

Carla P.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Fort Bragg High School



Being in the Partnership Scholars Program has been one of my biggest blessings. I would have never thought that in the 7th grade my life was going to change. Ever since I was little I've loved school and have always been pretty good at it; my teachers would always tell me I would go far in life and be would be able to go college. I didn't really know what that meant but the idea of "college" excited me. As I grew older I began to understand more and more about myself and my aspirations. In the 7th grade college seemed so far away, but I knew that with the help of PSP I would eventually be able to get there. The people I have met and places I've experience through PSP have helped mold me into the person I am today.

PSP has helped me realize how much I want to see the world and experience new and exciting things. Prior to the 7th grade the farthest away I had gone from home (Fort Bragg) was the one time I had gone to San Francisco for a few hours in the 5th grade, but thanks to PSP and my mentor I've seen so many new things, tasted new foods, and even gone to the east coast. The opportunities I have had are things I never would have thought possible, like going to New York City and seeing the Statue of Liberty or flying to LA to spend time on beautiful campuses to learn more about college.

I think that the reason I've taken advantage of every opportunity and helping hand that has come my way is because I know every moment I take in will help carve a better future, not only for me, but for my family.

In a short few months I will be attending University of San Diego and I don't know how I would have gotten to where I am today if it weren't for my family and PSP. I plan on majoring in Business and make the best out of my experience. I know that PSP has helped me step out of my comfort zone and feel ready to step out into the world on my own.

Entering University of San Diego, fall 2017

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Mina Cohen



Donna M.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Fort Bragg High School



When I first started the Partnership Scholars Program, I was a much different person. That 13 year old only spoke when she was asked to, only did what she was told, and observed everyone else. Today I am a senior at Fort Bragg High, patiently waiting for the day I become a nurse. When I first applied for this program I didn't know about it, but I am sure happy I did apply.

Being from a family whose vision of the future was working at the minimum, it was hard to believe that college was possible. When I visited my first college that type of thinking all went away. Not only has this program opened many doors of opportunity, but it has also created a dream for me.

In the past six years I have been able to do what I once only dreamt about. I got to attend a Warriors and Kings game which I never thought I would be able to do. I also got to go on a ferry to Alcatraz and it was an experience I will never forget.

I remember when I first met my mentor, Mina, it was a very awkward moment because I had never met her before. Over the years we have gotten to know each other very well, and she knows me as if we had known each other for years. That is something I never thought would happen, to meet a stranger and become close with them.

Mina wasn't the only one who made me grow as a person, I have to give lots of thanks to Rachel and Carol. They not only gave me several tips on public speaking, but they made me into the confident person I am today. Without that I would most likely be the same shy girl I was.

My future plans are to do my two general years at Mendocino College, and then transfer somewhere to finish nursing school.

Entering Mendocino College, fall 2017

Sponsor: Richard and Sue Masson

Mentor: Mina Cohen



Diamond B.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Hawthorne High School



Over the past six years, I experienced many things from being in the Partnership Scholars Program, PSP. These experiences have ranged from fun and transformative to disappointing and not so fun. I can truthfully say it has all helped me get ready to experience things in the real world. Coming into this program, it was different because I hadn't ever experienced anything like it before and I was truly grateful for being chosen as a scholar.

In the beginning of the program I hadn't thought much of it because I just assumed it would be a bunch of false promises for kids in middle school to get their hopes up about college. I was wrong and I was surprised because after six years of being in this program I do see the fundamental basis of a program such as PSP. I feel that some of the great experiences such as going to plays, performances, museums, trying new foods, and plane travel are what one should experience at the "learning" age because if they're not introduced to different things as a young student then they may never want to extend their knowledge outside of school and within the barriers of life. Such experiences have impacted my life because who knew that one day I would ever go to Chicago or Colorado to see what universities and lifestyles they have to offer. The great experiences I have been able to witness was one of the reasons I actually choose to go to a college out of state, because it made me realize that I cannot live my life in a box and expect myself to live up to my full potential.

As I am in the learning age still, this is my chance to experience life in a new and different state I have never been to. As for the negative experiences I have had in PSP, they weren't so bad but in a way they were vital to my experiences overall in PSP and the "real world." I say this because I had to deal with people whom I apparently did not get along with and I was being told to "enjoy myself" or to do something from a person that was put "in control." It was when I realized that growing up, I had never enjoyed many things because I was never able to. I had to just do what I was told to do with no regards of my opinion. I kind of grew up with nonchalant feelings or feelings of anger, so when people I did not know told me what to do I was kind of shaken at the whole situation. I never comprehended the idea that the people in PSP had good intentions for me and just wanted me to "enjoy myself." Moreover, that is why I say the negative experiences that I had in PSP were not so bad because they were mainly because I didn't understand the great intentions that this program had to offer.

Overall I believe PSP is an extravagant program for helping me gain real world experiences and subliminally helping me to understand that sometimes things will go my way and other times, although I may not like it, I have to deal and accept things that I cannot change or fix, causing me either to enjoy myself or ruin my experience. I would like to thank everyone in the Partnership Scholars Program for accompanying me within these past six years of extending my knowledge and for urging all of us scholars to pursue a higher education to achieve our dreams.

Entering Spelman College, fall 2017

Sponsor: David and Martha Ho

Mentor: Yadira Flores



Gabriela C.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Lennox Math, Science and
Technology Academy



The Partnership Scholars Program has allowed me to believe in myself and that I will always achieve what I want in the future. This program made it possible for me to travel to different states and visit various universities. These trips made it possible for me to experience different perspectives on how people live in other regions.

One visit in particular allowed me to visit Washington, D.C. where I visited historical sites such as the White House and the state capital in person. It opened my mind to thinking about a career in law and criminal justice. From listening to the tour guide it was made clear to me that the law needs more women in the field of criminal justice. In addition, through the Partnership Scholars Program, I have been able to expand my horizons beyond my small community by attending cultural events like concerts and museum shows as well as other activities like kayaking in the Newport Back Bay and designing a bird in a glass fusing class.

I am very thankful for being part of the Partnership scholar for the past six years. Partnership Scholars helped me believe in my own dreams. For example, I am thankful that PSP let me to apply to more colleges, to travel across the states, and go on adventurous places. Now that I am finished with high school, I am very excited to attend Cal State Northridge and majoring in something that I like, such as criminology, and working in the forensic laboratory. Then, when I am done with my four year university I am planning to be a mentor for Partnership Scholars as well. Also, my other plan is to be able to travel to every state in the U.S. Last of all, I am very thankful that I was a part of PSP for six

Entering CSU Northridge, fall 2017

Sponsor: Sheldon & Cindy Stone

Mentor: Ann Chaffey



Gisel C.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Mountain View High School



Over the past 6 years, PSP has contributed to the expansion of my knowledge through the various opportunities given to me. Not only has it contributed to the person I am today, but it has helped me appreciate the little things that a person can have.

