

Anahi

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

North Coast Region



My name is Anahi and I went to Fort Bragg High School. I will be attending San Diego State University in the fall and intend to major in Spanish. With this major I hope to become a high school Spanish teacher. I chose this major because I have always been very interested in the Spanish-Mexican history, culture and background of the language. Going to college in the fall is a great accomplishment and means I am on my way to reach some of my biggest goals. Education has always been very important to my family so this is ultimately very rewarding for not only me but my family as well.

My mentor for the past six years has been Carol Kawase. I am very grateful for the time she has dedicated to helping me grow and reach my goals. Carol has been there to guide me through times of confusion and academic difficulties. She taught me that it is very important to reach out and ask for help when I need it. The most memorable outing I have shared with Carol has been to visit ten college campuses in less than three days. We had a busy schedule and were able to get a lot done in that short amount of time. I was able to learn so much about various colleges on this trip and it really influenced me on making college related decisions. My relationship with Carol has really grown throughout our time together and I am really glad we have formed a tighter bond.

Participating in PSP has allowed me to explore my educational path and career options. Visiting colleges and being introduced to the world outside of Fort Bragg has helped me remain motivated to work hard. My activities with PSP influenced my decision to move to San Diego and attend school in a different environment than what I am accustomed to. Overall, PSP has been very beneficial in my life and has really helped me reach some of my biggest goals.

Entering CSU San Diego, fall 2019

Sponsor: Malcolm & Sylvia Boyce

Mentor: Carol Kawase



Carlos

Partnership Scholar Class of 2019 North Coast Region



My name is Carlos and I attended Fort Bragg High School. I will be attending Cal State East Bay where I plan to study Construction Management. From a very young age I was drawn to infrastructure and design, and the art of creating is something that I have learned to love and explore. Construction management seems like the perfect fit for my interests because I have been around the trade from a young age and have always been fascinated by seeing projects grow from start to finish. My career will be in general contracting/planning, and a degree in Management would allow me to more rapidly and effectively pursue my dreams of working oversight for my own construction company. I have committed to my academic studies for many years to ensure a pathway to college and I am eager to see what college has to offer me! Additionally I will be the first in my family to attend college, and I am extremely grateful that I have been able to open this doorway to my future.

My mentors for the past six years have been Ann and Rudy Sacks. I am extremely grateful for how much they have pushed me over the years and for what has come from their commitment to me and my growth in every aspect of life. It has been great working with both Ann and Rudy, and I have learned a lot about myself and the world outside of Fort Bragg during my time under their wing. Another aspect I enjoy from having Ann and Rudy as my mentors was their eagerness to indulge in different cultures through foods and events such as plays and activities. My most memorable experience with them was traveling to New Mexico to explore several colleges and indulge in the rich culture that New Mexico has to offer. Along with exploring culture and academics on that trip, Ann and Rudy took me and my partner in the program on a snowboarding trip that will remain in my fondest memories for a lifetime.

In my earlier years, I was always extremely shy and trapped behind safety nets that I had put up for myself. Ann and Rudy greatly helped me expand and break free to explore the world around me and be a more outgoing individual. The experience that really helped me grow as a person was my outward bound expedition that lasted nine days in the Alpine mountain range with seven random strangers. Ann and Rudy helped me abandon my haste, and after weeks of reluctance I was convinced to go on the expedition and it changed my life and my perception of the world. This pushed me to be eager to attend college and strive for new experiences. PSP helped me branch out to explore these colleges and pick the one that fit me best based on my intended major. PSP worked wonders in my life through purchasing resources from school and paying for standardized tests and college fees that would have been tedious to pay for on my own. Everything from moral support to physical support were present during my time in PSP and I am truly blessed to have been able to participate in such a wonderful program!

Entering CSU East Bay, fall 2019

Sponsor: Malcolm & Sylvia Boyce

Mentor: Ann and Ruddy Sacks

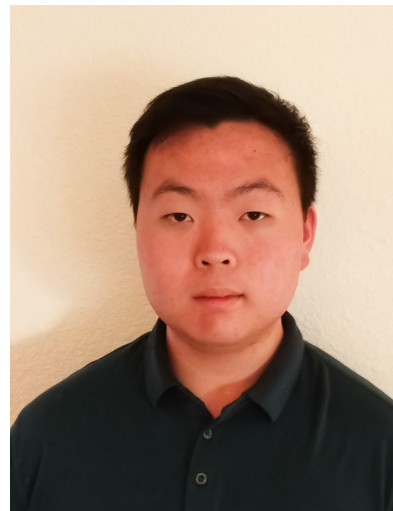


Dion

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Ukiah Region



My name is Dion and I went to Ukiah High School. I have decided to attend UC Merced where I intend to major in Biological Sciences. I chose this major because I am interested in learning more about the complexity of human life and hopefully one day have an occupation in the medical field. Going to college will open up a plethora of new opportunities and because UC Merced is the newest UC I intend reach the goal of becoming a pioneer there. Before I joined PSP I was usually the introverted student that doesn't socialize much at school and I didn't feel comfortable joining extracurricular activities. But now through the six years in this program I have opened up to those around me and have participated in many extracurricular activities worth my while such as STEM club. I honestly didn't really understand what it meant at the time, but after all these years, I am happy to have joined PSP because of all the support I received.

My mentor is Jim Mastin, he has been my mentor for the past six years and I am so grateful for everything he has done for me; from dedicating time to me to giving advice and encouragement. He was always there to remind me of what needed to be done, and encouraged me to find help to improve my grades. A memorable outing was my first summer trip whitewater rafting on the American River because it was the first time I did something way out of my comfort zone encouraging me to try new things when I entered high school.

Being in PSP helped me decide to not just pursue what others wanted me to, but instead do what I really enjoy doing just though the conversations I had with my mentor during many outings. Being a PSP scholar allowed me to experience things I have never really been exposed to, from watching plays to visiting San Francisco and enjoying the tours. Most importantly, while I was struggling to keep up with my grades in high school, there was always support coming from PSP which in turn help me understand more about myself and I learned the limits of being stressed out. This year, I have been able to maintain good grades and to celebrate this, my mentor invited my entire family to his home to celebrate this achievement also in honor of Chinese New Year. This is my favorite experience with my mentor because our families were able to interact and get to know more about each other. Overall, PSP gave me the necessary tools through providing me a great mentor to become more productive enable me to thrive in both extracurricular and academics to improve my overall self.

Entering UC Merced, fall 2019

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Jim Mastin



Jasmin

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Ukiah Region



My name is Jasmin and I went to Ukiah High School. I have made the decision to attend San Francisco State University this fall where I will be majoring in Civil Engineering. I have personally always been better at math, science and computation work rather than English or history. My math and science classes just always seemed to interest me the most so I always knew I wanted to go into a career that would involve this. But it was not until this year after taking my second physics class that I realized I was truly passionate about the subject and it was something I wanted to do for the rest of my life so I decided to go into Civil Engineering. Now because of certain situations I've had to go through this year, college for me is no longer just another step in life that I "have" to take but rather something I want to do and desire with all my might to achieve.

My mentor's name is Marsha Little, and she has been with me for the past five years and is someone for who I am so grateful for. Marsha has helped me through anything I have needed help with throughout my high school career whether that be with tutoring or turning in college applications, she has always been on top of everything. I would say I have two most memorable outings with Marsha and one of them has to be when we went white water rafting. It was the first time I ever did something like that and it was so much fun. We went with a whole group and at one point I got a little too excited and I almost fell off the raft. I remember laughing about it and Marsha being so worried about me, she would not let go of my shirt in fear that I would fall off. The second most memorable outing was our trip to Santa Monica with a whole group of PSP kids in which I made a lot of friends and Marsha tried In-N-Out for the first time. Over all the trip was a great bonding experience and opportunity to see many colleges.

PSP has over all been a great program. Because of the program I was able to get out of my comfort zone many times and try things I would have never thought I would like. I was able to visit New York, the city of my dreams. This is something I would have never been able to do at such a young age because of my parent's financial state. Being able to visit other campuses opened up my mind to the great opportunities I would have at places outside of the small town of Ukiah. Thanks PSP I was able to get help through anything I needed especially SATs, with prep and prep books. I would say PSP has taught me to come out of my shell and thrive at any place it is I end up at.

Entering CSU San Francisco, fall 2019

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Marsha Little



Javier

Partnership Scholar Class of 2019 North Coast Region



My name is Javier, and following my graduation at Fort Bragg High School, I will set upon a new destination to seek exceptional opportunities. This fall, I will be attending University of California, Santa Barbara; a place that will offer me comfort, excitement and new culture. I chose to enter as an undeclared major; a decision that will help broaden my interests and provide me with the knowledge of the thousands of other careers available. As an undeclared student, I intend to participate in activities or clubs that will narrow down possible future careers and prepare me for life after college. I will possibly go into a field involving design considering my strong interest for art. Going to college in the fall will not only accomplish my personal goals, but the goal my mother envisioned when raising my siblings and I on her own. Being in college will be the reward of the difficult, stressful, and meaningful effort I put into my schoolwork while in high school. The long, sleepless nights spent studying for exams will have paid off.

