

## Get Connected!



**Michael Piña**

*Founder and President*

Pronouns: He/Him/El

**Email:** [michael.pina@berkeley.edu](mailto:michael.pina@berkeley.edu)

Hello fellow Central Valley Scholars! It is my pleasure to host our workshops in your community. Attending UC Berkeley with the career objective to become an attorney and later take a political leadership role, I have a passion to help minority populations, and what better way to start than at my own home! As a gay Latino from Kerman, CA I made sure Central Valley Scholars is a safe and friendly place for everyone. Whether undocumented, disabled, Queer, person of color, or any other minority status, our doors are open to you. As the President of this organization, I am proud to create the first LGBTQ+ Scholarship in the Central Valley. I am a resource to you, so please feel free to email me for assistance!

Proudly raised by two Mexican immigrants, in a household with three older brothers, a little sister, and my parents' strong belief that achieving higher education was our priority. The truth that neither of my parents received an education level higher than the eighth grade is what inspires me to obtain a college degree and makes my drive to succeed even more powerful. I am currently an undergraduate student at UC Davis majoring in Cell Biology with the intention of attending medical school postgrad.

Please feel free to connect with me for questions and assistance!



**Ashley Acosta**

*Executive Director*

Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

**Email:** [aracostaparra@ucdavis.edu](mailto:aracostaparra@ucdavis.edu)



**Dalia Santana Zamudio**

*Workshop Coordinator*

Pronouns: She/Her/Ella

**Email:** [dsantanazamudio@ucdavis.edu](mailto:dsantanazamudio@ucdavis.edu)

Hello! I am a fourth year at UC Davis and alumni of Kerman High School. Once I moved away from my small hometown and began to immerse myself more into my education, I realized that people with my identities do not have the opportunity to attend these universities. As a first generation Latina, I know the struggles students with my identity face with their college and scholarship applications. As the Workshop Coordinator I made sure that our workshops cover the gaps and provide the resources for students in the Central Valley. Please feel free to connect with me via email.



My name is Jasmin Martinez and I am a Queer, Latinx, and FLI (first generation and low income) undergraduate student studying Chicanx and Latinx Studies at Stanford University on a full-ride scholarship. My roots are in Delano, California, and I have been a part of statewide policy advocacy and community organizing to improve access to healthcare, hold police accountable, and abolish detention centers. After I pursue law school, I plan to return to the Central Valley to use my experiences to advance education, immigration, and police reform in Kern County. In my free time, I read, paint, and spends time with family.



**Jasmin Martinez**

*Vice President*

Pronouns: She/They

**Email:** [jmart33@stanford.edu](mailto:jmart33@stanford.edu)



Hi! My name is Angie and I'm from a small, rural, ranching town in Texas. I am a first generation, low-income student at Stanford University. I am on a pre-med track and will be majoring in Human Biology with a concentration in Social Disparities and a minor in Sociology. I currently work in a genetics research lab, but when I'm not working, I enjoy creating art. Please feel free to ask me anything or send essays my way—I was once in your shoes!

**Angie Casarez**

*Online Mentor/Mendota Panelist*

Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

**Email:** [angiecaz@stanford.edu](mailto:angiecaz@stanford.edu)

Hello! My name is Eli and I am a patent agent at Fish & Richardson, an intellectual property focused law firm. My work includes writing patent applications in the hardware and software fields, and arguing the patentability of the applications before the US Patent and Trademark Office. Before moving to the Bay Area, I lived in Philadelphia, my hometown, and New York City, where I completed a Bachelor's Degree in electrical engineering at Columbia University. Although I am not originally from the Central Valley, I admire and support the Central Valley Scholar's mission and I am honor to take part of the panel at Kerman.

Please feel free to connect with me!



**Eli Epperson**

*Online Mentor/Kerman Panelist*

Pronouns: He/Him/His

**Email:** [eli.epperson@gmail.com](mailto:eli.epperson@gmail.com)