PSP gave me a head start on a passion I have: traveling. Since I can remember, I always dreamt of traveling around the world to meet new people and see new cultures. With PSP, I was able to travel to the east coast, something I had only thought I would do once I was an adult. I was granted the opportunity to go to New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, and Washington DC. Though these trips were short, I was able to get the entire tourist package. Not only did I get to visit well known sites of each city, I also was able to visit many universities. I, unfortunately, did not apply to any of those universities, but I am content with going to UC Irvine, a university I believe will bring me even more opportunities

Being part of this program allowed me to realize how fortunate I am to have this opportunity. I realize how any other person could have this opportunity instead of me, and truly makes me wish I could share this experience with more people to help them achieve his/her goals. As I pursue a career in the medical field, I hope to be able to help those who seek and need help. I have been able to gain appreciation for the minimalist of things. Just being accepted by the PSP was a privilege, but to have lasted all 6 years is mind blowing. Every outing, no matter how extravagant or simple, helped me gain knowledge on a variety of fields as to prepare me for what is to come on the future.

Essentially, being in PSP gave me the privilege that not everyone has but also allowed me to begin my passions early on. I hope everything I have learned and experienced with PSP will aide me in my time at UC Irvine.

Entering UC Irvine, fall 2017

Sponsor: Richard and Sue Masson

Mentor: Teresa Gonzalez

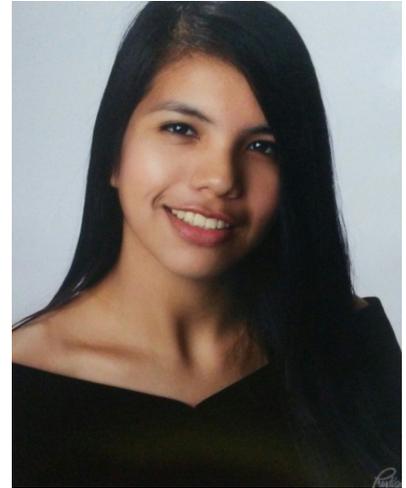


Amy D.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Hawthorne High School



I am very thankful for the opportunity to be part of the Partnership Scholars Program. Honestly, when I first heard about the program in seventh grade, I didn't really see the benefit of joining and was hesitant to apply. However, after I got accepted and started going on outings, I started to realize how many things I was missing out on because my parents either couldn't afford it or they didn't have time to take me out to experience new things. I went to a sporting event and watched a ballet for the first time after joining PSP and I was eager to go to more events. However, during my freshman year there was a time when I didn't have a mentor and stopped going on outings; I was upset, but in that time my appreciation for the program grew. The change of mentors was a difficult situation for me but it helped me gain experience dealing with unexpected circumstances and working with different people which will help me during my career.

One of the most valuable experiences I had during my years at PSP was my stay at UC Santa Cruz for the Center for Talented Youth Program. Not only did I get to tour the campus and take a class, but I got to know what it's like to have a roommate and dorm on campus. Even though I didn't end up applying to UC Santa Cruz, I can take my time there as an example of how my time at CSU Long Beach will be spent. Because of all the knowledge I learned through outings with my mentor, I am not exactly sure what I want to pursue as a career. Before I joined the program I was set on becoming a psychologist but after learning about many more career choices psychology is simply one of many choices.

Although my plans for the future are not completely set, I don't feel anxious about going to college because of the reassurance and guidance from my mentors and other scholars. I sincerely thank everyone at the PSP office and my mentors for making the six years I spent with PSP a lasting memory.

Entering CSU Long Beach, fall 2017

Sponsor: David and Martha Ho

Mentor: Yadira Flores

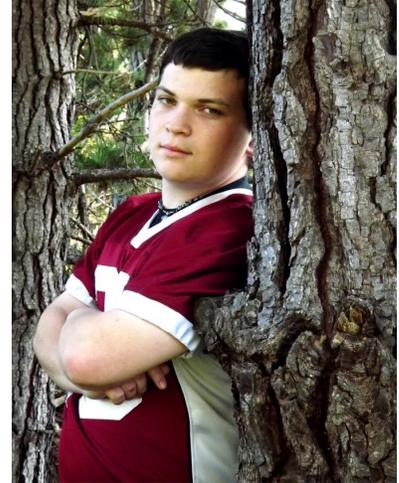


Damien D.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Mendocino High School



I honestly can't believe that it is already the end of my senior year, the end of my high school year, and the end of my PSP membership. After being part of the program for six years, six grueling years crawling towards the end goal of going to somewhere else to have a chance to better myself and my future, it is hard to imagine that my time with the blessed program would be coming to an end. This program changed me, no doubt about it, in ways that I see as positive and placed me in a state brighter than I was in when I was allowed the chance six years ago.

When I entered the program, I was in a dark place. Though I was very young at the time, I was ingrained with anger and hopelessness. I was borderline homeless, I had no love for pursuing college, and, most importantly, I lacked a figure that I could look up to, like a parent and tell myself, "I want to be like him." Though obviously PSP couldn't help me with my home life, they gave me a chance to solve the other two issues. When I entered the program, I was assigned to my mentors, Larry Sawyer and Harriet Bye, and I quickly became attached to these strangers. Larry and I spent a lot of time together and I quickly grew to respect him as a unique individual who I, as I still do, thought was the coolest person I had ever known. Larry quickly became the figure I looked up to in my life, and I constantly pursued matching his swagger.

But outside the figures that came from my mentors, PSP provided me direction in life. Like I said before, college was not on my mind when I entered the program. I simply did not believe in myself to get there. But PSP, simply by accepting me, showed me somebody believed I could do and be something better than forgotten trash. PSP supported me through my mentors, my sponsor, and constant activities that helped me when the college grind hit crunch time. Thanks to the PSP opportunity, my mentors, my fellow scholars, and the countless good people who aid the program, I'm happy that I can now look myself in the mirror, smile, and say, "You can be great, kid!".

Entering UC Santa Cruz, fall 2017

Sponsor: Glenn Langer

Mentor: Larry Sawyer



Abigail E.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Northview High School



I remember I found out about PSP scholarship from my older sister, and I decided to apply; little did I know that was the best decision of my life. PSP has pushed me to become the hard working and independent person I am today. The program has opened my eyes to more than just what life has to offer in El Monte. My fellow mentees and I have visited so many gorgeous college campuses and have traveled to places I never thought I'd ever have the privilege to see. I remember my first college trip with my co-mentees and it was to UC Santa Barbara. We explored UCSB as well as witnessed the beautiful mission in Santa Barbara, and I loved it. As we grew older we began to travel to farther locations such as San Francisco, Santa Cruz, Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, and Oregon.

