



Congratulations Partnership Scholars Graduate, Class of 2024!

Aaron

Mentor: Christian Diaz | El Monte Region



When I first joined PSP I was just a regular little kid, a little shy, but not too much. I could hold a conversation with someone if I had to but I usually kept to myself. Now, six years later I find myself a little more out there. I go out and try to make friends. With how much I've done with PSP I have found that I have matured too. I don't feel as scared at facing new things as I did six years ago. That said, I will attend Cal State Fullerton and major in criminal justice/criminology. I chose criminal justice because after my 4 years at a regular university I want to attend a law school and become a lawyer. I don't know if I want to be a prosecutor or a defense attorney yet though. Going to college feels like just another step in my life and the biggest change in my life ever, but I know I am ready to go and I am so lucky to be going.

Having Christian Diaz as my mentor was one of the greatest things to ever happen to me in my entire life. I could never ever imagine him not being my mentor. He is just the best. I just feel like me and my fellow mentee Frankie just have this special connection with him. Like I can talk to him about anything and he could guide me through anything. He is a very smart, friendly, and wise man, and I cherish the time we have spent together as Mentor and Mentee. One particular outing I am fond of the most is our recent trip to Shen Yun. I just enjoyed talking with him and Frankie the entire time, messing around and joking about the play. To be honest, I can't think of a favorite outing but I know that my favorite part of every outing is the car ride and talking with him and Frankie. Christian has always been a help with my academic studies. He encourages me and Frankie all the time, always giving us reminders about stuff that is due when he doesn't have to. He is always there to give some good wisdom.

Next year I will be attending California State University at Fullerton! I am beyond excited to take this step towards the next part of my life. Throughout my time in PSP I have been to many great and wonderful places, each experience shaping the person I am today. While this is a close by college, this will not stop me from seeing the world. PSP has shown me that the world is my oyster and I can accomplish anything so long as I put hard work and effort into it. Learning about studying abroad from my trip to Boston perked my interest so maybe even though I am going to this college I can still go out and get that taste of adventure. I want to thank PSP and all those that are a part of it - Lisa, Maria, Alma- for all the hard work they do for this program. I hope they know all the good they've done for me and my fellow scholars. Can't believe they put up with me for 6 years!

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Cecilia

Mentors: Michelle Brantley & Issa Hernandez | Lennox Region



The first time I was up in front of a crowd, giving a speech for PSP, was for our welcoming into the program. Although then I had no true idea what PSP meant, I can tell you all now, from my 6 years of experience, it is a transformative journey. I must say that at first, I was really into the idea of getting to try new restaurants every month. However, I quickly learned that this program was more than that. Through PSP, I was given the opportunity to take part in activities otherwise I would have never dreamed possible. I went to my first ballet, amusement park, and even steak house; I went to different states, explored colleges, and most of all, built relationships with my fellow scholars and mentors.

As our senior year comes to an end, I have nothing but gratitude toward everyone who was a part of this journey.

To both of my mentors, Ms. Brantley and Ms. Hernandez, you have served as amazing role models, constantly looking out for us and gracing us with your endless generosity and support. You encouraged us to go out of our comfort zones and experience new cultures. Although I do not plan on trying quail eggs or octopus again, you both gave me the confidence in exploring the unknown and inspired me to continue to seek new experiences that our world has to offer.

To Lisa and Maria, thank you for allowing us to be a part of this amazing program. Nothing you both do goes unnoticed and it is your support that has allowed us to accomplish so much. The many college retreats and PSP gatherings are memories we will treasure forever. You guided us through the college application journey, taught us about planning for our financial futures, and gave us the support we needed as first generation students. I think I can speak for everyone when I say you both are the glue that keeps us all together.

To my fellow scholars, it was an amazing experience being able to grow alongside you all. Trying new things was not as scary while having you all by my side. We found comfort within each other and built strong bonds that survived long plane rides, therefore, I am sure they will withstand and grow stronger with time.

Six years went by too fast, but I am grateful for all the experience and memories made throughout my time here. Although I initially began the program as a timid seventh grader with the dream of attending college, PSP nurtured that desire and has allowed me to transform that idea into a reality, one that will be commencing this fall at Stanford university.

