My mentors, George, Miki, and Jim have not only been mentors for PSP activities, but also offered encouragement and motivation for my academia over the past few years. My relationship with them flourished far beyond my expectations. I can honestly say they are family except, unlike my immediate family, they are honest about advice and never sugar-coat what the possible consequences of the decisions I make can be. This is one of the best qualities they possess.

I first saw my dream school because of Partnership Scholars Program. Little did I know that my first time on a plane would lead me to the school of my dreams. That trip to Washington, D.C. will always hold a special place in my heart because I was introduced to schools I didn't know existed, to food I never thought I'd taste, to history I was blinded to, and most importantly, to life-long friendships. Georgetown University was the only school that stood out to me on the east coast.

Six years later, in May 2018, this first generation Mexican-American brown boy from El Monte received an acceptance letter from the school he once fell in love with. Though the program's mission is to prepare low-income first-generation students for college through the development of skills, I gained more than the skills I need to be a scholar. I found my voice, my drive, my perseverance, I embraced reality, and most importantly learned how to overcome my inner conflicts.

## Entering Georgetown University,

## Fall 2018





# Diana

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

El Monte Region



My name is Diana and I attended Mountain View High School. The college I have chosen to further my education this fall is Cal State Los Angeles. I will be majoring in Astronautical Engineering. I chose this major because I have a passion for math and science. Engineering is a field that encompasses both of my interest. It is a major that is not highly pursued by many, let alone by women. I am very intrigued by how rockets and space crafts are built. My curiosity will lead me to what I want to do, which is to make the next aircraft that will take the first humans to Mars. I want to show everyone that although it is a challenging field, I can achieve my goals and dreams. I also chose this major because I want to be able to give back to my community. With the skills and knowledge I acquire, I intend to enhance the interest of the youth in El Monte to the field of engineering.

From my earliest recollections, I have always dreamt of attending college. I will be the first person in my family to attend a four-year university. It is extremely fulfilling to me to know that I am making them proud. I know that the changes that lie ahead for me will be challenging at times, but I also know that I'll have the genuine support of my family and others to help me adjust to my new experience. One of those individuals, being my mentor.

My mentor's name is Rocio and she is an amazing person and I am so grateful to have her in my life. Whenever I am having personal issues or issues with my grades I know that she is the one to go to for advice. My most memorable outing with her was when we went to San Diego. On that day, we were scheduled to go to Disneyland. When we approached the gate, we discovered that the park was closed. Instead of just going home, Ms. Centeno had us call our parents and ask permission to change our plans. We embarked on a spontaneous journey to San Diego. We ate at an 80's themed diner, went to the beach, took a ferry into Seaport Village and ate ice cream at the Hotel del Coronado. It was one of my favorite adventures we did as a group. I couldn't have asked for a better mentor! She is the best and will always have a special place in my heart.

I am also grateful for the many opportunities that PSP gave me to visit a diverse set of colleges and for the workshops they organized to help me make an educated decision about my future. Another experience that I enjoyed was going to Mt. Wilson and being able to go into the observatory that discovered that the planet Earth is actually part of the universe. We stood in the same place that Albert Einstein stood when they discovered that the universe was expanding. PSP has enriched my life with new experiences and has encouraged me to strive to better myself in all that I do. Thank you Partnership Scholars Program, it has been an incredible six years!

Entering CSU Los Angeles,

Fall 2018

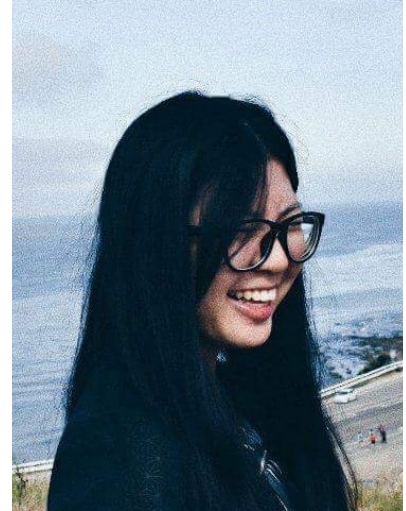


# Zuyi

## Partnership Scholar

## Class of 2018

## El Monte Region



My name is Zuyi and I went to Rosemead High school. I have decided to attend Cal Poly Pomona and major in civil engineering. I chose this major because I found interest in designing structures. I specifically want to one day work with the transportation aspect of civil engineering. As the eldest child from my family, I will take this step towards college with confidence. I will do my best and prove to my parents that the college name does not define who you are as a person nor does it define the skills that you have compared to another student in a university that is considered “better.” It depends on the student to control how they will pursue their path in life.