PSP has opened many doors for me and given me a taste of what college life will be like for a first generation student like me. I have attended a couple of on-campus retreats at Claremont McKenna College and USC. These retreats were overnight stays and I was able to stay in the campus dorms and eat in the lounges. I heard amazing lectures on "college preparation" and what to expect when applying. With the help of PSP preparing me for college, I knew what to expect, and it even gave me an idea for what I'm looking for in a college.

Now that I'm a senior, wow! That went by fast, I have applied to numerous colleges across this great state of California. I will likely go to a community college and transfer to California State University at San Francisco for my remaining two years. I know I want to become a pediatric surgeon, and San Francisco State caught my eye when I visited it.

PSP has opened my eyes and made me realize that I can go somewhere amazing and become something huge, which I never thought would be possible. The program has pushed me mentally and has given me a reason to want to pursue my dream of becoming an M.D. I give all respect and many thanks to my sponsor for giving me the privilege to be a part of numerous amazing experiences these last six years as well as all the college campuses I visited. I was also allowed to try many new foods and experience the different regions of this great country. I want to give a big shout out to Ms. Osburn...she has been the most incredible, generous, caring and GREAT MENTOR to me, and I am grateful she is a part of my life.

PSP has been nothing but good to me, the program has supported my decisions, given me the help when needed, and has helped shape me into the hardworking young lady that I am today. Thank you to all PSP sponsors and the PSP staff, Maria and Lisa, for your support. Your hard work does not go unnoticed, and we, the PSP scholars, certainly appreciate all that you do. Thank you.

Entering Santa Monica College, fall 2017

Sponsor: Jennifer Hinman

Mentor: Camille Osburn



Mariana F.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Lennox Math, Science and
Technology Academy



PSP created a huge impact on my life over the past 6 years. This program gave me many opportunities that I know I would never experience otherwise. I grew up with a single mother and three younger brothers, one who has autism. This forced my mom to stay at home to care for him. With that being said, money was a huge obstacle for us because my mom couldn't work. The money she got from the government was used for rent, food, water, and necessary clothes. We never had the money to go out because money was always limited. Once I received this scholarship, I was able to go to museums, exhibits, restaurants, New York, and so on. I was also given the opportunity to visit colleges, which was amazing since I didn't know which school I wanted to go to. Overall, it gave me more motivation to pursue a higher education because I was exposed to all those opportunities. For example, I was able to see different colleges over the summer of 2016. Through this trip, I made up my mind which colleges I wanted to go to. I'm glad to say that I will be attending the University of California, Los Angeles, for the fall of 2017. Another opportunity that the Partnership Scholarship Program granted me was the opportunity to attend COSMOS for the summer of 2016. My mom wasn't able to pay for it because it was expensive, but the scholarship covered it. This summer program opened my eyes to what college is going to be like. I took a genetics class at COSMOS and I was the only Hispanic in the class. I was also the only one that didn't take AP Biology and genetic classes because they didn't offer it in my school. Through this program, I was able to be exposed to what I should expect in college.

Overall this scholarship, not only gave me opportunities and exposed me to new things, but it taught me the meaning of family and friendship. The mentees became close friends, while my mentor, Issa Hernandez became family. This is something that is going to stay with me forever and I couldn't thank Dr. Langer, Maria, Lisa, and the whole PSP board enough for this opportunity.

Entering UC Los Angeles, fall 2017

Sponsor: Dana Oder, Oder Family Foundation

Mentor: Issa Hernandez



Jessica G.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Ukiah High School



The Partnership Scholars Program has opened many doors for me and has motivated me to attend college by providing many opportunities for all the educational trips I was able to be part of, such as the Washington D.C. trip. I would have not been able to be part of these amazing trips because of my economic background. In addition, I really appreciated having a great mentor to not only guide me in the right path to college but also listen to me and help me when I needed her help. I have met a great amount of people and built many friendships that will last a lifetime.

Although, this year we are all going to different colleges we will continue to be in touch and visit one another when we are in school vacation. I will be attending Sonoma State University in order to succeed and expand my intellectual knowledge in the medical field. I have always wanted to be in the medical field to help people recover from illness, but I did not know what branch specifically I wanted to enroll in until this year. My junior year of high school I was fortunate enough to find out that senior students were able to sign up for the Medical Assisting class. I decided to apply and got accepted. Now I am a step ahead in the medical field before I begin college. I believe that I will pursue the career of a Family Nurse Practitioner, but I am open to career changes. I would not have been able to be where I am if it weren't for my amazing mentor support and the financial help this program provided me.

Entering CSU Sonoma, fall 2017

Sponsor: Malcolm & Sylvia Boyce

Mentor: Juanita-Joy Riddell



Mario G.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Animo Leadership

Charter High School



Hi, my name is Mario Gomez and I've been blessed with the opportunity to be a Partnership Scholar. Before this program, I knew I wanted to go to college, but I had no idea of the steps I was supposed to take to make it possible. In this program, I've gained literacy on how to be a qualified candidate for college.

At the two summer retreats that took place at Claremont McKenna and the University of Southern California, I learned about financial aid and the logistics of college applications. These retreats definitely prepared me for college applications because I was accepted to both of my dream schools. An opportunity that has significantly motivated me to work hard in school were the east coast college trips in Pennsylvania and Chicago. From these trips, I learned about the resources available to first generation students like me. Aside from college literacy, I met many talented and nice scholars whom I still remain friends with today.

The gratitude I have for my sponsors, mentors, and the people who coordinate this program cannot be explained with words. I aspire to become a lawyer in the future to defend people's rights- especially immigrants. Through the Partnership Scholars Program I've learned how to become an advocate for myself. I learned how to speak to my mentors and coordinators whenever I needed assistance. I earned more than a scholarship in this program, I earned a chance to live a better life by having many resources and benevolent individuals around me. My mentors in this program have pushed me to strive for my passions by remaining a strong and independent person. I will forever be grateful to the sponsors, mentors, coordinators, and scholars who motivated me to strive for success.

Entering UC Los Angeles, fall 2017

Sponsor: Donald & Pat Walter

Mentor: John Ely



Jazmine J.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

South El Monte High School



My name is Jazmine Johnson. I attend South El Monte High School and will be graduating this year, Class of 2017. I come from a low-income family and my goal is to be the first in my family to graduate from college. These six years in the Partnership Scholars Program have expanded my horizons by exposing me to social and academic experiences that I would not have normally done on my own. These experiences include trying cultural foods, adventurous activities, and academic visits to several colleges.

I have tried ethnic foods such as French, Cuban, Jewish, and Indian. My favorite dish is escargot and fettuccine with clams and mussels covered in squid ink. I had the opportunity to go see Wicked, The King and I, visit the Museum of Tolerance, and go sightseeing in San Francisco. One great adventure was going horseback riding up to the Hollywood sign. It was very exhilarating and thrilling, Another great adventure was when I went kayaking in Venice beach. I love the ocean and have a passion for marine life. A more recent experience was going backstage at SeaWorld and interacting with the dolphins. My passion for marine life and animals grew much more after these trips.