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Denzel

Mentors: Michelle Brantley & Issa Hernandez | Lennox Region



I have decided to attend UC Merced where I plan on majoring in nursing. I chose this major because I was heavily influenced by the career my mom had in Mexico; one that she was not able to continue here in the US. I believe that attending college will make my mom and dad the proudest, and majoring in nursing will make my mother feel like the proudest mother ever.

Going to college this fall means everything to me. It's not only a huge accomplishment for me, but for my whole family. I know that attending college will make all the early mornings my dad had to wake up to go to work worth it. All the foods my mom cooked and the countless days as a little kid helping with homework were worth it. Attending college will also set an example for my whole family. No one in my family has attended college. In doing so, I will set an example not only for my siblings but for my cousins as well.

Michelle Brantley has been my mentor for about 2 years and I appreciate her time and dedication. She has 4 scholars which I'm sure isn't easy but she still does her best in taking us all out and sharing her knowledge with us all. My most memorable outing I would say is when we stayed at USC for about 3 days. We had just gotten her as a mentor and spending those 3 days with her we got to learn a lot about her and how things would be with her for the rest of our time together. For me personally she helped a lot with college. From her personal experience with college Ms. Brantley showed me that college was going to be expensive and the importance of choosing the right college. I was blinded by the idea of going to college and didn't take into account the cost but she shared with me her process and how much money she ended up owing which opened my eyes which I will forever remember.

The PSP experience that helped me decide on a college was the trip to the Pacific Northwest. I had never visited Oregon nor Washington, and visiting changed my view on everything. This trip influenced my application submissions and most of the colleges I applied to were colleges in Oregon and a few in Washington. I didn't visit the college I am going to attend but I did get to visit the place I want to attend college in, which is Oregon and specifically in the city of Portland. This trip created a love for the Pacific Northwest that made me ready to want to live over there and spend 4 years of my life there.

PSP's support has been extremely helpful. Countless outings made possible by PSP showed me what I had been missing out on. From going to my first plays ever or even my first basketball game, they allowed me to see things I had never seen before. These are things I wouldn't have ever known what they were like if it weren't for PSP. Also attending workshops and staying overnight at USC were things I had never done on my own and are experiences that heavily influenced my mindset about college. Overall PSP made the acceptance of 6 colleges in Oregon/Washington possible along with acceptances from other colleges as well.

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Francess

Mentors: Anna Nguyen & Jackie Donato | El Monte Region



After graduation, I plan to attend Rio Hondo to earn my Associates Degree in nursing. Afterward, I'll transfer to a four-year college for my Bachelor of Science in Nursing. As an aspiring nurse, my goal is to enhance my community's well-being by promoting health, preventing illness and supporting patients during their journey of recovery. My ambition is to fill the gap of underrepresentation of Latinos in the medical field. I hope to contribute to the improvement of healthcare services and make an impact throughout my community, while also making my family proud.

Throughout my years in PSP I have had the privilege of having two mentors who have made a significant influence on my experience in this program. My first mentor, Jackie, was the first person to take me out of my comfort zone to try new experiences like pottery, watching theater, trying new foods, and working in community service. Even when it got hard to connect with each other through the pandemic, she always provided us with the resources necessary to explore our interests in colleges.

My current mentor Anna has been an incredible counselor when it comes to guiding me to be a better student and individual in my personal life. Anyone who knows Anna knows that she is the kind hearted individual that never fails to put a smile on her face and those around her. When I have any academic struggle she never fails to guide me through them and create a plan of action. She has been a main source of motivation throughout my senior year, and overwhelming. Although I will be leaving them, their memories and then important lessons they taught me will stick with me forever.

PSP has had a significant impact on my journey while preparing for college. I most vividly remember attending a college tour in Oregon and Washington during my sophomore year. This outing broadened my perspective on the world to different cultures, realities and backgrounds. Before joining the program, I had a general idea of my goals and aspirations but lacked a clear roadmap to achieve them. The college prep program fostered a supportive community of like-minded individuals with other motivated students who shared similar ambitions. Through personalized counseling, resources, and a supportive community this program has allowed me to unlock my potential and to further achieve my goals.