I am honored to have been paired with the most loving, considerate and easygoing mentor: Rachel Binah. I have only been with Rachel for two years, but have grown so close to her in that short span of time. Rachel and I share many interests: politics, humor, but most strongly, our love for art. She has connected me with numerous local artists and with her help, I have taken an intensive art course to help exceed my artistic abilities. I enjoyed taking part in the art workshops she setup for PSP students. That day, I discovered I work well with pastels. Through PSP trips Rachel and I have taken together, I have learned so much of her and she of me. A memorable moment I will not forget is when Rachel helped me construct and revise my UC personal insight questions. We spent hours working on these because of my choice to procrastinate. Rachel has taught me to be patient, appreciate where I come from and who I am.

Being a member of PSP has been of great importance to me and has been highly beneficial. The trips I have participated in ultimately helped me decide on the location in which I would like to attend college. I took my first trip to Southern California with the program. It was then when I decided I would like to live in that area. PSP has also provided me with the materials to succeed in high school and prepare for my life in college. A laptop, calculator and a printer are some of the few tangible supplies PSP has allowed to obtain. Maturity, growth and delight are, however, the most valuable lessons I gained.

Entering UC Santa Barbara, fall 2019

Sponsor: Malcolm & Sylvia Boyce

Mentor: Rachel Binah



Marcos

Partnership Scholar Class of 2019 North Coast Region



My Name is Marcos and I went to Fort Bragg High school. Next fall I will be attending the Leavey School of Business and Santa Clara University. I will be majoring in Business Administration and Management. I chose this major because it is so broad and you learn about the basic principles of business which is an interesting subject to me. With what I will learn studying business, I can use to qualify for many careers and ultimately it will help me land in the sports industry. Being able to attend college next fall is a dream come true for me. It means a lot to me because it lets me know that my hard work is paying off and that I am on the right track to having a successful life.

My mentors are Rudolph and Ann Sacks and they have been my mentors for six years now. I couldn't have asked for better mentors, I am beyond happy to have had them along with me in this journey. There were times when I know I was tough to handle, but they never gave up on me and were always there for me doing much more than was asked of them. Ann kept me on top of all my things and helped me get comfortable with professional communication in person and over email. They both pushed me and made it possible for me to explore new things as well as things I was passionate about, which ultimately helped me find what I wanted to do after high school. We had lots of great times that I will never forget and am grateful to have them in my life, I'm sure they will forever be a part of my life, I'll never forget them.

The experience that PSP provided me that helped me pick my career was when they helped pay for me to go to a Sports Management camp at Fordham University. This opportunity helped me see what sports management is all about and that it was exactly what I wanted to do. I didn't have the opportunity to visit Santa Clara University on a PSP trip mostly because I didn't really consider it an option until my senior year. PSP provided me with possibilities that I would not have been able to have had I not been in the program. They allowed me to explore my interests and try new things as well as pushed me to work hard to make my dream a reality.

Entering Santa Clara University, fall 2019

Sponsor: Malcolm & Sylvia Boyce

Mentor: Ann and Ruddy Sacks



Maybelle

Partnership Scholar Class of 2019 North Coast Region



My name is Maybelle and I am graduating from the Mendocino Community High School this coming June. Unfortunately an unexpected turn of events happened this past year, I was in and out of the hospital a lot and it made it difficult for me to prioritize school as I should. I had to focus on my health before anything else, but I still managed to do great in school. I have decided to attend the College of Marin this fall and I am finalizing my admittance. My plan is to take as many classes as I can to try to get all of my general education finished with. Going to college in the fall means a lot to me. It means I am making progress in moving forward with my life and getting one step closer to accomplishing my goals. I am very excited to see what's to come. Additionally, I will be taking as many Ballet and dance classes I can enroll myself in. Dancing is what I am most passionate about so I want to make sure I am doing it as much as I can. I decided to go to Marin because I would like to be in the Bay Area for the first few years away from home so I can make sure I am near UCSF if anything related to my illness were to happen. I also have found an amazing family to live with there that is only 20 minutes away from campus. I like the idea of being away from home, but not too far where I can't drive home for a weekend if I felt like it. It has been a long and bumpy road getting to where I am today, but nonetheless I am here and I am ready to spread my wings and leave the nest.

With the help of my mentor, Barbara Brennan, I have been able to have experiences I would have only dreamed of. I was able to go to a five week ballet intensive and Barbara played a big part in making that all happen for me. That was definitely my favorite PSP experience. I cannot express enough how thankful I am to not only Barbara, but the PSP program for making that a possibility for me. I grew up in many ways those two summers. I learned so much about myself and my love for dancing. My life changed when I went to those summer camps and I will always remember them as the best summers of my life. My mentor, Barbara, taught me many things. The most important thing I picked up from spending time with her is how important communication is. It is crucial you keep in contact with those that play an important role in your life.

PSP also made me realize how in love I am with the city of Los Angeles. Attending the college success retreat at UCLA really sparked my interest a couple years back. I might transfer there after my two years at a community college and I would have had no idea that's what I wanted to do if the program didn't encourage me to attend the retreat. Overall this program has been such an amazing experience. I am so incredibly grateful I was chosen back in 7th grade to be a part of such a wonderful organization. Little did I know what a big effect this program would have on me and my life. Everyone in this program is so kind and just want to see students thrive and that's something that inspires me too. I would not be the person I am today without this program. Thank you for everything, I will always be eternally grateful.

Entering College of Marin, fall 2019

Sponsor: Sheldon & Cindy Stone

Mentor: Barbara Brennan



Selene

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Ukiah Region



My name is Selene , and this year I will be graduating from Ukiah High. In the fall I will be attending the University of California Merced and I am planning on majoring in Environmental Engineering. I believe that through this profession I will be able to create change to help implement sustainable practices for the recovery of our planet. Environmental issues have become a prominent concern for the future generations, that need to be taken care of as soon as possible before it is too late for the irreversible consequences that await us if we continue to degrade the earth. Attending college marks the beginning of a new chapter in my life, one where I become independent and face the world by myself. It also marks the starting point to the pathway towards a career; one where I can be passionate about helping others or creating change. But most importantly, attending college means that I will be fulfilling my family's wishes of achieving a much bigger education than what my parents had. It signifies that my efforts, along with my parent's sacrifices have not been in vain, and that I can make them proud to be the first member of the family to pursue a profession.

I warmly recall when I was accepted into the PSP. I was in 7th grade and an extremely shy person. My mentor Marsha has definitely been a witness to my personal growths and my development as an individual. I was able to blossom from someone who was timidly quiet to someone who is not afraid to voice their opinion and comfortably converse with others. I also remember being extremely stubborn when it came to seeking help both for my health and for when I was struggling in school. Looking back at it now I wish I could have reached out for help sooner rather than trying to resolve the situation on my own terms. When I first heard of the PSP, I was completely unaware of how the program would affect my life and the huge influence it would be for my success. Despite my shortcomings, I am eternally grateful to PSP for supporting me throughout the most crucial years of school.

One of the many people to who I am forever grateful, and has been there in the most decisive moments of my life is my mentor Marsha Little. The relationship that has formed between Marsha and me is one that cannot be described. She has been more than just a mentor, she has been a friend, a mother figure, a person who I can confide in whenever I face a challenge or need someone to remind me why I must continue moving forward. My most memorable trip with Marsha was the week-long trip we took with a group to Santa Monica. However, my favorite outings were the ones where Marsha and I could have long heartfelt talks about the future. Marsha has always encouraged me to try new things that have been way beyond my comfort zone but she always emphasizes that I may never know if I like it unless I try it. She has also provided advice whenever I need it and has had no problem being honest with me about some of my faults and shortcomings. She has helped me in areas where I needed improvement and even though I may not like what she has to say I know that she only says it because she wants what is best for me, and for that, I will always be grateful to Marsha.

PSP broadened my perspective on what I wanted in a university. Throughout the numerous trips and colleges that I have visited, I discovered that I would like to attend an institute that was somewhat close to home but far enough that would prevent me from wanting to go back home. I was able to visit UC Merced through PSP and visiting it again over Spring Break made me realize this school was ideal for me. PSP has helped me accomplish my goal of being able to attend a four-year university because it has provided support that no other program ever has, it has helped me cover cost of SAT exams, college application fees, school supplies, and other things that my family would have struggled with. I owe most of my academic achievements not only to my mentor but to the program that saw potential in me to succeed even before I could realize it.

Entering UC Merced, fall 2019

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Marsha Little



Kevin

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

El Monte Region



My name is Kevin and I attended Mountain View High School. I have decided to attend Rio Hondo College in the fall, where I will obtain an Associate of Arts for Transfer degree in Kinesiology. I then plan on furthering my education by transferring to Biola University, where I will earn a Bachelor's Degree in Kinesiology, and move on to earn a Doctorate. I chose this major because I have always wanted to be a doctor, and I also have experienced many injuries throughout my life that never healed properly. These injuries could have been fixed with the help of physical therapy. I would like to prevent that from happening to other people. Majoring in kinesiology will allow me to become a physical therapist, to not only be a doctor, but help the lives of those who are in pain and take that pain away. I will be the first in my family to seek a career that takes this much time and education to achieve, and in doing so, I can motivate my younger sibling to work hard, and maybe even inspire my older brother to return to school, and further his career as a mechanic.