All my mentors have been amazing and great! I remember my very first mentor who assisted me through middle school, she offered me a lot of viewpoints of the world. I will forever be grateful for the experience she was able to show us despite her busy life. My current mentor is Ms. Centeno, and she is the best mentor that anyone can ask for. She’s there for me through thick and thin. It’s never boring when the group goes on trips! She gave me a lot of insight and advice, even allowing me to get out of my comfort zone to try hiking which I really enjoyed because of the number of huskies I was able to see. Ms. Centeno genuinely cares about the group and for each one of us she gives us the best advice she can offer. She’s an amazing and brilliant inspiration for our group consisting of 5 girls. The most memorable outing for me was perhaps the time when we went to a drive-in movie theater and watched Beauty and the Beast. It was an outing I will never forget, as it was my first time watching a movie outdoors. It was perfect, the night sky with stars, the soft breeze, the big screen, the sound coming from the radio, the train that would be behind the huge screen and the food.

Honestly, I am really thankful for PSP for just being there for me through these six years. I still remember being a 7th grader and saying how long six years is, but as time passed and now here I am as a senior in the last year of this program; I’ll have to say that these six years went by fast. So quick, it was like in a blink of an eye and I’m already graduating from high school and a step closer to adulthood. PSP is a big help for me as the first child of my family to enter college. Without PSP, I wouldn’t have had such an amazing school and adolescent experience. Not many can go to the east coast for college tours for free, nor do I know many students who have support and guidance to assist them down the College road. Hence, thank you partnerships scholars program. This program is surely the one that I won’t ever forget. When time passes and I have aged, I’ll look back in my life and smile at the moments I was able to experience.

Entering Cal Poly Pomona,  
Fall 2018

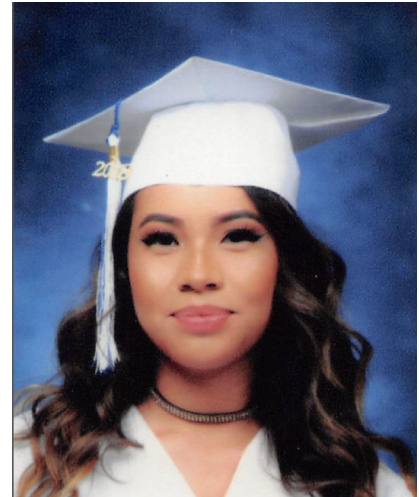


# Lorena

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

El Monte Region



As a low-income, first generation college-bound student, I've learned to turn my barriers into opportunities. Being labeled as "first generation college-bound student" seemed to put me at a disadvantage from my peers who perhaps had family members that had already attended higher learning institutions. However, I was motivated to take advantage of any and all opportunities that came my way.

One of the most impacting and life changing opportunities I encountered was becoming a part of the PSP. Because of PSP, I was able to discover outside of my hometown and embark on new adventures. Through the exposure to different environmental settings ranging from Chicago to Washington, D.C., I learned about college campuses I was unaware of. With a mentor from PSP, I was able to reduce the academic and social gap that comes with being first generation by visiting historical landmarks, attending musical theatre, and trying traditional foods from a diversity of cultures.

Beyond the PSP curriculum, the greatest impact PSP had on my life was within the individuals, especially my mentor. Words will never be enough to show my gratitude toward my mentor, Mrs. Centeno. She was there to accompany me through my failures and celebrate all my successes, but most importantly she provided me with unlimited support. Mrs. Centeno was a guide through my academic journey and life experiences. She has become my inspiration to pursue the unimaginable. I am extremely grateful that PSP put Mrs. Centeno in my path because she was not only a mentor but a friend.

I sometimes questions how my life would turn out if I had not applied for PSP. When applying for PSP, I was still unsure of how my future would play out. In fact, college still seemed unreal. Yet, applying and becoming part of the program was the first major step I took in turning this abstract dream into a reality. Although I was extremely nervous during the rigorous process, going through it once gave me the emotional and mental qualities necessary to overcome my self-doubt. The fact PSP selected me from a large pool of competitive applicants, encouraged me to internalize the idea that I was college bound. In a sense, it directed me into the right path by inspiring me to apply to other honorary and college readiness programs. All in all, the Partnership Scholars Program built the confidence and courage in me to seek out new opportunities.

Entering UC Santa Barbara, Fall 2018



# Martha

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

El Monte Region



My name is Martha and I attended El Monte High School. I have decided to attend University of California, Merced in the fall of 2018 where I will be majoring in Biology with an emphasis in Human Biology. With this major I plan to attend medical school to pursue a career as a pediatrician. Growing up in a low income community, I have personally witnessed how difficult it can be for parents to get medical assistance for their children. My goal is to one day return to my community and help families, receive the necessary universal care that all humans have a right to receive.