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Frankie

Mentor: Christian Diaz | El Monte Region



The PSP program has impacted my life in such a substantial way and it has honestly improved my life. My personality going into PSP was very introverted. Throughout the years PSP helped me break out of my shell and become extroverted throughout the whole 6 years of being in this program. I will be attending Cal State University, Los Angeles in the Fall and majoring in mechanical engineering since I want to pursue a career in building cars. I chose this major because I enjoy automobiles and what goes into manufacturing and building different models. I hope to become an automotive technician. Going to college is such a blessing and it means so much to me because it shows that I can do anything I put my mind to.

My mentor is Christian Diaz and my relationship with my mentor has grown dramatically over the years we have really created a bond with each other and I can easily call him my best friend. At first, I was shy in his presence, but as time passed I learned that I could trust and build a relationship with him. My most memorable outing together was going on the PSP college tour to Boston and exploring a new environment out-of-state with new people. He was right by my side and honestly my most memorable and cherished moments are with him. He has been there by my side and has helped me through many troubled times of mental breakdowns and hard times with my family. I could easily reach out and talk to him. He has been there to help read over my essays and honestly, it's a blessing to have him in my life and I wouldn't have any other mentor.

PSP has done a lot to help me explore different cultures, foods, trips, and colleges and assisted with opening up different options for career paths. All the informative workshops and all the quizzes that would allow us to see what career path matches our characteristics have been beneficial. We didn't visit the college I will attend but I plan to visit before I start. We visited many amazing and beautiful colleges such as USC, CALTECH, UCLA, UCI, and others that have allowed me to explore my options, as those were a few of my dream colleges. This allowed me to see the campuses and explore their environments. PSP has supported me through these past six years in the program and has allowed me to explore so many places that I wouldn't even think of going to like Washington DC, Boston, and soon New York. It has also helped me meet other scholars who have become my friends from Lennox. PSP has supported me financially, including my college applications, outings, and workshops that have helped me tremendously.

I'm honestly very grateful for the amazing opportunity being part of PSP has brought to my life. I am thankful and appreciative for all this program has done for every single one of the scholars because without this program it would have been very confusing navigating the entire college application process and other high school duties. Without this program, I feel like I would be a very different person than I am today. It has opened so many doors and for that I am appreciative. Thank you for everything PSP!

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Hannan

Mentor: Ryan Smith | El Monte Region



When I was inducted into PSP, I was quite timid and lacked both knowledge and experience in various topics of culture and media. As I progressed through the program, I became more confident as a result of participating in group activities involving topics such as financial literacy and productivity skills workshops with scholars from partner schools. I recall being so shy and nervous that I never looked at people's eyes while talking, but now it comes naturally for me after gaining more confidence.

I am excited to begin majoring in Electrical Engineering at UCLA. I chose this field because it appeals to my curiosity and passion for tinkering to create and modify things. Electrical engineering will allow me to incorporate various new techniques in my future projects. Nonetheless, I hope that one day I will be able to share these invaluable experiences with my family.

Over the course of this program, I've been able to develop my relationship with my mentor Ryan Smith. I'm extremely grateful to him for his support and guidance. He has always been ready to support my scholar partner Johnny and I, whether it is with advice, encouragement, recommendation letters, supplies, outings, or just someone to talk to when times are rough—like during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I cherish every outing we've been on, each with its own unique and happy memories. For me, the most memorable and unique outing was when we went to see *The Lion King* musical at the Pantages Theater. On that day, I drank an overpriced shot of espresso from an Italian restaurant named Fabiolus Cucina before enjoying a fantastic musical in a grand theater, only to have to run in torrential, hurricane-like rain to our car that was in a suspicious parking lot. As we drove home, half the city was blacked-out and we drove through very deep puddles that could have caused hydroplaning. What makes this outing memorable is the sense of adventure I got from the many unfamiliar events that occurred—none of which I would've experienced had I been home. Overall, I've become more familiar with various ethnic foods, sports, music, colleges, and other tidbits of life my mentor would share as we drove between locations.