My mentor is Viviana Iaciovani, and she has been my mentor for the past six years. I'm so grateful for her time and dedication to us. Ms. Iaciovani has been there for me through academic and personal challenges. If I ever needed advice or a lecture, I knew I could always count on her. Not only has she guided me throughout the past six years, she has also motivated me to keep going, and constantly reminded me of the potential I have to make something for myself. I am supposed to write about my most memorable outing with my mentor, but see, I can't do that. Every single outing has been memorable, and that's because of my mentor. See, my mentor is so amazing and awesome, that every single outing was spectacular. So if I had to say which outing was the most memorable, I would have to say all of them.

Being in PSP has helped me decide on a career path by surrounding me with other scholars who have ambitions to reach their goals, and to come out on top. I always struggled with deciding on a career, and being in PSP has kept me motivated by hosting retreats at colleges like USC and UCLA, where we experience the college student life. This alone helped me keep my dream alive of someday graduating from a four-year institute. All the college visitations allowed me to visualize what I am looking for in a college, and that helped me decide to one day attend Biola University. PSP supported me by not giving up on me and recognizing the potential that I have. Without my mentor and PSP, I wouldn't be where I am today.

Entering Rio Hondo College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Geroge Moss

Mentor: Viviana Iaciovani



Milca

Partnership Scholar Class of 2019 El Monte Region



My name is Milca and I attended South El Monte High School. I will be going to Cal Poly Pomona this summer as a Physics major. I choose this major because of my love of mathematics and science, I also took inspiration from classes, programs and shows I watched. Starting college is something big for me and my family, I am the first in my family to ever go to college and I hope that by starting college I am leaving a precedent for my sisters to follow.

My mentor is Ms. Iaciofani, I meet her my 7th grade year, she was my English and History teacher. At the time, I was just a student that loved to read ahead in her class and was part of APL club. Even though, Ms.Iaciofani was my official mentor until high school she always made sure I was alright. I will never forget the day that I was told that Ms.Iaciofani was going to be my new mentor. Thanks to her continuous support and time I can gladly say I will be continuing my education. She is one of the main reasons that I am pursuing Physics because she introduced me to one of my favorite shows of all time, Rick and Morty. A memorable outing would have to be when we went zip lining and Ms.Iaciofani got stuck in the middle and had to be rescued. I want to thank her for not only stepping up to the challenge of being my mentor, but also a friend and second mother.

I joined PSP, back in 7th grade and have been in the program for the past six years. PSP has given me many tools and opportunities to be able to confidently go into college. Thanks to PSP, I now have a laptop, a printer and a lot of new memories to take with me on this new journey in my life.

Entering Cal Poly Pomona, fall 2019

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Viviana Iaciofani



Enrique

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

El Monte Region



My name is Enrique and I am part of the graduating class of 2019 at South El Monte High School. I will be attending Pasadena City College and will transfer after two years to attend a four year university. I will be majoring in Bioengineering. I will also be the first in my family to pursue a STEM related major. I chose this career path because I have always loved the sciences ever since I learned about the cell in middle school. It's just amazing to think how we are all made of these tiny globular structures and how essential they are to life. Every single process has this sort of mechanical way of working which reflects the many processes we see today in factories and assembly lines. To be able to work in an area of science that deals with not only cells but the entire genome of the human species is quite incredible. Through this profession I could work in companies and organizations that are dedicated to manipulating genes in order to cure genetic diseases. This is just one of the many things Bioengineering could do and I am prepared to learn every step of the way. Going to college is a huge stepping stone for me as this experience will teach me how to become an independent individual.

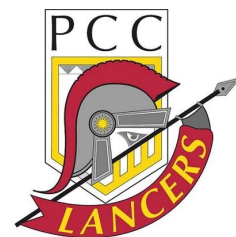
My mentor is Mr. Morris. I am truly grateful for the time and effort Mr. Morris has dedicated to take me on trips to try new foods, attend museums, and many cultural events. He has been my mentor since my freshman year of high school and has maintained strong communication with my fellow peers and me. He made sure that I was attentive to deadlines, grades, and scholarships. Always open to a discussion, Mr. Morris, would give amazing advice on what we should consider as a career and would plan trips pertaining to *our* interests. I am very fond of music and learned how to play the ukulele my sophomore year. When Mr. Morris found out this passion of mine he planned a trip for us to go see a live concert called E Hula Mau, which emphasized on Polynesian culture and music where they played the ukulele, guitar, and many other instruments. The most memorable trip would be the one to the El Capitan Theatre where we saw Star Wars: The Force Awakens. There was a light show and overall it was just awesome for me as a huge Star Wars fan. After the movie we talked about the plot and what we liked about it. After this experience I definitely felt that we were able to open up more and lead to great trips later on.

My experience as a PSP scholar has shaped my view on society, culture, and my own passions. The trips we went on showed me that there's a lot to discover in life and with a great education and connections anything is possible. My peers have also inspired me to set new goals and strive for success as I see each and every one of them going off to amazing universities to accomplish new feats. I am excited to bring my knowledge and experiences gained from PSP to the real world. Thank you Partnership Scholars Program.

Entering Pasadena City College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Malcolm & Sylvia Boyce

Mentor: Jeff Morris



Patricia

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

El Monte Region



My name is Patricia and I will be graduating in the top five percent of the graduating class of 2019 at South El Monte High School. After feeling undecided for the better part of Spring semester, I finally decided to attend the University of California, Irvine rather than Santa Barbara for Fall 2019. Choosing a major was extremely difficult, but after words of encouragement from my mami and papi such as “*ya no hay tiempo Paty, tienes que escoger que quieres estudiar*” and “*siempre dejas todo al ultimo*” I finally chose to study Public Health Sciences with the intention to follow the pre-med track. I seek to develop new methods to fight diseases and ways to provide medical assistance to under-developed countries. Growing up with two immigrant parents, I wanted to make up for the numerous struggles they’ve endured. Going to college has always made me nervous and stressed at the same time, but in the most positive way. Being the middle and only female child, I will be the first to attend a four year university. Had it not been for my older brother, I don’t think I would have survived these past school years. I hope my younger brother sees me as example because I want him to excel and get admitted to his dream school, because it was a task I didn’t achieve. As a timid thirteen year old, I walked into an interview not knowing what to expect and a couple of months later, I was thrown on stage with eleven other kids at the 2013 induction asked to say what career I was interested in. I expected the Partnership Scholars Program to be endless tutoring sessions, but ended up visiting the East Coast and meeting new people along the way. I was able to do things I never would have imagined myself doing.

I started my PSP journey with Ms. Chavarrin, one of the sweetest people I have ever met. She treated me like family and provided me with a lot of insight on college life. Despite her leaving because of her personal life, the experiences and memories we made together hold a special place in my heart. Coincidentally, I received a new mentor, Joanna Marrufo. Miraculously, her mentor was also Ms. Chavarrin! Joanna, being fresh out of college, really helped me understand the struggles and triumph of attending college. One outing that sticks out to me was when we went out for crepes and had a deep conversation about our emotional struggles and thoughts about the future. I struggle to speak about my emotions especially after enduring such a hard loss last year, but the fact that my mentor helped me get it off my chest truly changed my life for the better. Joanna has helped me become a better person and take chances despite the pessimistic voice that restrains me from reaching my full potential. These two strong women will remain in my mind forever because of how great they’ve impacted my life throughout my six years in the program.

Through PSP I have visited many colleges out of state and realized I love California... a lot. When I dormed at UCLA for the college retreat I realized I wanted to become a Bruin badly. Unfortunately I won’t be attending UCLA in the fall but I now have an ultimate goal in my academic career. PSP has helped me keep my GPA up and understand the importance of the competitiveness while applying to college. I was able to view life in a new perspective because of PSP all while learning critical skills. Being a first generation student, I know I will have the support of my family and friends, but now from the people a part of the Partnership Scholars Program. In times of confusion, PSP is just a call or email away from providing assistance. I don’t think I would have ever been able to apply to college without the assistance of PSP, but as a Latinx student from South El Monte, I can finally say I did it. I have been admitted to the University of California Irvine, a school with just a 22% acceptance rate. Without the support PSP has provided me with, I wouldn’t be where I am today. Looking back, I am grateful that the Partnership Scholars Program took a chance on me six years ago. *Si se pudo. I made it.*

Entering UC Irvine, fall 2019

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Joanna Marrufo



Kimberly

Partnership Scholar

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El Monte Region



My name is Kimberly and I am graduating from Mountain View High School. I have decided to attend the University of California, Irvine. I am going in as a Psychology Major but plan to switch into Business Administration with a minor in Psychology, or vice versa. I have chosen this because I plan to further a career in banking management or counseling. Coming from a single parent home going to college is a giant shift for me. This means I will be away from my mom for longer than a week or two. A couple of years ago the thought of being away from my mom would have terrified me. Now, thanks to PSP I feel ready to leave my nest and go explore. I am still scared but in an exciting way. PSP has really shown me that I am “College-able.” Six years ago, I would’ve never have seen myself going to college...or graduating at the top 10% of my class with honors. All of that seemed like a fantasy. Nevertheless, here I am six years later... about to do just that. I realized it was never just a fantasy; it was a dream. A dream I am living now.

