



**Rafael Franco**

*Online Mentor/Kerman Panelist*

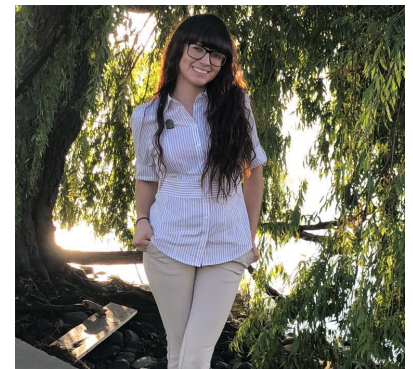
Pronouns: He/Him/His

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Hello! My name is Rafa and I am an incoming fourth year at UCLA (with a double major in History and English) and an alumni from Kerman High School. My future objective is to pursue law school in an effort to become an entertainment lawyer at either UCLA or USC law school to continue being surrounded by the media industry. Staying in the LA area will allow me to be within reach of my community and give back to it (as I am hoping to do with the help of Michael and the Central Valley Scholars).

Please feel free to use my email to connect with me!

My name is Krystal Hernandez and I am a DACA recipient from Delano, CA. I have worked in the fields since I was 16, and continued to work with my parents every summer even after I moved away for college. I wanted to attend law school, but had a change of heart in college (which is totally fine, it happens), and chose to pursue my master's in higher education. Choosing to make a difference as a school counselor, I will be starting classes at USC for my master's program.



**Krystal Hernandez**

*Online Mentor*

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**Blanca Martinez**

*Online Mentor*

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Hello everyone! My name is Blanca Martinez and I grew up in Mendota, CA. As a child of two immigrants/farm workers from El Salvador, I became aware of the lack of resources we had in all aspects. Instead of seeing my struggles as setbacks, I used them as motivation to participate in Central Valley Scholars. I am currently a third year student at the University of California, Davis, planning to double major in Human Development and Psychology. I helped fund \$200 dollars for Central Valley Scholars and through this organization I want to utilize the resources I have gained within these past couple years and share it with you all! Feel free to contact me!





Hey y'all! My name is Sarahi Nunez. I graduated from Kerman High School in 2017 and I am currently about to start my third year at UC Berkeley. I am an intended double major in Political Economy and Media Studies. After graduating, I plan to go into the field of Marketing, specifically Sports or Event Marketing. If y'all ever have any questions about high school, the transition to college, college itself, or FAFSA, please feel free to reach out! I look forward to connecting with y'all!

**Sarahi Nuñez**

*Online Mentor/Kerman Panelist*

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My name is Aileen and I am a third year Cognitive Science major attending UC Davis. I am bilingual, so I speak both English and Spanish fluently. I grew up in the Central Valley, specifically in Mendota and Kerman. My parents immigrated from Mexico to the United States and didn't graduate college, therefore making me a first-generation student. My hobbies include playing volleyball, writing poetry, and listening to music. I aspire to attend graduate school after I graduate and attain my masters in Speech Pathology, with the hopes of becoming a Speech Therapist.



**Aileen Soria**

*Online Mentor*

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**Angelica Salceda**

*Mendota Panelist*

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I am a Latina who grew up in a small farmworker town in the Central Valley and attended UCLA right after high school. I was the only daughter in a family of five boys and was the only one who left home for a four-year university. Before deciding to attend a four-year college, I had only known two older girls from my town who had left to go to UC Riverside.

It was a scary but exciting time to be able to leave home and grow intellectually and personally in a new environment. After college, I moved to Sacramento and was a Jesse Unruh Assembly fellow, working for an elected official. I stayed working in the capitol past my fellowship for a few years before deciding to go to law school. I was accepted to a number of schools and ultimately decided to stay in California and go to UC Berkeley. I've been working with the ACLU of Northern California since graduating from law school and was able to come back to the Central Valley to work and be close to family.



Hello everyone! I grew up in the small town of Selma, California and am the daughter of migrant parents and an incarcerated father. Growing up I attended the lowest ranking elementary school followed by a middle school and a high school that generally ranked lower than most schools in California. However, it was through more guided programs such as G.A.T.E in elementary and my involvement in student government and sports that I was able to get as far as I am today. Through my involvement in a variety of extra curricular I was able to meet countless people and realize there is life after high school and there are places beyond the Central Valley.