I am the first in my family to be accepted to attend a four year university which is a huge accomplishment for myself and my family. I have proven that having certain barriers doesn't stop you from achieving your goals and dreams. I know that I am a role model for my younger brothers. I hope to inspire them to also continue down the path to college. My family has been able to see me grow personally and professionally. It has helped them understand what I am capable of achieving what seemed to be the impossible in order to achieve my goals.

There are not enough words to describe how grateful I am for my mentor and her dedication towards me. Ms. Centeno has been there when I needed her. Whenever I needed help they were there to assist me without a doubt. Ms. Centeno has been there to explain in more detail the college application procedure, which was overwhelming at times. My most memorable outing with Ms. Centeno was attending the Bruno Mars concert. The other scholars and I had an amazing time and it was my first time going to a concert at a big venue. Not only was it an incredible concert but Ms. Centeno had a bad cold and did not disappoint us by staying home getting better. Wherever we go, we always have so much fun and I'm sure that she will always be a part of my life.

My six years in PSP have been incredible! There are not enough words to express my gratitude and how I feel about PSP. Not only have they shaped me into a well-rounded student but a more confident and outgoing individual as well. With all the experiences that I have been through they have helped me see that I can make a difference in the world. I am grateful for being in this program because it has helped me become a more competitive student as I prepare to attend UC Merced. Without PSP I would not have had all the experiences that I had because my family would not have permitted it or perhaps it would have been a financial burden. If I ever needed help PSP was there to guide me and help me financially. I wouldn't be the person I am today without PSP. As my first day of college quickly approaches, I come to acknowledge and understand how truly beneficial my experience has been as a PSP scholar.

Entering UC Merced,

Fall 2018





# Anthony

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

El Monte Region

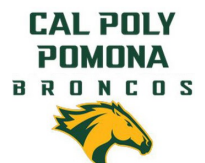


My name is Anthony and I attended Arroyo High School. In the Fall of 2018 I will be attending Cal Poly Pomona where I will be majoring in Finance. The reason for choosing this major is because I like to deal with money and keep track of how the country and the stock market is doing on a daily basis. Attending Cal Poly Pomona is very meaningful to me because I will be the first in my family to do so. Doing this will motivate my younger brother and sister to do well in school and continue thriving for success.

My mentor is Jim, along with George and Kalpins. All three have been equally supportive and are always there for me when I require any type of assistance. I have been matched with them for the majority of my high school years and it has been an extraordinary experience one that I never imagined I would have. The most memorable outing we had was when we went to Catalina. I had never been there and having the possibility of visiting Catalina was something I couldn't let go by. I am so grateful for having all three of them as mentors because they have been guiding me through my last years of high school which have been difficult at times for me.

PSP allowed for me to see different college campuses that I thought about attending. On every outing I would talk to my mentor, Jim about technological advancements which led for me to want a career in Computer Science but ultimately I opted for a career in finance as I saw more possibilities. Being in PSP helped me in a myriad of ways. One example would be when PSP covered the costs of a tutor for my AP Chemistry course which helped me pass the class. With PSP I was able to get my school supplies paid for as well as standardized tests and explore new possibilities out there.

Entering Cal Poly Pomona,  
Fall 2018





# Jocelyne

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2018

El Monte Region



My name is Jocelyne and I went to Arroyo High School. I have decided to attend California State University East Bay in the fall, where I will be majoring in Communication. I have chosen this major because I enjoy talking to and meeting new people. Going to college in the fall is a huge accomplishment because I am the first in my family to go to college. I feel very proud of myself for doing something that no one else in my family has been able to do.

My mentor is Ms. Centeno. She has been my mentor for a little over a year and I am very grateful to have her as my mentor. She has always been there for me when I needed her. She's encouraged me to do many things that I typically would never do and she's helped me overcome many things, such as my fear of heights! I've had many memorable outings with her but some of my favorites have been when we go on outings with the Boy Scouts of America Venture Crew. We've gone hiking, camping, and even white water rafting! Which was terrifying but nonetheless an unforgettable experience.

Being in PSP has helped me decide on a career path because I had the opportunity to network and meet many new people. I've made new friends everywhere from Washington D.C to Chicago. PSP has helped me come out of my shell and encouraged me to explore new places where I've never been. PSP has led to experience some amazing things but has also led me to getting into a top-tier institution and that was also recognized as a "Best in the West" college by Princeton Review!

Entering CSU East Bay,

Fall 2018