The Summer Retreats and out-of-state trips that PSP organized (things that I never could have done on my own) played a pivotal role in helping me decide which school I wanted to attend. I was able to gain valuable insight about different forms of campus life. A personal tour of UCLA and the experiences I gained from PSP ultimately solidified my decision to attend UCLA, in accordance with financial aid. Understanding various cultures and socializing with other students have been incredibly helpful to me as I will be able to work more easily with different clubs and students during my time in college. PSP has helped me grow and organize myself as I become a young adult. The guidance and support provided by PSP have prepared me for success in high school and beyond. I am now eager to see how I will grow during my time in college.

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Heileen

Mentors: Barbara Buelow & Rocio Rodriguez | Lennox Region



Six years ago, 12-year-old me was granted the privilege to be a part of the Partnership Scholars Program. At that time, I was just this little shy girl with big ambitions to one day become the greatest version of myself by doing well in school for a pursuit of greater education. Over the past six years I have grown so much as an individual. I have gained more confidence, have had the courage to try things that tend to scare me, and have had the opportunity to get exposed to new experiences like museums, sporting events, new foods and even traveling to cities like Chicago and Boston.

I have decided to commit to UC Irvine majoring in Psychology. Growing up I always knew that I wanted to major in something that would give me the opportunity to have

a job where I can help others or give back to others. I chose Psychology because I knew that it was going to allow me to do just that, and it is a plus that I love learning all about the human brain and why people do the things they do. Going to college has a very deep meaning because it is something that I have always wanted for myself and it is my goal to set an example for all my younger siblings that if I can, they can too.

My mentors are Ms. Rocio Rodriguez and Ms. Barbara Buelow. I have had the honor to have them as my mentor for about three years since they basically 'adopted' me ever since my first mentor Ms. Ivie Sherman had to step out of the program. They are genuinely the most amazing human beings ever. Words cannot even describe how beyond grateful I am to have met such amazing mentors. They have guided me through hard moments of high school and have pretty much been my light at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to them and their efforts I have been able to see the world through different perspectives and see how cultures are each beautiful in their own ways. My favorite memories are always when we all go out to eat and get to have very intellectual conversations.

Being in PSP definitely influenced my college decision. If before I was a little hesitant about going to college, PSP really made sure to emphasize that college was the perfect outlet to greatness. Going on the PSP trips and retreats helped me make the decision that I most definitely wanted to go to college even if it wasn't going to be an easy process. Getting into an institution can be very competitive so I always tried my best at school. With PSP I was able to do a couple of volunteering jobs, one being that I was able to go to a community center in Culver City where we got to write really nice letters to older people for Christmas. That made me realize that it feels nice to be able to do kind gestures to others without expecting anything in return. With all that being said I owe PSP for getting me to where I am now as I'm about to partake in a new journey at UC Irvine, one of my dream schools.

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Ivan

Mentor: Jesus Herrera | Lennox Region



Joining PSP, I was very ambitious and I wasn't sure if my career choices matched my personality. I am now much more calm, collected and analytical about my career choices. I chose Dental Hygiene because it allows me to help people with an important aspect of their lives; their smile. Going to college is big for me because it is a massive learning step in my life, both academically and socially. It will jumpstart my desired career as well as provide many learning experiences that will help me towards self-improvement and development as a person.

My mentor was Mr. Jesus Herrera, He has been my mentor for the past 3 years.

Whenever I needed help with something and he was the person I needed to go to, he was always there. He made sure every experience we had was the best possible and made the trips so enjoyable. He was understanding and very empathetic. He was able to give advice when I asked for it. Our most memorable outing, in my opinion, was our Comic-Con trip. We were able to bond over similar interests. We then went to try new foods. I had never tried squid tacos in their ink before, nor had I tried squid ceviche, and it was such a unique and amazing experience to try them for the first time.

These past years were very unique and interesting, and they could not have happened without my mentor. Talking to PSP staff and my mentor helped a lot in my choices of career paths. I had a vague idea of what I wanted to do, but with every career choice I had, they helped me decide on what was best. After a few experiences and conversations, I decided on my career, as well as what college to attend since it is one of the few schools that offer the major I want to study in. We visited the college I am attending, and it was a very nice campus. The campus was nicely arranged and it was pretty easy to navigate.