I went on two out of state trips, to Chicago, Illinois and New York. I had never been on a plane before, so it was very exciting for me! Some of the places we visited were Millennium Park, The Magnificent Mile, Willis Tower Observatory, Navy Pier on Lake Michigan, Museum of Natural History, Adler Planetarium, the Empire State Building Observatory, took the Staten Island Ferry, Central Park, and Times Square. The universities we toured were Loyola University, University of Chicago, Northwestern University, and Wheaton College, Columbia University, Sarah Lawrence College and New York University. These colleges made an impression on me and played a role when applying to colleges.

Entering Azusa Pacific University, fall 2017

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Jeff Morris



Noemi J.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Mountain View High School



When I was younger, my dreams for my future were quite vague. I knew that I wanted to go to college and that I wanted to succeed, but I didn't know how to get there. I was confused about what exactly was the difference between a college and a university; I didn't know what would be better for me. In summary, I didn't know a lot of how to get to where I wanted to be. One of the experiences that helped in this aspect was visiting colleges, something that I could not have done without PSP. Visiting colleges helped clarify the questions I had and helped normalize the idea of going to college, an issue I feel is very evident in first-generation college students. Although I knew I would go to college, it seemed like a big, scary feat; it wasn't something that I had seen done often enough in my family for it to be normal to me. In addition, these college visiting experiences helped me a lot in the fall when I was applying to colleges; I had the privilege of having visited most of the schools I applied to. It helped me make better decisions as to which schools I felt comfortable with on the campus.

Besides my vague dreams of college in the future, another dream of mine, from even before I can remember, has always been to travel the world. When I was a little girl, my mom tells me, I would always tell her that I wanted to travel to faraway places. This was just one of my many childhood dreams; others included being a ballerina and growing up to be a helicopter pilot. As time went on, these dreams all faded away; my dream of traveling the world remained, but only as a hope for the far, distant future. Thanks to this program, I could begin achieving my dream of traveling the world: I have visited New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois, and Washington D.C. Although it may not seem like much, these visits have had an enormous impact on me, especially on how I see myself. There's something about traveling to places far from home that makes you realize how small you are. As I heard it said recently, it gives you world experience, it lets you know that there is more to the world than the small spheres we create for ourselves. Now, I see myself as more capable to see beyond my own immediate world; this helped adjust the scope of my dreams, seeing how I could really make a difference if I can achieve dream of researching to find how (or if) learning disabilities, like dyslexia, could be alleviated or helped.

Entering UC Los Angeles, fall 2017

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Teresa Gonzalez



Laiba K.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Leuzinger High School



My name is Laiba Khalid and I am senior at Leuzinger High School. I can proudly say I am a PSP alumni. Being part of PSP for the past six years has given me most precious moments of my life, which I will cherish my whole life. It totally changed my life. It has impacted my life that moment I was a chosen to be part of this program. I got to experience so much out of it. It made me realized that there is so much out there for me.

My most memorable moment would be going to Chicago for a week in 2014. This was my first time going to another state in USA. Through the trip I met great students from PSP. Being the first generation in my family brings a lot of responsibility on me. I have to set a great example for my little brother in the future. Programs like this motivated me and moved me forward throughout high school. It kept me on track.

This program was such an inspiration for me. It pushed me forward in life. I will always be thankful to Dr. Langer, my donor for giving student like us an opportunity to dream big in life.

Entering CSU Northridge, fall 2017

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Meg Sanchez



Justin L.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Mountain View High School



Being in the Partnership Scholars Program these past 5 years has been an experience I will remember for the rest of my life. I had many of my best experiences of high school in the PSP program and all the people I have met along the way will also have a special place in my heart. I can still remember the day I received the letter in my first period English class at Kranz telling me that I got accepted into the program. I went home that day so happy and so excited to tell my parents. From then on I was ecstatic because I had been told of the program from a family friend and I expected nothing but great times. Also, getting into the program boosted my confidence, inspiring me to do my best to get into a 4-year university. As a result, I did! I will be attending the University of Riverside this fall.

Without PSP, I may not have experienced the rare opportunities that I did. I had the opportunity to travel outside of the El Monte! Never would I have thought I would be able to travel at 16. Going to Boston was one of the best experiences in my life. It was nothing but fun and joy. Recently, I went to San Francisco and that also was fantastic. I can say that San Francisco is number 2 on my list of favorite cities. Traveling with PSP, made me love travelling and I hope to do it more in the future. I got the chance to also make two amazing friends whom I love dearly. I was a shy person in the beginning, but they helped me break out of that shell. They were there for me for a lot of really important parts of my life.

This past year and a half I have been going through a lot. I have been diagnosed with mental health issues and have been experiencing problems financially. PSP has there for me offering me help with any issue that comes up. With them and my family, I know I am not alone in my struggles. I appreciate all they do for me and how they motivate me to do my best so that I may reach my goals. I hope to become a therapist and that is what I intend to study for. I want to help people and guide them just like I have been guided. I am so grateful for PSP and wish I could do more than this essay to show my thanks for all they've done for me.

Entering UC Riverside, fall 2017

Sponsor: Jonathan & Delia Matz

Mentor: Ray Andry



Isabel L.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Ukiah High School



What if? They say that curiosity killed the cat, but curiosity has brought me to where I am today. I remember in the 7th grade I went to a meeting for PSP; I thought of it as a genie in a bottle, that my wildest dreams would come true. In the 7th grade, I wanted to be a lawyer which I thought was wild at the time. I had the aspiration of wanting to be lawyer, going to Stanford or Harvard, passing the bar exam and specializing in immigration law because in my heart, I felt that I needed to help those that followed a similar path as my father. What a wild dream a 7th grader can have. What I also thought was wild was, how did an amazing scholarship pick me out of all these kids? What makes me so different from the rest? Still to this day, I don't understand what makes me different.

Although my dreams have changed since the 7th grade, PSP has shaped me into the young woman that I am today. I remember being shy, afraid of trying new things, traveling and being away from home absolutely scared me. With being able to travel to new states I've never would have visited if it weren't for this great program, meeting so many new people, I grew this confidence that is stuck to me like gum to the floor. Now I see the world as such a small place, not enough places to explore. It's given me a whole new understanding of "anything is possible." I thought people just said that to motivate others. Now I have the ambition of wanting to be CEO of Vogue or Cosmopolitan, because I love expressing myself unapologetically and I am not afraid of a challenge. If there is not a challenge in whatever obstacle I face, then I believe it serves me no purpose.

What if I don't reach my dreams? What if I change my mind? Oh but what if I fly? Partnership Scholars Program has taught me that it's okay to be curious.