**Leslie Vasquez**

*San Joaquin Panelist*

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**Emily Para**

*San Joaquin Panelist*

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Born and raised in San Joaquin, CA, attending SJES and Tranquillity High School, San Joaquin holds a special place in my heart as it is the community that formed me. I worked tremendously throughout school and with the support of my siblings and mentors, I got admitted into Stanford. Most recently, I graduated from Stanford and am now heading off to get a Masters in Education and teaching credential from UCLA. I hope to teach History here in the Central Valley and try to bring educational equity to these communities through the classroom. I remember in high school I once told our activities director (Mr. Awebrey) "why don't we go on school trips to places like Stanford?" and he told me "let's be realistic, you might get in, but no one else from this school will." Seeing the little faith he had in our community angered off and is why I am a Mentor for Central Valley Scholars. You can get into your dream school.

Hi! I received my B.A. in Chicano Studies and Public Policy minor as a first generation, student parent. I am from Helm, California, a predominantly low-income and unincorporated town in Southwest Fresno County. My experience growing up in the Central Valley has allowed me to experience the struggles of farm working families and see firsthand the educational and social barriers that exist in rural communities. My background has motivated me to persevere in opportunities through the Public Policy International Affairs Program, SAGE Scholars Program, and Cal in Sacramento Internship Program. I hope to create social change in my community that will benefit the future generations, including my six-year old daughter, Adilene. I am currently working on setting the foundation for my future goals of receiving my joint Masters in Public Policy to better serve my daughter and the farm working communities in California.



**Maria Del Pilar Manriquez**

*San Joaquin Panelist*

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**Jonathan Guzmán**

*San Joaquin Panelist*

Pronouns: He/Him/His

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Hello! My name is Jonathan Guzmán, I was raised in Cantua Creek and am a Tranquillity High School alum. I am currently going into my 4th year at the University of California, Irvine as a business economics major! Something that I've noticed that has helped me along this long transition is to stay dedicated, motivated and humble along the way! Remember why you're doing it and never stop believing in that dream!

Hello! My name is Odalis Camacho-Vargas, and I will be a sophomore undergraduate at UCLA. I am currently majoring in Biology on the pre-med track in hopes of eventually entering the healthcare field. Raised by two Mexican immigrant parents in the small town of Kerman, CA, I identify as a First Generation college student seeking to assist other uprising students with achieving a higher education. Always feel free to contact me for assistance!



**Odalis Camacho-Vargas**

*Kerman Mentor*

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“We are a resource to you, always feel free to connect with us!”  
- Central Valley Scholars Mentors





Hello everyone! My name is Gabriela Rubio and I am from Delano, CA. I am currently attending California Polytechnic State University San Luis Obispo as a Biological Sciences major and I am planning to concentrate in Anatomy and Physiology. Once I complete my undergraduate degree, I want to continue my journey in higher education and continue on to medical school in hopes of becoming a pediatrician.



**Gabriela Rubio**

*Online Mentor/San Joaquin Panelist*

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**Ismael Herrera Jr.**

*Kerman City Council Member*

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Hello Everyone, I grew up in west Fresno County and attended public schools in Firebaugh and Mendota, eventually graduating from Firebaugh High School. I attended University of California, Irvine, earning my bachelor's degree in sociology and Chicano/Latino studies. During his undergraduate career, I spent a semester studying abroad in Italy conducting research, assuming on-campus leadership roles, and completing various national public policy fellowships. My experience positioned me for acceptance to Harvard Graduate School of Education where I received my master's degree in educational policy management.

I am a first-generation, low-income Chinese American student who was born and raised in a largely Chicanx town in Southern California. I understand how ones ethnicity can play, in my opinion, an integral part in personal development in terms of mental and emotional growth. I can help empower students in this way. Furthermore higher level education was not a hot topic in the town I grew up in. Going to a low-resource high school made me believe that I had minimal chance for acceptance into any prestigious schools, but I am now a student at Stanford. I want to impart confidence into students to apply to prestigious universities.



**Winnie Huang**

*Mentor/Mendota Panelist*

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