PSP helped me a lot with the process of preparing for college, any financial needs I had, my FAFSA form, and financial advice. I never would have been as prepared as I was if it was not for them, as it was all new and I was able to submit many applications on time thanks to their reminders. They were what prepared me for college, helped me choose my career, and supported me each step of the way.

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Jacqueline

Mentor: Yesenia Alba | El Monte Region



I have decided to attend UC Berkeley in the fall, where I will be majoring in Civil Engineering. I was unsure of what major I wanted to pursue, therefore my majors ranged from Civil Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, and Nursing, depending on the school I was applying to. I have always had a great passion for math which is why I was leaning more towards engineering. UC Berkeley is the third best engineering school in the country, and #1 in my major! Having 6 older siblings, I am the first in my family to attend college, and the second to graduate high school. I have one younger brother, and I hope that my success motivates him to do just as well as I have. I am definitely looking forward to the new experience of living on my own without any of my family, although it will be very difficult for me coming from a very family oriented environment.

My mentor is Yesenia Alba, and she has been my mentor for the past 2 years. I am so grateful for the time she has put into us even with the stress of her recently becoming a teacher. Although we were often busy, she still managed to find a time and day in which we were free to go on an outing. My most memorable outing was definitely visiting Catalina Island. Since the trip lasted all day, we were all able to bond and create first time experiences with each other, like going in a submarine and seeing dolphins. Since she is a pescatarian, I became more curious and confident in trying different seafoods, which I previously would have NEVER done. I know that if I ever need any guidance throughout my college life, she is someone I can turn to.

Being in PSP definitely helped me pick what kind of school environment I would want to attend. Having the opportunity of visiting colleges around the country, as well as being able to experience dorm life, changed my viewpoint of the world. Before PSP, all I had ever experienced was the SoCal life. Visiting the Pacific Northwest with PSP encouraged me to want to travel the world since it was so green and full of life! Visiting small private schools, and larger public schools contributed to my choice of wanting to attend a big school with a great social life. Overall, PSP greatly impacted the immense motivation that I have to succeed in school, and now I am moving away to UC Berkeley, the first ever UC, with an acceptance rate of 11.3%!

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Jazmin

Mentors: Anna Nguyen & Jackie Donato | El Monte Region



When I first joined PSP I was nervous because this was the first program that I worked hard to get into. I knew getting into this program was my first step toward getting help with my future plans and goals. Over the past six years, I have opened up by learning how to communicate with others well and make sure to ask for assistance as I was going through my high school experience. I recently decided to commit to Rio Hondo College where I will be completing my general education degree in two years. Then I am planning to transfer into a 4-year university to finish my last two years in a nursing program to receive a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. I grew up seeing nurses all over the world helping to make a difference in people's lives and I've always wanted to give back to my community and the world. I am fascinated to learn more about the body and humans in order to help improve people's lives. Seeing my mother as a CNA also gave me motivation to not just stop there, but continue to the next step of becoming a registered nurse. I am really nervous for my first year in college, but motivated to work hard in order to transfer and reach my dreams and goals.

My first mentor was Jackie Caceres, who was my mentor the first four years I was in PSP. I was so grateful to have such a loving and caring mentor who I grew a strong relationship with over the years. She was always so supportive and made sure to let me know that she was there if I ever needed anything. The most memorable outings were when we tried a variety of different foods during our time together. We would always look forward to trying new foods because we all grew to agree that we were "foodies." We have tried Thai food, a variety of different fast food restaurants, Brazilian/Argentinian food, and Korean food and so much more. Sadly, our time together did stop when our mentor got pregnant and had to step down as a mentor, but it wasn't too sad seeing that a blessing came into her life. This past year I got paired up with a new mentor named Anna Nguyen. From the first time I met her she had such a positive attitude and I knew that we would be making a lot of new memories together. She has been so supportive and makes sure to stay on top of everything. I am really looking forward to overall ending this last year with her and growing a stronger bond.