My mentor, Alice Shum has given all her time and effort to my fellow mentees and me. I know it hasn’t been an easy six years especially because it's three of us. We are all involved in different things and at different schools. I appreciate her because I know she has still found ways to make it work and influence our lives. Ms. Shum has helped broaden my horizon by easing me out of my comfort zone. She always been so helpful with getting my mentis and I supply needed. Ms. Shum has always been willing and available to lend a helping hand. Recently she has been very helpful with our senior year. I’ll never forget the time we did an escape room. It was funny and interesting altogether. I remember the escape room was so hard that my head was hurting by the time we completed the room.

PSP all around has made a competitive applicant in all the programs I have ever applied for. I believe that if it weren’t PSP I wouldn’t have been 1 of 10 students selected to participate in a bank internship at my high school. Thanks to PSP I learned interview skills and professionalism. I was ready for that interview when the time came around and felt confident. I have been able to participate in this internship all year and I have learned so much. PSP prepared me to take risk. PSP demonstrated to me that it doesn’t matter where I come from and only where I'm going. They influenced me to take risk and always apply things. PSP has helped me grow immensely as a person. Academics were always important but the experiences PSP allowed me to be a part of are unforgettable. I have made some of my best friends through this program. In fact my future roommate is my fellow peer of this program. She is someone who pushes me to be the best version of myself. I don’t believe all of this would have been possible for me it wasn’t for PSP.

Entering UC Irvine, fall 2019

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Alice Shum



Emily

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

El Monte Region



My name is Emily and I went to South El Monte High School. I have decided to attend Cal Poly Pomona in the fall where I will be majoring in Communications. I chose this major because I'm interested in working with companies that focus on mental health awareness. Going to college is a major accomplishment for myself and I have definitely come a long way from the girl I was a couple years ago. I was unmotivated and believed that there was no way for me to get into college. I fell behind in some of my classes, but I soon realized that I wanted to make my family proud and go to college. I was a shy introvert who had just experienced grief at the time, but throughout the course of these six years in PSP I broke out of my shell and found a great love for school. I know this is an important step not just for me but for my mom because she has seen me work really hard the past year to get where I am now.

My mentor is Joanna Marrufo, she has been my mentor for the past four years and I am grateful for the tremendous love and support I have received these past years. Joanna has been there through my academic and personal challenges I faced throughout high school. She has pushed me to go out of my comfort zone and challenge myself academically I was struggling in school and she helped me see that there was always a positive way of looking through life at. Our most memorable trip was my first concert ever! We saw Coldplay perform at the Rose bowl in 2017 and I'll never forget singing my heart out to some of my favorite songs. I am sure that she will still be a part of my life during my college career.

PSP has been one of the greatest things that has ever happened to me. I got to experience my first plane ride, first concert, and staying away in the East Coast for three weeks. Being in PSP has helped me decide the career I picked because I saw how involved I can be in my community and wanted to continue that path. I realized that I can use my voice to help those that are still in communities that do not have the right resources for mental health. Being in PSP allowed me to take SAT classes to help improve my testing strategies, so that I can be at my fullest potential. Overall, PSP has taught me the tools and resources that I need to thrive in college. Before I was afraid to leave El Monte, but now I am excited to see what the outside holds.

Entering Cal Poly Pomona, fall 2019

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Joanna Marrufo

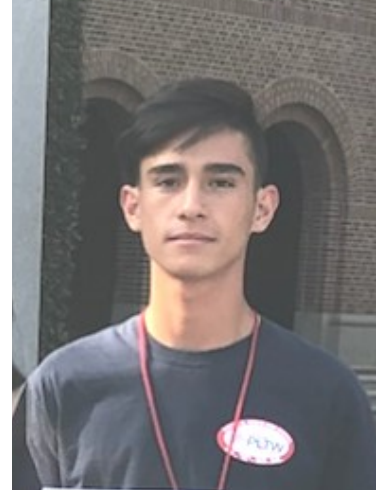


Eduardo

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

El Monte Region



My name is Eduardo and I went to South El Monte High School. In the fall I have decided to attend Mt. San Antonio College, and transfer to UC Irvine to major in Computer Engineering. I chose this major as I have always been intrigued by technology, and I would like to help large companies further push the stretch on what is possible with computers. Going to college in the fall shows me that my dreams are still possible, and no matter what I will continue to work hard to get to where I want to be and holding the degree that I want.

My mentor is Jeffery Morris, and he has been my mentor all throughout my four years in high school, and I'm grateful to have such a kind and generous mentor. Mr. Morris was there during my slump, and heled push me to get out of it so that I would be able to not fall behind, and for this I am very grateful for the confidence that he gave me. My most memorable moment with him would be going and watching the King and I, it was a musical which I really enjoyed. Just being able to watch it in such a nice theater and having a very good cast was what made it such a memorable and enjoyable event. Every outing is always enjoyable with him, and I'm positive that him and I will stay in contact for time to come.

PSP has given me the opportunity to visit colleges and help widen my view on which schools would be the best for my major. Over the past years with PSP, I was given many support systems to help me continue in my education. I attended SAT prep. classes which without PSP I would not have enrolled in, this class helped me to prepare for the actual test and secure a high score for my school. PSP has helped to strengthen my determination and my will to be where I want to be in the next couple of years. Overall, PSP has helped me to know where I want to go after high school and who I want to be.

Entering Mount San Antonio College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Jeff Morris



Gisselle

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

El Monte Region



My name is Gisselle and I attended El Monte High School. This fall I will be attending UC Santa Cruz where I will be double majoring in Legal Studies and Literature. I choose these majors, not only because I am interested in them as a whole, but because I believe they will be very useful for me as I try to pursue a career as a lawyer. I am very excited to go to school this fall because I am able to see that all my hard work was worth it. I am ready to start this journey, which I know will not be easy, but then again nothing worth something ever is.

Ms. Shum, whom I'm very grateful for, has been my mentor since the beginning of my PSP journey. My most memorable outing has to be the one of the very first ones. We went to the Pantages Theater to watch the Lion King Musical, and I have never been able to get over it. Ms. Shum was always on top of whatever school supplies we needed for school and deadlines, which was very useful. Being a part of PSP is something I am eternally grateful for. Not only was I able to explore Washington D.C., Philadelphia, Boston, and New York City, but I was able to meet great people along the way as well.

With the help of PSP, I was always able to have my supplies for school, learn more things about college, and experience many new, great things. The financial support provided by PSP was the best thing I could as for considering that my family's financial situation would not have been enough to allow me to experience all of these things. PSP is not only something that I will always remember, but it is an amazing six year experience I will always cherish.

Entering UC Santa Cruz, fall 2019

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Alice Shum



Julissa

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

El Monte Region



My name is Julissa and I am a senior at Mountain View High School. My father did not make it past middle school and my mother did not go to college. My odds were low for graduating high school, let alone attending a university. I can proudly say that I will be graduating high school, and will become a future Bronco in the fall at Cal Poly Pomona. I chose electrical engineering as my major because I believe that it is the best way for me to express my passion for math and science. As an engineer, I will be working to make an impact in people's lives, as I produce new inventions and solutions.

In seventh grade, I was introduced to my adventurous mentor, Ms. Shum. She has remained my mentor from my first year with PSP to my last. I am thankful for the dedication and time she has put into making sure that I remain on track. My most memorable outing was our trip to an escape room. Without realizing, we were placed into the most challenging room. The room challenged us to see if we were capable of working together as a team to gather the clues necessary for us to escape the room. When I first began with PSP I was an introvert, but my mentor has helped me push out of my comfort zone and not be afraid to try new things.

Coming from a low income family, I never had the opportunity to experience many places outside of El Monte. I wanted to acquaint myself with new cultures, and expand my knowledge on colleges, so I took initiative and applied to PSP. Before the scholarship, I believed that going to college was not a feasible option for me. Throughout my five years with the scholarship, I have visited colleges all over the country which have made me excited about my future. Dorming at UCLA and USC was a real eye-opening experience for me; I was able to experience what living on a college campus feels like. I have also expanded my circle of friends, and opened myself into many different cultures, and most importantly, I have gained significant knowledge from my peers and mentor. This scholarship has greatly developed me as a person, giving me the skills and confidence I needed to believe that I can make it to college and see the world outside of El Monte.

Entering Cal Poly Pomona, fall 2019

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Alice Shum



Metzli

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Lennox Region



My name is Metzli and I attended Lennox Mathematics Science and Technology Academy. I have decided to further my education starting this fall at the University of California, Irvine. I have entered as an undeclared major but I am leaning towards mathematics. I chose to enter as undeclared because I want to receive help in finding something that fit my interests and a possible career path. I want to be surrounded by other students who are in the same situation as me. Going to college in the fall means so much to not just me but to my family as well. I am the first from a family of six who will graduate high school and attend college. I feel like I have accomplished so much but will continue to do so and I do it in hopes of motivating my younger siblings that anything is possible and the road to success is our main focus.