Entering CSU San Francisco, fall 2017

Sponsor: Sheldon & Cindy Stone

Mentor: Lynsie Quinonez

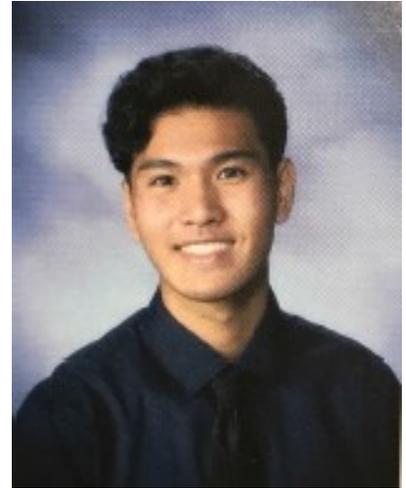


Ringo L.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

La Sierra High School



I was born and raised on Saipan, an island of limited opportunities. I am also a scholar from Partnership Scholars Program, a program of countless possibilities. Applying to PSP was one of the best decisions I have made during my academic life span that is yet to come. Needless to say, I would not have been able to experience many things if it were not for PSP: visit museums, dine at restaurant of different cultures, travel to another state, tour numerous colleges, attend theatrical plays and baseball games, play sports, have a laptop that allowed me to complete my college applications, and many more. Not only did I gain joy throughout the experience, I also acquired numerous friends and met many intellectual individuals. Looking back, middle school and high school was a long way. But PSP has guided me through these six years and helped me manifest various goals and dreams.

Despite the many occupations I dreamt of becoming, time never fails to prove that an objective set without a destination seldom withstands. It was not long ago when my new ambition emerged. An ambition not discovered through sudden inspiration, but through personal regret following the loss of my beloved grandfather. This regret surface after I read "Tuesday's with Morrie" in my psychology class. The character, Morrie, reminds me of my grandfather who suffered a stroke in his brain which paralyzed the right side of his body. Yet unlike Morrie, my grandfather's personality completely altered post incident. He became mentally ill and fell into a depression where he refused to receive any treatment and lost hope in recovering. To this day, I still regret not being able to see my grandfather during his last moments. If I had gone to visit him, perhaps his bitter departure could have turned into a meaningful farewell. If only there was more awareness of his mental illness, maybe my grandfather could have embraced his remaining time peacefully. That is when I realized achieving a Bachelor's of Science in Psychology and conducting neuroscience research is not only a destination I would like to reach but also a stepping stone to further my education in medical school to become a physician that specializes in neurology. In giving back to my community, I plan to diagnose and treat neurological disorders as a profession, whether it is in hospitals, universities, or clinics. Mental illness and brain diseases presumably associate with many beloved individuals. Therefore, I hope to contribute to the greater good of the community by pursuing my education and learning experiences in order to continue medicine as a vocation. With the aid of PSP, I am one step closer to my goal.

Entering UC San Diego, fall 2017

Sponsor: Jonathan & Delia Matz

Mentor: Ray Andry



Evling L.

Partnership Scholar Class of 2017 Hawthorne High School



Six years went by actually pretty fast. I still remember my 13 year old self answering those questions to try to get to the PSP interview. When I heard I was able to get an interview I got so happy. That day when I went home I told my parents and they both said, "tú puedes hija echale ganas." The day we finally became PSP scholars I could not believe it. A girl who had been in the country for only three years was standing next to outstanding kids who were very smart and who were going to become a second family. That day I went home, I hugged my mom, tears came down my cheeks and I told her "si se pudo , lo logre mama." Since that day I felt like I was able to do anything.

This program made a huge impact in my life by guiding me through the right paths. I was able to do and learn many things and I'm thankful for it all. I went from being a little shy caterpillar to a butterfly who is not embarrassed to approach someone and tell them about my goals. My goals for my future were to become an architect and build houses, hospitals, schools, and shelters for those in need. Now, I want to major in international business, to be able to explore the world deep and see more than what society tells. I want to interact with other cultures and be part of big trading companies. Even though I am doing two year community college first, I will transfer out to my dream college, CSU San Diego, and pursue my goals. Many times what you plan does not go as you expect and many times as teenagers, we do not make up our minds to what we really want or we are not able to get what we want.

PSP taught me to never give up on what I really want. It taught me to adore and accept every single one of my peers like they are my own family members. It taught me to accept that dreams do come true. I will never forget such amazing experience and the phenomenal people in it, and my mentor, Meg Sanchez, who became like a second mother to me. The person who taught me that getting lost it's okay as long as you find your way back to the straight road. Six years from today, I will look back and remember all the fantastic experiences and adventures I was able to go on, and how much it means to be an overachiever.

Entering Santa Monica College, fall 2017

Sponsor: Richard & Sue Masson

Mentor: Meg Sanchez



Daniela P.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Ukiah High School



In the seventh grade when I first became a part of the Partnership Scholars Program I didn't know what to expect. Now I'm a graduating senior pursuing a career in the medical field. I would like to be an RN working in the OB ward. To reach this goal I plan on receiving an Associates in Science and an Associates Registered Nurse degree through Mendocino College. After receiving my degree I will enroll in Arizona State University to expand my degree to a Bachelor's Registered Nurse degree.

Over the years PSP has helped me grow in many ways. I was a very shy seventh grader with not much experience getting out of my comfort zone. My first big trip through PSP was to Washington D.C. This was the first time I ever traveled without my parents or spent longer than a few hours without them. I was really nervous to go but I was more excited that I would be going somewhere fun with my friends. And ever since then I have gone on a countless number of amazing trips with amazing people. I've tried new foods, zip-lined, slept in a college campus, and met many people.

The adults and volunteers at PSP have guided me to find my career choice. I had no clue what I would be looking for or what interested me. I went from a lawyer to a teacher to a doctor. And meeting people and making connection has helped me see what I was meant for. They have helped me through the college application process and filling out scholarships. Without them I would probably still be lost.

Through Partnership Scholars Program I was able to create relationships with people, experienced adults and young friends, whom I know I can always count on. The adults have been an amazing help in finding my path to the future. And everyone involved had helped me express myself and become a more experienced, young individual. Partnership Scholars Program has been an amazing experience for me and my family.

Entering Mendocino College, fall 2017

Sponsor: Sheldon & Cindy Stone

Mentor: Juanita-Joy Riddell



Giovanni P.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Lennox Math, Science and
Technology Academy



My name is Giovanni Pantoja. I was born in White Plains, New York on May 12, 1999. New York was my home for almost two years. Months before my second birthday, my parents and I took a vacation to their hometown in Mexico. During this time, I sadly lost my father to a fatal car accident. The short vacation turned into nearly a decade because my mother made the decision not to return to New York.

In 2010, my mother made a surprising decision. She moved us back to the United States. My mother believed that it would provide me the best future even if it meant sacrificing her nursing career. The three years after the move were the most difficult because I felt handicapped by my inability to work and limited understanding of English. As much as I wanted to work to help my mother to reduce some of the stress of living paycheck to paycheck, I was unable due to age. Plus, I knew my mother would not allow it. The alternative manner to repay my mother for her sacrifice was through academic success.