Being in PSP helped me decide on a career path because specifically on February 9th, 2021 our group got to meet Dr. Ashley Gray who was really lovely and sweet, and gave us so many tips and advice to have in mind about being in the medical field. I didn't only get an opportunity like this one from PSP, but so much more. Being in PSP also gave me the opportunity to visit a lot of different colleges and universities. I was able to visit not only community colleges but Cal States, UCs, and even privates. I was also given the opportunity to not only visit campuses in California, but outside of California. For example, we toured colleges in Pacific Northwest. We were able to visit colleges in Oregon and Washington state including Seattle University, University of Oregon, and Willamette University and so many others. I loved that we didn't only get the opportunity to visit colleges but also sights like the famous Space Needle in Seattle. PSP also offered me the opportunity for extra help financially and mentally with workshops that really did help as I was able to take multiple skills with me. Overall, PSP gave me the tools I needed to thrive in my academics, and now I'm off to UC San Diego.

Next Stop:

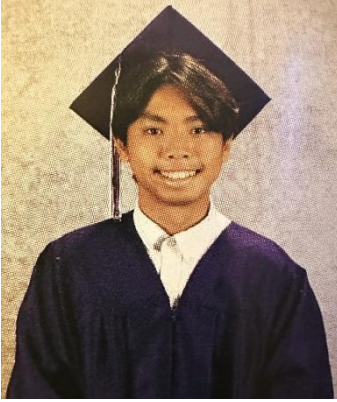




Congratulations Partnership Scholars Graduate, Class of 2024!

Johnny

Mentor: Ryan Smith | El Monte Region



When first being inducted into PSP, I was a very shy and socially awkward student who lacked the knowledge of college and different cultural structures surrounding me. When first joining the program I considered myself to be a weird kid, and quite frankly I still am, but over the past 6 years, I have been able to compose myself and communicate with others in a professional and controlled manner.

My connections with my PSP friends and mentor have tremendously grown over the past 6 years and these are the people that I deem dearest to me to this day. With each outing and event with PSP, I and my PSP partner Hannan have been able to grow into a better and bigger version of ourselves. Over these past 6-years in the program, I have been able to get close to my mentor, Ryan Smith. Ryan is the best mentor we could have ever asked for and

we always cherish the moments that we spent together. Although we all faced the adversaries of Covid-19, we still did the best that we could.

My most memorable outing was watching the Lion King at the Pantages theater. What made this day so special was it was during California's biggest storm. We were walking through the heavy rain and wind and it just made it so memorable because we laughed as we ran through puddles. What was even crazier was the power outage we witnessed on the way back. Another memorable outing was laser tag with Christian's group, and oh boy was it a workout. It made me ecstatic to see that we could all smile and be super competitive with each other. These outings have let me experience things I normally wouldn't do, see the different cultures around me, try different activities, and have true one on one bonding with others.

The trips that I found to be the most rewarding and enjoyable were the out-of-state trips. We went on many college tours outside of California and this gave me some insight into whether or not I wanted to go to college outside of California, and what life was like as well. Ultimately, I decided that I wanted to stay in a state where things were more familiar to me and where I could easily go home to family and friends.

I have decided to commit to the University of California, Irvine, where I will be majoring in Electrical Engineering. I decided to major in the field because ever since I joined the Solar Creations club at my school, I have developed this profound interest for electrical engineering. Seeing how each component comes together and powers one another fascinated me. It may not be an easy path. I hope to one day see that my efforts can change the lives of people.

Through previous PSP alumni I have been able to get private tours of UCI. UCI may have not been my first option, but I fell in love with the beauty of the campus, the overall layout, and what they have to offer within the community.

PSP has nurtured me through various downturns and upturns that have shaped us into the young adults we are becoming. We are at the stage where we have to be more mature than ever and make critical decisions in our lives in which PSP has aided us in taking those steps. We all are heading off into our own paths and we may never see each other again, and with that I thank everyone for what they have done for me, the memories that we had together, and I wish everyone luck with their future endeavors.