When I was given the opportunity to apply to PSP I took the chance. Opportunities only come once and if you don't take them they won't come your way again. I was a nervous little girl who thought how in the world will I ever receive this scholarship against all these competitive students? I remember when I had my interview with Maria, Lisa, and Ms. Johnson I talked about opening the path and leading the way down to my brothers. My motivation and dedication into my work ethic has always been my brothers. And over these six years my mentality has remained the same. I am their role model and I want to show them that besides the hardships my family has overcome, being resilient will allow them to have many opportunities.

My mentor at the moment is Ms. Debbie Johnson, she has been my mentor for the past two years. The first four years was Erika Garibay. I am grateful for all the time and dedication they both gave to me to. They have both supported me through my high school experience and always asked me if I needed help regarding academics or simply in my personal life. The most memorable moment I had with Erika was attending the MTV Awards. I had never been to an award ceremony as big as that one and see so many of my favorite artists. With Ms. Johnson the most memorable memory I have is when we went to the Queen Mary, Dark Harbor. We went along with other scholars who I was able to build a good bond with and we did not last much time there as it started pouring. It was all fun and laughter, truly a night to remember.

All in all, PSP has provided me everything I needed to make these six years a bit easier in clarifying my future. As I attended the college trips I was able to see that I enjoy to travel and want to continue to do that but also I discovered that the east coast is not a place I want to live. The west coast is more who I am which is why I applied to mainly schools in California. I have been able to accomplish plenty of things and it wouldn't have been possible if it wasn't for PSP. I will honestly miss the support and everything I was offered. I am so grateful for all the opportunities and I am glad to say I'm off to UCI, the top 7 public university in the U.S!

Entering UC Irvine, fall 2019

Sponsor: Ambassador Frank & Kathy Baxter

Mentor: Debbie Johnson



Monserad

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Lennox Region



My name is Monserad and I attended Animo Leadership Charter High School. I have decided to attend CSU Monterey Bay in the fall where I will be majoring in business administration and minoring in music. I chose this career path because I am interested in one day starting my own business, preferably my own music label as music is one of my greatest passions. Going to college is an important step because I will be the first in my family to attend a 4 year university. This was the main reason why I applied to the PSP program as my family really wanted me to succeed in school and attend college after high school, and we felt that having the support that PSP offered would be a great benefit towards trying to achieve that goal. College is said to also be the place where you find yourself as a person a little bit more as you're more independent and exposed to more cultures and interest.

My mentor is Ms. Mary Little and she has been my mentor for all six years that I have been part of the PSP program, for this, I am very grateful. She always did her best to try to help and provide any type of support for my fellow partners and me. If I needed anything or had any questions she would almost immediately reply back with an answer. Our most memorable outings for me would be every summer road trip we went on. I simply had so much in doing and participating in all the activities my mentor planned. Spending time with my mentor and getting to know my fellow partners was extremely fun. The most fun was visiting the "Winchester House" as part of our road trip because I like a lot of things with mysterious backgrounds. I definitely hope to stay in contact with her after I have left for college.

Being in PSP helped me decide on a college because I was able to visit many colleges away from home with my mentor. We visited a lot of colleges that are located in quiet and remote areas which I really liked and felt comfortable with. Also being paired up in a group with people I had never met before really helped me with getting out of my comfort zone and try to socialize with others. Being away from home and visiting different places outside of Los Angeles really helped in realizing that I would want to study somewhere outside of my community to have the time to find myself as a person. With this in mind I decided to attend CSU Monterey Bay because it's very calm and outdoorsy. Not only that but I also pushed myself into being the only one in my school that will be attending Monterey Bay.

Entering CSU Monterey Bay, fall 2019

Sponsor: Jennifer Hinman

Mentor: Mary Little



Michael

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Lennox Region



Hello, my name is Michael I attended California Academy of Math and Science (CAMS). After looking and visiting many different schools I have decided to attend Dixie State University in St. George, Utah. At Dixie State University I will be studying Nursing and Photography as my minor. I always knew I wanted to do something to help people. I have been volunteering at different organizations since middle school and nursing seems like the right choice for me. Since I was young my parents have always told me I was going to college and it's important to me to continue my education to be a good role model to my brothers.

For the past six years I've been mentored by Mr. Ruben Bojorquez. I've had the pleasure of attending many events with Mr. Bojorquez. We have been to Lakers games, Dodgers games, Cirque de Sole and numerous plays and dinner establishments. Although I had a blast at all the outings, I'd have to say my most memorable outings would be attending the Dodgers games. I love sports however, I enjoyed the conversations I had with Mr. Bojorquez about the game and who I would think would win, of course I was rooting for the Dodgers! He's always given me good positive advice and motivation to finish strong. I am appreciative for the experiences I've had with Mr. Bojorquez.

When I started my PSP journey, I was 11 years old, looking back it seems like an eternity. Six years later I have been to places that I would have never thought I would go and had experiences I never would have had without the help of PSP. In these past few years, I have visited Chicago, Philadelphia, and New York City. Traveling outside of California has opened my eyes to bigger possibilities, such as moving away for college. Although I didn't visit Dixie State with PSP, they helped me realize that going away to college was an option and ultimately would be the best choice for me. I'm grateful to PSP, my mentor, and my sponsor for helping me get a tutor when I was struggling in school, for helping me purchase a new computer that I will be using in college, and for the support they have provided me for the last six years. This has been the most memorable journey that I have experienced, and I am confident I will make everyone proud when I graduate college in four years.

Entering Dixie State University, fall 2019

Sponsor: Bruce & Martha Karsh

Mentor: Ruben Bojorquez



Eugenia

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Lennox Region



My name is Eugenia, and I went to Lennox Math Science and Technology Academy. I have decided to attend San Jose State University in the fall of 2019 where I will be majoring in liberal studies. I chose liberal studies because it is a broad major and I know there can be a lot of things I can do with it whether I want to become a therapist, a teacher, or a counselor which are just a few of the things that interest me. Going to college means more than just continuing an education, it means that I get the opportunity to keep on learning and potentially making a difference in people's lives. Not only that but continuing my education for me is also to show my parents that all of their effort and support has not gone to waste and has served some purpose. Joining PSP as a 7th grader I was very unaware of the path I wanted to take with my education. I was confused but I knew that continuing my education was something I felt really passionate about. I applied to PSP with the intention of wanting to explore new places and go out and try new foods but it has completely changed throughout the years. Now I figured that I have had many more opportunities and resources through this program and I am beyond grateful for.

My mentor for the past six years has been Erika Garibay and I feel we have developed a close relationship. Before I was really shy and I didn't speak up about my feelings towards school and my interests but my bubble popped eventually and I was able to talk to her. One of the most memorable outings that I've had with her is when we went to go watch Michelle Obama talk about her book because it was super inspirational. She has helped me decide what I wanted to do because she and I have similar interests. Not only that but I was able to talk to her about my personal life and I feel that brought us closer and I was able to take her advice and grow as a person.

I feel that attending the College Success Retreats showed me that I wanted to go far for college. Also, getting a chance to speak with PSP Alumni and their different career paths showed me that I didn't want to go into any of the STEM majors. PSP has always encouraged me to do anything I set my mind and now I am doing just that. I am looking forward to going away to college and continuing my education.

Entering CSU San Jose, fall 2019

Sponsor: Dana Oder, Oder Family Foundation

Mentor: Erika Garibay

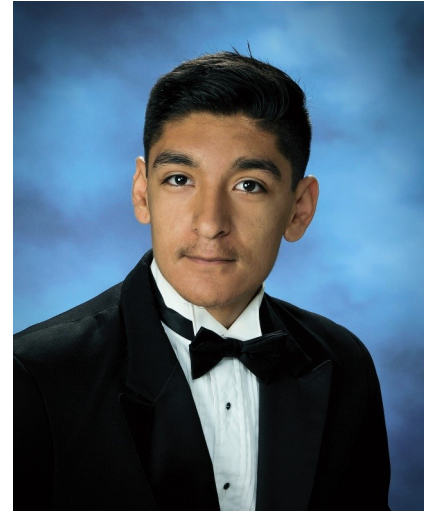


Eduardo

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Lennox Region



I am Eduardo and I attended LMSTA. I will be going to UC Berkeley where I was accepted as undecided under the College of Letters and Science but I plan on changing majors to Computer Science. I want to pursue this field because I took multiple Computer Science courses throughout high school and I really enjoyed them. Two of those courses were AP classes and I passed the first test I took with a 3 which means I'm pretty good at coding. I am still waiting for the results on the second AP test. After I graduate under Computer Science, I plan on working for Apple because they are a great company but recently their products have been less innovative so I want to work for the company and help them create new designs. Going to UC Berkeley is a huge accomplishment for me. I will be the first in my family to attend a four-year institution so it is also a very big accomplishment for my entire family as it motivates younger family members to stay focused in school. Berkeley is one of the top schools in the country and it will help me grow academically as well as personally.

My mentor is Edwin Maldonado and he is currently a teacher at DaVinci High School. He has helped me academically because he is familiar with LMSTA so he was able to help me choose what classes to take and he also helped me resolve personal problems. He pushed me to learn more about myself by taking me out to try new activities such as go-karting and trying new cuisines such as Mediterranean, Peruvian, Vietnamese, traditional Italian, and so much more. My most memorable trip was when we went go-karting and tried Korean barbeque after.

Going to the PSP College Success Retreat last year helped me learn that USC wasn't the right school for me but I also learned that I preferred a larger college campus. Because of this, I made sure to apply for larger schools and it was something I took into account when deciding what college to attend. I haven't visited UC Berkeley with PSP but I have heard a lot about it from PSP alumni who attended the school. Alma also helped me make my decision because she answered a lot of my questions about the school. PSP taught me more about college as well as the fact that it was attainable but it also helped me get to college. It motivated me to keep up my grades so that I would be eligible to apply for big name schools and it gave me more self-confidence because I knew there was someone who believed in me and knew I would attend a four year institution. PSP also provided me with so many cultural experiences which will allow me to connect with more students in college so they helped me prepare for life at college.

Entering UC Berkeley, fall 2019

Sponsor: Edith Garvey

Mentor: Edwin Maldonado



Demis

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Lennox Region



My name is Demis and I went to Animo Leadership Charter High School. I have decided to attend University of California, Davis in the fall where I will be majoring in Biological Sciences. I chose this major because it falls in the science category and I would like a career in science or health. For my career path I would like to work towards becoming a doctor or dentist since I enjoy learning about the human body. I would also enjoy teaching what I learn in my career to students who are deciding whether to go into the medical field. Attending college in the fall means that I will have an opportunity for a higher education and the possibility to become a professional in my field. It also means that I have accomplished so much with the support from my family and community such as my school and PSP.

My mentor is Alma Fernandez. Her time and participation in the program means a lot since I can rely on her when I need assistance. Being able to talk to her is easy since she has been through situations similar to mine and she is relatable. I also enjoy talking to her about funny experiences we have had since a laugh is always enjoyed. Meeting Alma for the first time and having a conversation at Tierra Mia was one of the most memorable outings. I say this because that was when we had a conversation where we got to know each other personally. Alma has been there whenever I needed anything for my education from supplies to tutors. This means a lot to me since it makes me feel supported through my educational path.

PSP has helped me decide on my college path by allowing us to travel to the other side of the coast to experience living away from home for about a week. I had the opportunity to travel to New York and Boston for college trips, which expanded my views about traveling and attending a school beyond Los Angeles. Throughout my years in PSP, I have been supported in many possible ways that I could have not imagined. Being able to travel without having to worry about this being a financial struggle to my family was relieving. I was able to calmly explore and visit many colleges and tourist locations.

PSP has also supported me by giving me the opportunity to have an overnight college retreat. During the college retreat I stayed in a dorm room with another scholar and we participated in informational presentations about the college application process and financial aid. The college application process can be tough and confusing for first generation students, but the support I received has alleviated many negative thoughts and feelings. PSP not only supported their scholars but the scholars' family by granting unimaginable opportunities to their child and because of that I am forever grateful for PSP.

Entering UC Davis, fall 2019

Sponsor: Mary Webster

Mentor: Alma Fernandez

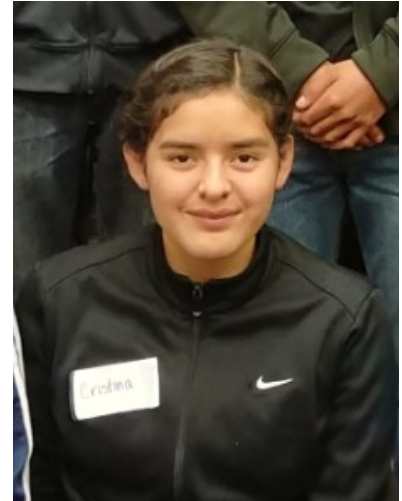


Cristina

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Lennox Region



My name is Cristina and I went to Animo Leadership Charter High School. I have decided to attend California State University Channel Islands in the fall where I will be majoring in biology. I am interested in biology because I would like to study living organisms and the threats the environment is facing due to global warming. Being able to attend college is the first of my successes in my career journey. Continuing my education will influence family members and my community when I give back. Throughout my six years being a part of PSP, I have been motivated to continue with my education, explore different cultures and learn about college life. PSP has given me the support I need to be successful in college and pursue my dreams.

My mentor is Alma Fernandez, she has guided me through my high school education and has motivated me to do more by taking as many opportunities as I can. Also preparing me for major tests. I appreciate Alma for taking time out her day to mentor me and for making each of our outings memorable. Alma has been helpful throughout my years in PSP because she advised me and showed me to adjust to environments. Alma would offer me help when I struggled to meet deadlines. Having the support she has given me motivates to give back to my community. When I have graduated college I want to become a PSP mentor because I want to give student the same experience I have received from my mentor. Our most memorable outing was when we went to my first live theater production, Aladdin. One thing that stood out was the design of the background and the tone of the play made the audience feel as if they were a part of the performance. We also went hiking and it was an impactful experience because we were exploring the wilderness and in this hike I realized that I want to major in helping the animals from going extinct due to global warming because during our hike we saw fire and this impacted me to major in biology. Each of our outings strengthened our bond and I would still like Alma to be a part of my life because she has created a positive mindset to never give up.

Being in PSP helped me decided on a career path because I participated in the College Success Retreats for the past two years. This gave me the idea of what type of environment I want as a college student. I also learned how to build a network with the PSP members and mentors. I also attended college trips with PSP and the most memorable was my visit to Boston because I got to experience snow for the first time and got to visit different colleges. Exploring different campuses helped to me decide on CSU Channel Islands and I am looking forward to starting this fall.

Entering CSU Channel Islands, fall 2019

Sponsor: Dr. Karen Cove

Mentor: Alma Fernandez



Zyanya

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Venice Region



Hello my name is Zyanya and I attended Alexander Hamilton High School. I have committed to attend UC Merced this fall where I will be majoring in Earth System Science also known as Environmental Science. My long term goal is to become environmental lawyer to protect ecosystems and handle issues of toxic waste. I believe this is a crucial problem that has not been highlighted enough. I found this school to be a perfect match for me, because of their passion for improving the world we live in. I look forward to the new environment, and the rigorous courses. I am ready to experience new things and undergo a metaphorical growth in my level of maturity and intellect.

My mentor for the last six years has been Ms. Trinh. She was a mentor that I appreciate and look up to. By far the most hardworking woman, she has endured a serious amounts of challenges but has never allowed them to interfere with her passion which is teaching. She was always a phone call away whenever I had an issue whether it was school related or personal. We shared many memorable outing but one that stands out to me is a trip to Northern California along with Mr. Bear, another mentor, and his mentees. This group has been very tight from the beginning and I was lucky enough to have my friends in this program as well. Up north we went to visit the colleges we had been accepted too and scope out the area in order to get familiarized with public transportation, restaurants and more. I believe that I enjoyed this trip a whole lot more because it came at a time where I was about to graduate and felt a bit stressed on deciding where to go and catching up with grades. It was a nice break and a motivational pick up to keep going.

Looking back to 7th grade, I have definitely come a long way and much of that growth I owe to this program. PSP changed my perspective on how I viewed society and how I saw myself in relation to what I was capable of creating and being. I applied to PSP knowing they would help me grow but what I got out of this program was something I could have never imagined at the time. It was the support, the motivation and the experiences that allowed me to see that there was something more to life than what I had lived through at the time. And for that and many more I am grateful.

Entering UC Merced, fall 2019

Sponsor: Dr. Kenneth Philipson & Candace Mar

Mentor: Michael Bear & Jamie Trinh

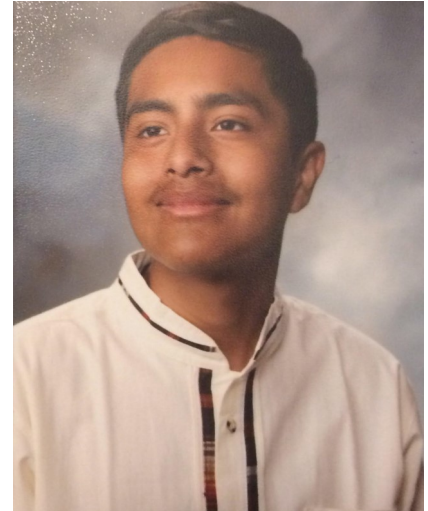


Jason

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Venice Region



My name is Jason and I attended Venice High School. I have decided to attend San Francisco State University and my intended major is Civil Engineering. I chose this major because I was fascinated with the designing, construction, and maintenance process that Civil Engineers have to do when mapping out projects. Going to a four year school this fall is an accomplishment because it was an unexpected decision. My original plan was to attend a community college and then transfer to a four year school. However, the CSU Admissions Office contacted me with a redirection application, and I immediately took the offer and applied. After a week into the submission, I was notified by the San Francisco State University Office of Admissions of my acceptance into the College of Science and Engineering for my intended major. It meant a lot for my family and myself because it was an unexpected turn where I was given an opportunity to attend a four year and to achieve my initial goals.

Ms. Trinh and Mr. Bear were phenomenal mentors for the six years of PSP. My relationship I gained with both mentors was great, more than what I had expected. In the beginning, I wasn't as engaged and open with them because I didn't know them and wasn't as confident with them compared to now. Both relationships with my mentors were great but, Ms. Trinh and I had more of an understanding with each other as well gained a strong relationship. Ms. Trinh helped me with both my personal problems as well as my academic achievement. Ms. Trinh had the biggest influence because she never gave up on me and always encouraged me to strive for better academic goals. Ms. Trinh and I have been through the best and worst moments and I appreciate that she was there by my side no matter what the circumstances were. The memorable outing I had with my mentors would be the first outing to an opera called "Porgy and Bess". It was the first time we had socialized with our mentors. I had a great time with them because they were both energetic and supportive about the smallest things.

My Engineering teachers had the biggest influences on me choosing my major because they were able to show me the different types of Engineering majors and the different branches for each area. PSP supported me with many of my academic necessities because they were able to provide me with my materials for classes and my athletic gear. PSP helped me a lot and I'm grateful that I was selected into a prestigious scholarship. I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Boyce for being my sponsors and thank you for the funding throughout the six years with PSP, I appreciate both of you very much.

Entering CSU San Francisco, fall 2019

Sponsor: Alan & Mary Boyce

Mentor: Michael Bear & Jamie Trinh



Samantha

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Venice Region



My name is Samantha, and I attended Alexander Hamilton High School. I am going to attend community college, and transfer to a 4-year university. The major I am pursuing is psychology. I chose psychology because I enjoy learning the subject, and I want to know about the intricacies of the brain. The more I learn about psychology, the more it fascinates me. It seems as if I can never grow bored of it, and I think that is what is supposed to happen with the profession you dedicate your life to. I want to become a psychologist because I like to listen to people, and help them work through their problems using empathy and logic. Going to college means fulfilling my dream of reaching higher education, and providing the foundation to complete my long-term goals.

My most memorable outing was when my mentors and fellow scholars and I went to San Francisco over Spring Break. I walked on the Golden Gate Bridge, and saw it tower above me, instead of seeing pictures online. We visited colleges, and that helped to invigorate my ambition to transfer to a four-year university. Because of my mentor's knowledge of the bay, I did not feel like a tourist, and experienced the trip more wholeheartedly. It was three days of having fun with people you have known for years. My relationship with my mentor is close, and I am grateful for it, because it was a support I could fall back on, when I thought I had no one who understood what I was going through. My mentor helped me with so many personal matters, and has been completely supportive throughout these past years. Without her, I would not have found my way as soon as I did.

I visited UC Santa Cruz which is a school that I was waitlisted at, and that helped me envision my options more clearly. Over the years, the PSP college trips inspired me to apply out of state, which is something I would not have done otherwise. PSP made me a cosmopolitan person who will work to travel as much as she can in her lifetime. Growing up in Watts made me have an image of a shrunken world because of the bubble I lived in, but PSP changed that. It showed me that I like Chicago better than New York, and what the culture in Philadelphia is like, which is a city I never thought I would have seen. More importantly, PSP made me not worry financially about my education. I did not have to worry about applying to fewer schools because I could not afford it, and thereby limit my options for my future. Moreover, PSP motivated to be better throughout my entire high school education, when I thought I couldn't. I am a better student because of this program that allowed me to have bigger dreams, and took off the stress of money.

Entering Mount San Antonio College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Drs. George Ferenczi & Rute Kalpins

Mentor: Michael Bear & Jamie Trinh



Robert

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Venice Region



My name is Robert and I am a senior at Venice High School. Next year, I will be attending Occidental College as a Computer Science major in their 3-2 Engineering Program. I have chosen this major because of the experiences that I've had in my classes with computer science and how much fun I had participating in it. Many of the other activities seemed to me like they were an obligation to finish, but any assignment that related to computer software was always enjoyable for me. Going to this college means a lot to me because it is not only a reflection of my hard work through my 12 years of school, but also a reflection of my parents' hard work in getting me there. It has been an important goal for my parents to get both of their kids in a 4-year university, and my acceptance into Occidental achieves that goal.

Joining PSP was one of the best things that could have possibly happened to me when I was in middle school. Applying for something like this was out of character for me; I was usually too shy to try anything new. Something in my head told me to apply, so I grabbed an application, got interviewed, and was fortunately given one of the spots to join PSP at my school. PSP has definitely helped me open up as a better person in the time that I've been a scholar. It has definitely surpassed my expectations, and I will be forever thankful for the opportunities it has given me.

I must give the biggest thanks to my mentors Ms. Jaime Trinh and Mr. Michael Bear. They have not only been there to take us to special events and field trips, but they have also been there as a supporting role in my group's lives. They helped us up when we were down and encouraged us to be the best possible version of ourselves. They have definitely gone above and beyond to help us become better students, and I can confidently say that I wouldn't exactly be here if it wasn't for their influence on me. My favorite moment with the two of them was when we had a group lunch with each other and just talked the whole time. It was a genuine conversation that we all were invested in, and there was no stress involved. I felt comfortable bringing up questions and discussing what our future plans are without feeling anxious with what was going on with my life. It was less of a mentor-scholar discussion and more of a human-human conversation.

Even though I already had an idea of what I wanted to do in college when I joined PSP, it definitely helped me figure out what I had to do to get there. I was able to learn more about what financial aid was, how scholarships can help and where to find them, and even what to look for in a school. Going on college tours during spring break gave me an opportunity to look around at how schools in different settings might affect my education. PSP influenced what I wanted to see in a college, and now I believe everyone involved has helped me find the college I know will help me prosper and secure a great job in the future.

Entering Occidental College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Alan & Mary Boyce

Mentor: Michael Bear & Jamie Trinh



Alexis

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Wiseburn Region



My name is Alexis and I graduated from DaVinci Science High School. I have decided to attend CSU Dominguez Hills in the fall where I will be majoring in psychology. I chose this major because I am interested in understanding the connection between brain function and behavior. I want to apply what I learn to illuminate myself and others and improve the relationships in this community and world around us. I intend to explore other career paths to discover what type of careers I might enjoy and increase my career options. I am a first generation student in my family to attend college which is a giant step to be able to accomplish my parent's dream of having a better life for their children. Attending college means I beat the statistics and will be able to liberate my family from financial stress and be a mentor to those who come after me. Attending college in my family will not stop with just me. Gaining the college experience will mean motivating and guiding my siblings through the obstacles that come across in life and in college.

My mentor is Mrs. Mary Little who has been my mentor for the past four years. She has been there to guide me through the dynamics of high school and support me not only academically but emotionally. As a Partnership Scholar, being paired with a mentor was extremely impactful to my education. During freshman year of high school, I was facing difficult situations at home which made it hard to concentrate in school. I struggled in my classes, yet through the program I was able to reach out to my mentor who found me a math tutor. If it wasn't for this program I wouldn't have known how to get the academic support I needed in a crucial time in my life. My mentor continues to be an adult whom I trust and can vent to when in need of emotional support. My favorite memory with her is when she made time for me to attend my Kayne Scholars Orientation. This meant so much to me because you parents weren't able to go. I appreciate her care and efforts in making sure I have an adult by my side to guide me.

Being in PSP has induced me to want more for myself in life and to seek a higher education. I took the opportunity to visit various restaurants with different ethnic foods which sparked my interest in learning about other cultures besides my own. Being enriched with knowledge of different cultures pushed me to learn and understand other human beings and their upbringings. The diversity that I was exposed to encouraged me to major in psychology, the study of the human mind. Attending musical plays like Wicked and the Sound of Music fueled my interest to sing because just imagining the amount of effort the singers dedicated inspired me to do the same for my performances. I was also able to travel to the east coast and Northern California which motivated me to put more thought in what I looked for in a college and gain the experience of what it's like to be away from home. Being away from home for a couple of days gave me a sense of independence and the time to socialize with other students who were on the same boat.

Above all else, the Partnership Scholars Program arranged a college retreat at USC where I was able to stay at a dorm. The next day, I was enriched with knowledge about financial aid and paired with a mentor to help me craft my college application. My favorite part was being able to talk to a panel of alumni and adults with different careers. I drew inspiration and motivation from listening to stories about the determination and dedication one had to put forth in order to achieve their goals. It's made me want to go beyond my enclosed community reach beyond my expectations.

Entering CSU Dominguez Hills, fall 2019

Sponsor: Chet Pipkin, Pipkin Charitable Foundation

Mentor: Mary Little

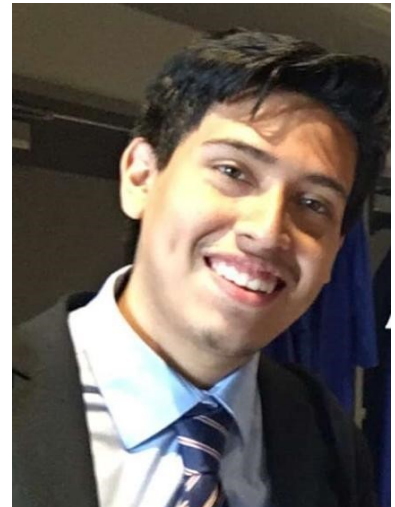


Kevin

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Wiseburn Region



My name is Kevin and I attended Da Vinci Design High School. The college that I have decided to attend is Marymount California University in the fall where I intend to double major in psychology and business management. I chose psychology as one of my intended majors as I have always held a passion and aptitude for the subject. For me, majoring in Psychology is just one step of my many on the way to achieving my desired career as an occupational therapist. My desire to become an occupational therapist stems from my sister, who had introduced me to the world of psychology as well as my mother, whose own past experiences with depression motivated me to become a psychologist. I also plan to major in business as I believe that it is a useful skill set to obtain and will open a plethora of opportunities for me in the future. Towards the start of my time with PSP, my personality tended to be more shy and timid, often doubtful and pessimistic about my future and whether I would get into a good college and overcome the financial burden. Over the years now, I have become more confident and positive about where I am going. I believe by attending Marymount California University in the fall, it means yet another opportunity for me to continue to grow as a person, not only academically but emotionally. To learn more about myself and expand on my different passions in life.

My mentor is Jesus Herrera and he has been my mentor for about 4 years now, since my first year of high school. Over the years, Jesus has become not only a major source of academic support, but personal as well. Jesus has taken me and the other mentees to numerous colleges throughout the state as a means of motivating me to explore my options and not limit myself. Apart from colleges, my most memorable outing with my mentor was when he had taken us to Palos Verdes, in an overlooking a beautiful cliff that sat just above the Pacific Ocean. For me, this was particular memorable not only due to the scenic beauty that stood before us, but. Our mentor had told us that we had just but a few months left in the program. For me, it was definitely a bittersweet moment as even though we were together we knew that our time in the scholarship was limited. Though it may have been sad to hear, I am so grateful to have Jesus as my mentor and my fellow scholars in my life as we are a family more than anything else.

Partnership Scholars Program has helped me in a variety of ways to prepare and guide me during these past six years of my life. One moment in particular in which they helped me greatly was during the college retreats as I was able to receive useful information over the college application process as well as financial aid, information I took into account when it was time for me to begin applying. Not only has the scholarship provided me with guidance during the application process, they have provided me with the chance to travel outside my hometown, to different cities all across the nation and take a glimpse at the countless of opportunities that await for me. Although my time as a PSP scholar will soon be over, my journey far from it. As I continue my studies at Marymount, I will always keep in mind my time in the program and be grateful for all the resources provided to get me where I am now. I will think of all the wonderful people I've met throughout my journey, my mentor, my fellow scholars, and be left with only beautiful memories as I say my final goodbyes. Ones that I will cherish forever.

Entering Marymount California University, fall 2019

Sponsor: Chet Pipkin, Pipkin Charitable Foundation

Mentor: Jesus Herrera



Andrew

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Wiseburn Region



My name is Andrew and I attended Da Vinci Science High School. I have decided to attend Mt. San Antonio College in the fall where I will be majoring in either Civil Engineering or Business. I chose the engineering major because I've liked building anything ever since I was little, laying with Legos. I would also like to try out businesses in case I don't not like the major Civil Engineering. Going to college in the fall is a huge accomplishment for me and my family. I am the first in my family to graduate from high school and go to college. I know that I am going to have fun in college and take it seriously so I can transfer over to Cal Poly Pomona.

My amazing mentor is Jesus Herrera and I'm so grateful for his time and dedication to me. He has done so much for me, like helping me write a cover letter/resume for an internship that I was applying to. He also shows that he cares a lot for us when he takes all of us out. He also shows his dedication for us to be successful at school and he also helped me on my Spanish homework. I appreciate the little things he does as he always asks how my day is going. I will say our relationship is pretty great, and I look forward to still be in contact with him even after the scholarship is over.

Being in PSP helped me decide on a career path because I was able to participate in various activities with my mentor. We would go to museums and participate in events. He also took us to Cal Poly Pomona and showed me the engineering departments. I love the race car that they made and I took a chance in the field. He also pushes me with PSP to do my best in school and that really motivates me a lot. Another way PS motivated me was that they got me a math tutor when I needed it back in sophomore year. I want to thank PSP for doing that because it boosted my grade up when I was failing the class.

Entering Mount San Antonio College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Chet Pipkin, Pipkin Charitable Foundation

Mentor: Jesus Herrera



Stephanie

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2019

Wiseburn Region



When I was in the seventh grade, I applied for and was selected to become a participant of the Partnership Scholars Program. The program is aimed at low-income, first generation students of color. Their goal is to help PSP scholars get into a four year institution. Throughout the years, they have paired me up with a mentor and group of five other girls to go on outings to places such as museums, musical theaters, and the opera.

When I was in the eighth grade, I attended the Lion King Musical in Los Angeles for the first time with my mentor and five other girls. When I stepped into the theater, I felt out of place. The people around me used words that I did not understand and were obviously well read and wealthy. PSP was able to expose me to a world that I thought was only attainable to the privileged and rich. So I thought to myself, *maybe I can afford to come here when I'm older if I work hard throughout my educational career.*

During that same year, I was called into the PSP office to take an entrance exam into Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth. After I took the exam, I scored better than 33% of 12th graders in the English portion of the standardized exam and was accepted as a scholar. I was able to attend summer programs at prestigious colleges and meet people from all over the world. I finally understood that college was definitely attainable I would just have to work harder than I ever had.

Fortunately, PSP was one of my greatest resources throughout high school. PSP was also able to get me my first fully working laptop and school supplies to set me up for success in high school. Without PSP, my academic playing field would not have been leveled enough for me to succeed. I am grateful for the opportunities PSP gave me in order to leap over my academic hurdles.

Entering Dickinson College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Chet Pipkin, Pipkin Charitable Foundation

Mentor: Mary Little



Victor

Partnership Scholar Class of 2019 Wiseburn Region



My name is Victor and I went to Da Vinci Design High School for all four years. I have enrolled and will be attending El Camino College for two years before transferring to CSU Long Beach. My plan by taking this educational route, is to prepare myself at El Camino in computer aided design and drawing fundamentals. By doing this, I will be prepared to tackle the last two years at Long Beach in order to get my Bachelor's degree in Industrial Design. The reason I chose this degree is because it is the most affordable option in order to become an Automotive Designer. After receiving this degree, I plan on going to either an art school or another college in order to get my Masters in Transportation Design/Automotive Design. Once I get these two degrees, I'll be able to design a wide range of cars for a selection of car companies/design firms all over the world. Being accepted and enrolled into a college is both the best feeling in the world and a huge accomplishment for both me and all those who are responsible for keeping me on the track of success. As I am the first of my generation and family to do so, I am full of pride to be able to pursue a higher education in order to be successful. I hope my story and hard work serves as motivation for my younger brother and my entire lineage to push the boundaries society has placed them in order to reach their full potential moving forward. In the seventh grade, PSP had a presentation at my middle school which I was invited to join. I was intrigued by what PSP had to offer to those who were motivated and had the drive to pursue higher learning after high school. I was thinking on applying but it was only after my friend, who is now my fellow scholar, had convinced me to submit my application. Interviews began for those who applied and slowly, the number of people who applied dwindled down to about eight. Then, I was one of the lucky five who won the spot to join PSP as a scholar. I feel like I've grown so much as a person, I'm able to dream big and to feel more confidently in myself.

My mentor is Jesus Herrera and since the day we met, we've all been close. Every time we go on outings, I get to talk to him about everything, both personal and academic matters. I feel comfortable talking to him about my problems and my successes. I rely on him for all sort of advice and insight moving forward as an adult. He is a source of inspiration and I cannot think of anyone else who could fit the role more perfect than him. We've shared so many fond memories throughout my high school year, it's almost hard for me to even begin to choose. However I think that my most memorable outing with him was when we went to Chinatown over Christmas break last year. We ate at a Chinese restaurant and talked about what we've accomplished so far in senior year. The food was really good and after that, we went strolling around the block. It was at night and something about the atmosphere was special. I love the Chinese buildings there and the businesses had neon signs that made the scenery so much cooler. We got to go through alleyways and took some rather sweet pictures. Then we went to get pastries at a local bakery. From there, we got to go to the Chinese light festival where various lights were on display made up of different creatures. I was in awe throughout the entire time that we were there.

Being a part of PSP has helped me strengthened my feelings for the career that I want to pursue after college. It even helped me believe in a chance at higher education. The degree I want and the chance that I would be in route to have it would have been all a dream. I remember going to the Art Center College of Design with my mentor and seeing all the cars that graduates and alumni students have created all throughout the school. This inspired me and helped me to fall deeper in love with the reality of receiving a degree in Automotive Design. That day, I felt something deep inside that the passion and love of cars I have was something that could be tangible. That day, I lost all uncertainty about what I wanted to be.

Entering El Camino College, fall 2019

Sponsor: Chet Pipkin, Pipkin Charitable Foundation

Mentor: Jesus Herrera