My ability to transition from English as a Second Language in 6th grade to Pre-AP English in 8th grade and success in my other classes provided me a great deal of confidence as I entered high school. In addition, a big plus during this time was my involvement in the Partnership Scholars Program. Through monthly trips all over Los Angeles, I began to see the world outside of Lennox and gain a better understanding as to why my mother decided to move us to the "Land of Opportunity."

Once I confirmed I could keep up with my 9th grade classes, I challenged myself to continue to build upon my mother's sacrifice through initiatives outside of school. Notable initiatives include co-founding an organization to help the homeless, founding the Pre-Med Club at my high school, securing an internship at Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center, becoming active with student government especially in my current position as Class President, and gaining acceptance to a competitive residential STEM program (COSMOS) at UC Irvine. Each initiative is significant to me, but the one that takes the closest place in my heart is the first on the list. During a first visit to Downtown Los Angeles, I quickly noticed a rift among various parts of the city especially Skid Row. It is only blocks from the tremendous growth taking place in the central business and arts districts yet remains as one of the nation's largest homeless communities.

I decided to create a sustainable plan to help the homeless. At age 15, I co-founded an organization called Alleviate Skid Row ("Alleviate") to do just that. Some of my responsibilities include planning, fundraising, marketing, and distribution. My experiences in Skid Row have influenced me to consider human ecology as a major during my undergraduate education at Cornell University. Even though I am proud of our efforts over the last two years, I have learned the need in Skid Row is beyond the blankets, clothing, meals, toiletries, and other items we distribute. Thus, I would like to learn more about how I can address the more intricate issues in marginalized communities like Skid Row through changes in social policy. My plans beyond college are fixated on becoming a doctor. This interest developed from the stories my single mother would share about her work as a nurse in Mexico before she sacrificed everything to give me a chance to study in the United States. Upon completion of medical school, I would look for opportunities to provide medical care to the homeless.

Each day is a constant reminder of the opportunities that my mother and programs like The Partnership Scholars have initiated for me. I intend to continue to work hard at Cornell University and build upon everything that has been realized up to this point. Thank you!

Entering Cornell University, fall 2017

Sponsor: Tom Turner

Mentor: Noel Velasco



Erick P.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Hawthorne Math and

Science Academy



I was born in Cancun, Mexico and since the age of 5, I've resided in the Los Angeles region. I come from a low-income, immigrant family who's spent most of their lives working for everything we've needed. These constraints have prevented me from taking advantage of many amazing opportunities. I grew up thinking pessimistically, that I would never have the chance to show my true capabilities, but I never expected that the Partnership Scholars would be there to change it all.

As a young kid, I was never the most outspoken. While other parents told their kids to stop talking and to be quiet, my parents were forced to tell me "Speak up!" Those words remained circling inside my head. Despite having others tell me to talk more, I always kept myself hidden from the rest. If I had known all I missed out on, I would've began talking a long time ago.

Perhaps my insecurity got the better of me, but I was too stubborn and introverted to realize that I was missing out on most of my life. When the opportunity presented itself, I decided to apply for the Partnership Scholars Program. Never in a million years did I think this would be push I needed to put myself out into the world. Through PSP, I was able to break down barriers that attempted to degrade my future. Rather than staying out of the spotlight, I became determined to succeed. With the help of my amazing mentor John and his wife, Meg Sanchez, I was motivated to continue to a post-secondary education.

As for my future plans, I was inspired by my sister who currently works in a pharmaceutical company where the immune system is genetically modified for the cure of cancer; this has influenced me in pursuing a similar goal in the future. Through her explanations of what her company's goal is, I became fascinated with pursuing a form of biological sciences. Being that I like hands-on learning, I did research and felt that my closest niche was in Biology. This combination ultimately allowed me to choose my future school, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. Going into college, I hope to further my understanding of biological concepts that deal with modifying cellular bodies and functions in order to improve the lives of others.

From simply going to the zoo to traveling to New York for the first time, I've had an unforgettable experience in the PSP Program. All the remarkable trips like Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, museums, colleges, and landmarks have inspired me to discover the world. Though this program is coming to an end, I am glad to have taken part in such an amazing 6 years. These years have been difficult, but I'm glad I was able to make this journey with such amazing people.

Entering Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, fall 2017

Sponsor: Richard and Sue Masson

Mentor: John Ely



Esmeralda P.

Partnership Scholar Class of 2017 Fort Bragg High School



When I was in seventh grade, I got inducted in the Partnership Scholars Program and I didn't know that I was going to learn and look forward to so much. The program has helped me expand my education and keep track of my grades throughout the end of middle school and all of my high school years. I have been able to take Toastmasters classes with this program to make me become a better speaker and get out of my comfort zone. I have been able to travel to places out of my small town such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City. Throughout those travels, I gained learning experiences from museums, was introduced to musical theatre, and tasted different foreign foods. If it weren't for this program I wouldn't have been able to get those experiences because of the financial struggle for my single mother to maintain for my two other siblings and I. One highlight of my life that PSP helped create was when I went to New York for a week to take a photography summer program. I started to seek another passion I had which is my interest in photography.

One of my goals in life is to be able to travel and I hope to achieve that through the education I get in college. I hope through my education I will be able to get a job to maintain and support myself to be able to travel. That is why my dream is to be a travel photographer so that I will be able to get experiences of different cultures and beautiful places there are around the world. I also got introduced to my mentor, Denise DeLuise, who has become a lifelong friend, has listened to me when I need someone to talk to, gave me advice when needed, and has watched me grow into the person I have blossomed into.

Entering CSU Sacramento, fall 2017

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Denise De Luise



Buonkuang P.

Partnership Scholar Class of 2017 El Monte High School



This six year journey will forever be framed in my building. Digging through memory lane I find myself back at Kranz Intermediate where it all started. Once I heard about this program I decided it give it a shot; little did I know I was opening the front door. Stepping outside into the world was hard but alongside me were wonderful, caring people giving me the opportunity to experience what the world has to offer. Before I got into PSP my dreams were foggy and unclear, there were many puzzles without hints and game stages without a tutorial. For each passing year after my enrollment, a gust of wind pushes away more of the fog. Even today I still see some haziness and beyond that the dark forest that awaits. However I mustn't fear, for I have been trained to fight and defend myself. Learning from past experiences to tackle forth the new.

Thank you for the support you have given me and my family, my dad most of all is truly very grateful. I am not a genius, or a prodigy, but I can manage. As a son I despise being compared with others around me, but if there is one thing my dad is most proud of it's that I am a part of this community. He would go on about explaining PSP from his point of view and how fortunate he is to have me be a part of it. Some of the things he would say would be "You know, one of the best things about America is that they care about helping you succeed. Back in Cambodia every day was a struggle." I remember him telling me how he had to sell gum in the streets in order to get more money for the family. During my senior year I can tell that my dad was worried about college: where to apply, how to apply, getting financial aid, etc. Soon enough he was the one who reminded me about deadlines. For my final words, this is a quote from my dad "This PSP program, they have people who go so far to take care of you, it's amazing."

Entering UC Irvine, fall 2017

Sponsor: George Ferenczi & Miki Kalpins

Mentor: Ray Andry



Kimberly Q.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Da Vinci Design High School



The experiences I've had with the Partnership Scholars Program are some of the most memorable of my life. Being a scholar gave me the opportunity to experience many things a student my age would not be able to. Experiences like going to plays (Rain, Lion King, Wicked etc.), art museums (The Broad, which was mind opening) and a variety of different restaurants (Peruvian, Honduran, Mexican restaurants). The experience that had the greatest impact on me has to be my trip to Haiti which PSP helped me to sponsor. During this trip I got to help families who suffer from poverty by helping them wash their dishes, wash their clothes and playing with their children. It was such a beautiful honor. We also helped out a variety of communities around Mission of Hope, the mission we stayed, by planting trees in villages and giving families goats to breed. Aside from that, the view was spectacular! The landscape is green as can be and full of culture and kind hearted people. Haiti was a lovely experience.

I am so grateful that this scholarship united me with my mentor, Mrs. Anne Chaffey. In my opinion, she is the best mentor a student can have. She's always willing to help me out in any way she can and because of this, I consider her my friend. Most of all Mrs. Chaffey remains hopeful and always joyful. While driving back home, she'd tell me about her struggles and I would tell her about mine. No matter how difficult her situation was she always keeps her chin up. I admire her so much and aspire to be like her. My mentor, has been my main positive influence through my participation in PSP and I'm so grateful I've learned things from her that I will use for the rest of my life.

Entering CSU Northridge, fall 2017

Sponsor: Dana Oder, Oder Family Foundation

Mentor: Ann Chaffey



Carla R.

Partnership Scholar Class of 2017 Fort Bragg High School



Being in the Partnership Scholars Program has deeply influenced my life. I have been able to do activities I would have never imagined to do. Throughout my experience in PSP I have grown as an individual. I have been able to travel and meet wonderful people that have changed my life in a positive and negative way. I am very grateful there is such thing as PSP because it has been very beneficial in my life. I have been able to conquer some of my dreams, but I still have way more to acquire.

I grew up with a single mother, and later my step-dad. He has been the father figure I admire. I am the oldest of four. My mom has always influenced me to do my best in school to set an example for my siblings. I have tried my best in school, which has paid off because I will be attending Holy Names University in the fall of 2017. It was not my dream college, but it is a wonderful school that I am very excited to attend. My family is not the richest, but with the hard work of my mother and step-dad I have the opportunity to go to college. I appreciate to have my family. We have always been very close to each other.

I want to become a psychologist or a clinical nutritionist. I want to have a career in which I have the opportunity to meet new people and communicate with others. My goal is to finish college and have a career that I appreciate everyday. My dream is to have the opportunity to give back to my mom and step-dad someday. I want my mother to not work as much because she suffers from back and knee pain. I really care about everyone in this world because everyone has their own story.

I was shy throughout my childhood because I never had someone push me to be outgoing. My mother didn't know English, which caused me to lose many opportunities as I grew up. When I began PSP I was a child that could not stand in front of others and say one word. Being able to travel to other places has changed me. I can now get in front of others and speak my mind without caring what others think. PSP has allowed me to see the real world in which we live.

Entering Holy Names University, fall 2017

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Joan Stevenson



Quisi R.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Da Vinci Design High School



Over the last few years, many things have changed for me. I went from middle school to high school, met new classmates, and met new teachers but one of the things that remained constant was PSP. Being a part of PSP has given me so many experiences that I cannot write about all of them in this paper. What I can do is talk about the experiences that have impacted me the most. Through PSP I became exposed to the colleges and universities all around me. This reinforced my decision of wanting to go to college. Although I did not like all the campuses I went to go visit, it helped me define the type of institution I want to go to. I was also able to see the different environments that colleges had. I have also gone to places like Washington D.C. and Chicago. Throughout these trips, I became more open to the idea of going out of state for college. I was less afraid of traveling, and now because of these experiences, I want to go to an out-of-state college. PSP is not only a program of financial support but also emotional support. Being the first one in my family to go to college and considering out-of-state was distressing. Talking with my mentor about this allowed me to find assurance and confidence in my decisions that I wanted to make.

This does not even cover half of the things I was able to do because of the Partnership Scholars Program. I have been able to go to many restaurants and places, which has exposed me to many cultures. This has influenced what I want to study in college, which is International Relations. I love seeing different cultures and different perspectives and PSP has given me the ability to see different cultures. Considering I was a first-generation college student; I was a nervous wreck when it came to college. It was something that I did not know about but through PSP I was able to learn the process. I would not be the person I am without the experiences I have had if it were not for PSP.

Entering Beloit College, fall 2017

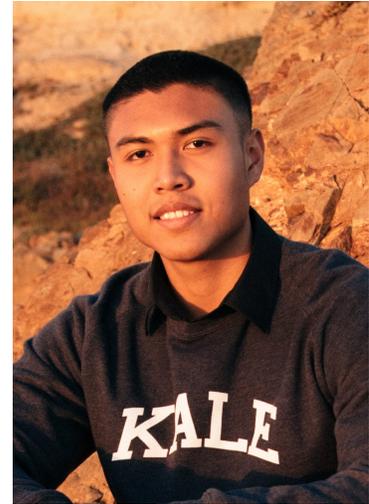
Sponsor: Sheldon & Cindy Stone

Mentor: Ann Chaffey



Thae R.

Partnership Scholar Class of 2017 Mendocino High School



I remembered when I received that letter; it was 7th grade. I was a young kid at that time and did not realize how important this letter would be to me in the upcoming years. But now as a senior and near the end of the program, it's evident that Partnership Scholars Program has been such an influential factor in my life. Because of PSP I am now going to be a college student and have the necessary tools to help me become successful. The position I am in right now can all be credited to PSP's contribution and investment in my education. I am so thankful for all the time and resources the program has spent towards helping me.

One of the most beneficial and influential resource the program has given me is a mentor. Throughout the entirety of my six years in PSP, my mentor (Alex Aftandilians) has been so supportive and helpful in my goal to achieve college education. He was there for me throughout the application process and his personal experience going through college has helped me foresee what my future will be like. Furthermore, the program did an exceptional job in preparing me for the application process and explaining what to expect in college.

Without PSP, I do not think I would feel as confident about college as I am right now. Through the program, I have gained knowledge--such as what it means to be a first generation college student, confidence in my academic abilities, and most importantly compassion towards others like how the program exemplifies. Now in my last year of the program, I am proud to say that I will be attending University of California Santa Barbara! As one of my top choice schools, I am extremely grateful for what the program has done to help me achieve this accomplishment. Now that my dream of attending a top choice university has been fulfilled, I look to continue the teachings of the program into my college career. My experience in PSP has truly been a blessing. I am so happy to have met so many talented, kind, generous, and different people. This was an opportunity of a lifetime and I am glad I got to be a part of it!

Entering UC Santa Barbara, fall 2017

Sponsor: Glenn Langer

Mentor: Alex Aftandilians



Alexa S.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Ukiah High School



Going into this program in 7th grade I was very nervous about the whole thing. I had never heard of anything like Partnership Scholars Program; it seemed like a surreal thing. People I did not even know would pay for me to experience life outside of Ukiah, and because of these people I have been able to have many great adventures with my mentor and fellow scholars. These past couple of years being a part of PSP has been an incredible journey. Partnership Scholars Program has been a wonderful program, which has aided me in my high school journey on the road to college. PSP has helped expose me to a great deal of new experiences, through all the college tours, out of state tours, and the support of my mentor. Growing up not many people know what they want to be when they are older, and I am one of those people, but with the help of PSP and the support of my outrageously wonderful mentor Jill, I could explore potential paths for my future. Not only being exposed to academic places, but to culturally enriching ones as well.

During my time with PSP I not only made memories that I will cherish for the rest of my life, but I have met some incredible people along the way as well. These memories and friendships I have made on my journey have helped me grow and appreciate all that surrounds me. Thanks to the support of all these people I am proud to say that I will be attending UC Davis in the fall of 2017. What my exact plans for the future are I honestly do not know, but what I can say is that whatever comes my way I know I will do my best to succeed. Not only for me, but for everyone that has supported me along the way, my parents, my mentor, PSP, and my friends. It has been a fun ride these past couple of years with Partnership Scholars Program, but I am ready to go out into the world and show them what I am capable of.

Entering UC Davis, fall 2017

Sponsor: Sheldon & Cindy Stone

Mentor: Jill Krueger



Vanessa S.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Animo Leadership Charter

High School



Six years ago, my life changed drastically because I had the opportunity of being a part of Partnership's Scholars and it's been one of the best experiences that's happened in my life. This amazing program has changed my perspective upon life and has propelled me to achieve all the goals I've set within myself.

Coming from a low income family, several of my resources and opportunities have been limited. However, through my experiences with PSP, I have gained in memorable participation. During my seventh grade year I first tried In-N-Out. Although this fast food place is not pricey, this comes to show the lack of restaurants I've visited. Thanks to PSP I have also traveled to New York City and Washington D.C, something that I couldn't financially afford on my own. These two trips introduced the importance of attending college and the steps to take to be successful in a post-secondary institution. I learned that there are so many options I am given, but must reach out to.

PSP has not only impacted my life with many experiences, but has provided me with two mentors who have benefited me in a numerous amount of ways. My mentor is always improving my academic language as she makes time to correct my major school assignments. I am most proud of her letters of recommendations that have opened several doors for me. Similarly, her husband, who is a doctor, has introduced me to nurses who have contacted me and allowed me to ask questions that I have about becoming a nurse. My goal is to become a Neonatal Nurse and save the lives of babies who are born with drugs within their systems. I know that with all the support of PSP, I will soon reach my goal and give back to my community. Partnerships Scholars gave me the assurance that I needed in order to realize that although I come from a low income family, I cannot let any obstacle affect my career path.

Entering CSU Northridge, fall 2017

Sponsor: Sheldon & Cindy Stone

Mentor: Barbara Lurie



Diego T.

Partnership Scholar Class of 2017 Fort Bragg High School



For those who don't know me, my name is Diego Toscano and I will be attending UC Davis in the fall. I am what one calls an introvert. However I do enjoy social events and outgoing activities (high school sure helped with that). One thing that anyone should know about me is that I tend to be humbly ambitious; I want the absolute best for myself and will cross most bridges to reach my potential. Without a program such as The Partnership Scholars, however, none of this would have been possible. I am unique from most in the fact that PSP had a huge influence in my life before I was even inducted into the program. What most of my peers don't know about me is that I used to be the disruptive student with no motivation for doing well in school. It wasn't until my brother got inducted into PSP that I started to develop a robust desire to fill in my brother's shoes and one day go to college as well. As a result, I challenged myself to change my mindset and here I am today.

From the seventh grade to now, I have expanded my love for food, traveling, networking, and myself. I am no longer afraid to try new foods, use a map, greet my superiors with a firm handshake, and express my interests with no shame. Just the fact that a program such as PSP believed a financially disadvantaged student could go to college has given me an opportunity to reach my ultimate goal: to repay my parents for all that they have given me and suffered. Furthermore, I have been extremely fortunate to have been given a sponsor for all my financial support and a warmhearted mentor to help me reach my goals both academically and personally. I can genuinely say that PSP has profoundly influenced the path my life was always destined to take and for that I am forever grateful.

Entering UC Davis , fall 2017

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Lar Krug



Perla V.

Partnership Scholar

Class of 2017

Mountain View High School



Joining the Partnership Scholars Program has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. This program has literally guided me to the pathway of success. As a low-income Hispanic/Latina student, I thought I was not going to have a successful future since I was an underprivileged child. I am glad that PSP has taught me that no matter what background you come from, you can always be successful with the right guidance.

During my childhood, I faced the biggest challenge of my life. When my parents divorced, I did not know how I was going to overcome it. Witnessing my mother's struggles made me realize that I did not want to have a similar lifestyle like hers. This motivated me to want a higher education, but I did not know how I was going to achieve it. Since school was a struggle for me, I never thought I would be able to go to college. Having all these negative thoughts made me very self-conscious about every decision I made. I was very shy, thus making me afraid to ask my teachers for help; as a consequence, my grades began to drop.

I can say that the Partnership Scholars Program deeply impacted me. PSP helped me set goals; setting goals has taught me that I can accomplish anything I set my mind to accomplish. In this program, I did things that were out of my comfort-zone; I socialized, presented in front of audiences, communicated, bonded with my peers, and traveled far from home. As a shy person I never wanted to participate, but I began to learn that taking risks could lead to something wonderful. My mindset towards education has completely changed; I am now more focused, determined, and committed to continue on my journey to higher education.

However, I could not have continued with this program without my mentor, Ms. Osburn, and her support; she has provided me with the best knowledge and has given me the greatest advices. In college, I plan to use what PSP taught me by taking advantage of the resources offered in my school such as: tutoring services, libraries, writing centers, and scholarships. Now that this program is coming to an end, I feel more prepared to continue on with my educational career.

Entering Cal Poly Pomona, fall 2017

Sponsor: George Moss

Mentor: Camille Osburn