Next Stop:

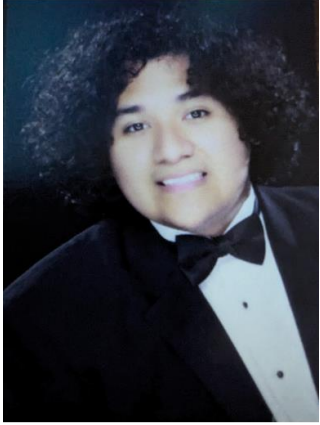




Congratulations Partnership Scholars Graduate, Class of 2024!

Joshua

Mentors: Mark and Barbara Lurie | Lennox Region



I will be attending San Jose State University and majoring in biomedical engineering. I want to major in biomedical engineering because I want to be able to help people live a normal life even if it isn't easily done. Being able to go to college this fall will be more than just a simple achievement. It represents the end of a long journey that my parents have wanted me to take for a long time. In addition, it is the beginning of a different journey that will take me to a new point in my life. Due to my parents not having degrees, they view a college degree as a symbol of safety, being able to say "I made it."

My mentors are Mark and Barb Lurie. I am grateful for every moment of time that we are able to spend together. Mark and Barb have allowed me to learn more about the world than I would have been able to by myself. In addition, it helps that they are quite knowledgeable about a lot of aspects about the greater world that I, and a lot of people in my life, aren't able to answer by ourselves. They are always quite supportive and more than willing to lend a hand or help with an idea. It is honestly difficult to hone down just 1 option of the dozens of outings we've had over our time together to say it was my favorite. Some highlights, however, are our trip to San Diego to see the colleges there, our cooking outing where we made different recipes, and our various outings to different fairs. Along with all of this, Mark and Barb are more than willing to take time out of their day to assist with any academic problems that I may have. They often have conversations with me about college and how to make the most of my education there

By the nature of PSP, it would have been impossible to get as far as I have in terms of college preparedness without them. While my parents have some experience with college, we would not have the proper education necessary to get all the necessary information and funding. If I were to remember PSP's impact on my career, I would not lie when saying it was large. While I wanted to be a Biomedical Engineer for different reasons, experiences from my mentors have helped solidify this career path.

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Josue

Mentor: Jesus Herrera | Lennox Region



When I joined PSP I didn't feel prepared for college. I didn't even know there were many different colleges with their own features that made them so different from one another. But now I'm confident to say that over time PSP has built up my confidence to be ready for college and what lies ahead. I have decided to attend UC Merced in the fall, where I will be majoring in Biology. I chose this major because I'm interested in becoming a physical therapist after college. Going to college makes me proud because of what it means for me and my family, who have worked hard to provide me with this opportunity for a higher education. To my parents, thank you for your love and support.

My mentor is Jesus Herrera, and I'm so grateful for his time and dedication to me. He has been there for me through academic and personal challenges. An example of this would be when I was applying to college and I needed help writing my supplementary essay, he was there. And when I needed someone to hear me out, he was there, and even more recently when I was stressed about which college I wanted to go to he listened. There are many more examples of Jesus being a mentor who was there for me when I had questions but no one to answer. Thank you for being there.

Meeting my mentor and being able to even decide on my career path stem back to here with PSP. Specifically the Oregon trip that made my brain click and realize I'm actually going to college, I'm on that path and there is nothing that can prevent me from getting to my goal. But why specifically the Oregon trip, I believe that it's because the work that I had put in felt visualized as the plane lifted off the ground and I soared somewhere new that I had never been before and it was for my education. I thank the PSP for allowing me to have this and the many experiences that will always be in my memories since they expanded my horizons of understanding the world around me that I would have never been able to experience before.

Next Stop:





Congratulations Partnership Scholars Graduate, Class of 2024!

Katherine

Mentor: Yesenia Alba | El Monte Region



Right before I knew about the Partnership Scholars Program, I was an extremely timid 7th grader at Charles T. Kranz Intermediate School. At the time, I hadn't been thinking about my future and never thought about pursuing higher education at a 4-year university as it wasn't something commonly talked about with my family. I just knew I had to do something to better the outcome of my life and support my family, and that was when I stumbled across PSP. Over the past 6 years within PSP, I've flourished into someone stronger, independent, and knowledgeable about all things, and no longer that small 7th grader.

In the fall of 2024, I will be attending the University of Southern California (USC) while majoring in Mechanical Engineering at the Viterbi School of Engineering. I decided to pursue this major as I fell in love with the concepts of designing and facing trial and error to improve people's lives. With this, I plan to find a career path within the aerospace or automotive industry. Going to college in the fall shows that all the hard work from my family and I has paid off to better our lives in every aspect and that anything is possible if the effort is applied.

Yesenia Alba has been my mentor for the past three years, providing me with guidance and support in my life. I am forever grateful for her dedication and time for us while maintaining her busy schedule. My most memorable outing is a tie between going to Catalina Island with her as it was the first time I had ever been on a boat, and going to S'moreology after eating dinner because I got to learn about her experiences on both outings and think about the future. Going on outings with her has always helped relieve stress as it was refreshing to talk to someone like her. Plus, we always tried new foods and constantly joked about getting Chicken Alfredo Pasta at every new place we visited.

During the Fall 2022 College Retreat held at USC, I was able to explore and learn about the campus while learning about useful information for college applications. This was the first time I've ever stepped foot on the future campus that I will be attending. Seeing how the atmosphere inside the campus changed from its surroundings while being located in a big city like LA was something I immediately noticed that I wanted for my future campus. Because of the retreat, I decided to apply to USC Early Action and received my admission in February. Because of the support from PSP, I've gained knowledge about managing personal finances, socializing, and needed steps and information regarding our plans for the future and college.

Through my years in PSP, I've changed for the better, while experiencing things that I would have never been able to do this early on in life, such as traveling for the first time out of California. I've had the enriching opportunities to visit places such as Philadelphia, Virginia, Maryland, and Massachusetts while creating unforgettable memories with other scholars. Without the help of PSP, I would have never thought about applying to schools like USC and becoming the person I am today with so many memories. As a PSP scholar, I've been able to gain confidence in my ability to be a person who is not defined by my financial situation and be able to chase my dreams of succeeding in life. With the support from PSP, I've been able to open my horizons for a better life.

Next Stop:





Congratulations Partnership Scholars Graduate, Class of 2024!

Nick

Mentor Mentors: Michelle Brantley & Issa Hernandez | Lennox Region



Before joining PSP, I was always a very quiet and timid kid who didn't enjoy socializing very much. Ever since joining PSP all of that has changed. All thanks to the help of the PSP staff and my mentor Michelle Brantley. Throughout my entire time in PSP I have had so many great opportunities that have helped me grow not only as a student but also as a person altogether. Thanks to the Partnership Scholars Program I have been able to go to my first play, go on an airplane for the first time, visit my first out of state college, and so much more. And throughout all of these fun activities PSP has helped and supported me in my journey to college. I thank them every day for how far I've come as both a student and a person.

Although Ms. Brantley wasn't my mentor from the start she still helped me become a more outgoing person by taking me on many fun outings. Although it was our last year and everyone's schedule was busy all year round, Ms. Brantley found a way to make time to take us to fun and new places. I remember when Ms. Brantley took us to watch the Nutcracker Play for the first time and I surprisingly liked it despite not having gone to many before then. All in all Ms. Brantley has helped make my experience with PSP so much better and helped make my last year fun.

Come this fall, I will be attending the University of California Los Angeles and I will be majoring in Electrical Engineering. I chose this major and this school for a number of reasons. I chose UCLA because I knew that I would get a very good education while staying pretty close to home. I also chose it because ever since I could remember, UCLA has been my dream school. Although many other schools caught my interest over the years, UCLA has always remained a top choice for me. As for my major, I have always wanted to be an electrical engineer. I first got introduced to engineering in middle school in my 7th grade engineering class and ever since then, my love for engineering has skyrocketed. I always loved how Engineering could be used to help others and that was the main reason I wanted to become an engineer. In high school, my love for Electrical Engineering skyrocketed. I had the pleasure of being taught by a really good teacher who made engineering fun and entertaining and his class is what introduced me into Electrical Engineering and all the different ways it could be used to help others.

Next Stop:

