

Issue 4



Fall 2016

Newsletter



# ***Project Director's Message***

By: Mayra Puente

Hello students, parents, school officials, and community members. My name is Mayra Puente and I am this year's project director for The Central Valley Project (CVP) at UCLA. I have had the pleasure of working alongside some of the most dedicated and passionate UCLA students interested in uplifting their communities through positive mentorship. Additionally, through this role, I have collaborated with parents and teachers to ensure that our students' educational needs are being met at our biweekly site visitations. I have been an active participant of CVP since my first-year at UCLA, and since then, I have seen our student-run organization flourish, our mentors and students grow, and our goals of providing greater educational opportunity to Central Valley students achieved.

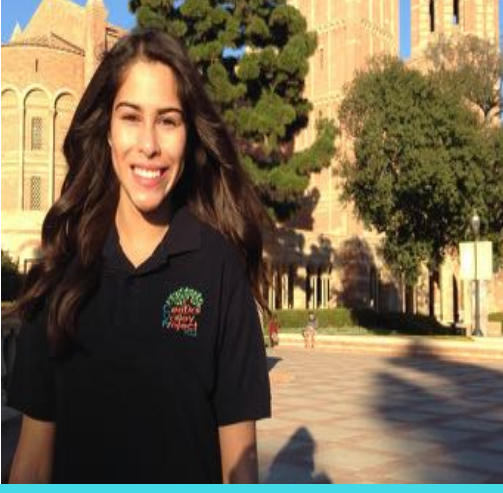
While our organization serves many purposes, such as motivating students to pursue a higher education, providing mentorship to build positive self-identities, and empowering students to be leaders in their communities,

CVP was principally founded to bring university resources to underinvested communities. The lack of representation of Central Valley students in higher education, particularly top research universities, is at the core of CVP's mission statement and site agendas. CVP is also a space for current UCLA students from the Central Valley to support one another as many of us strive to become the first college graduate in our families. I am grateful for being a part of an organization that is committed to creating more opportunities for marginalized communities through social justice-driven volunteer work. As we move into the Winter 2017 quarter, I would like to thank all those involved in our project as well as our continuous supporters for facilitating our organization's mission. We hope to see the same active faces and new ones next quarter as our students tackle on a self-directed community service event. As always, feel free to contact our organization if you have any questions and I hope you enjoy our Fall 2016 newsletter that highlights our site visitations, Family Event, active students and mentors, and gracious donors. See you soon!



# Meet the staff

## Project Director



*Mayra Puente*

Mayra is a fourth year Political Science major and Education Studies and Chicana/o Studies double minor from Porterville, CA. She joined CVP because she wants to motivate youth from underinvested communities to pursue higher education and facilitate their educational aspirations. Mayra wants to become a professor at a research institution. She is also a Ronald E. McNair Research Scholar and conducts research on college access and choice, college proximity, and geographic isolation. Mayra can also rap/sing to all of Drake's songs.

Diana is a second year Sociology major and Math and Education double minor from Porterville, CA.. She joined CVP because she was a part of it during her last two years of high school and it had a great impact on her life. She likes being a part of a great organization that gives back to her community and that also contributes to empowering students to pursue a higher education. Diana aspires to have a career in which she is able to improve the education system, especially in the Central Valley. She is also a member of AVID Alumni Association, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Salsa Dance, and Tutoring. Diana has been a substitute teacher a few times and "absolutely loved it!"

## Administrative Coordinator



*Diana Moron Guzman*

# Meet the staff

## Central Valley Community Coordinator



*Cristina Diaz*

Cristina is a third year Psychology major from Lost Hills, CA. She joined CVP because she wants to help Central Valley students have access to the resources necessary for them to achieve their educational goals. In the future, she hopes to work with kids. Cristina is also a member of Hermanas Unidas and Rotaract. She also used to own a bird that sang "La Cucaracha".

## Finance Coordinator



*Angelica Gomez*

Angelica is a fourth year International and Development Studies major from Tulare, CA. She joined CVP because she really wants to give back to her community and find more people that grew up in the same area that she did. Angelica is also a member of UCLA UniCamp. She played the flute in her high school marching band.

## Site Coordinator



*Maria Torres*

Maria Torres is a second year Applied Mathematics major from Porterville, CA. She joined CVP because she was in the project as a student, and wants to give back to her community with the same help that was given to her as a student. In the future, Maria wants to become a math teacher and teach at underserved communities. Maria also works at the Graduate School of Education as a Research Assistant.



# Meet the staff

## UCLA Co-Community Coordinator

Danielle Renteria-Andrade is a third year Business Economics and Communication Studies double major and Accounting minor from Farmersville, CA. She joined CVP because she wants to help kids in the Central Valley obtain a higher education and achieve their goals. In the future, Danielle wants to become an auditor at a public accounting firm. She is also a volunteer at UCLA's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program and works for the Daily Bruin's marketing department. She also played the drums in her high school marching band.



*Danielle Renteria-Andrade*

## UCLA Co-Community Coordinator



Rafael Pantoja-Zarate is a third year Business Economics major and Accounting minor. He joined CVP because he wants to give back to communities similar to his own and provide students with the resources to reach higher education. In the future, Rafael wants to become a Certified Public Accountant. He is also a part of the Student Accounting Society and a UCLA Achievement Scholar. Rafael has seen every episode of The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills and Atlanta.

*Rafael Pantoja-Zarate*

October 7th

# Outreach Events

Each year, CVP staff and mentors travel to Central Valley high schools to give classroom presentations on the educational services we provide through our organization. This year, we visited two high schools in the Porterville community.



## Granite Hills High School

This will be our fifth year servicing the students of GHHS. We presented to approximately 80 students throughout the day. We had a lot of new students sign up and got to see a lot of familiar faces. Thank you for allowing us to return!

## Porterville High School

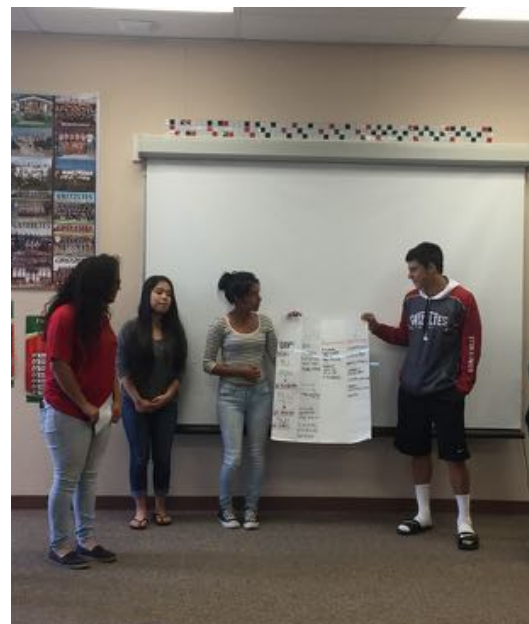
This was our fifth year outreaching to PHS students. We had a really great turnout at each presentation. Thank you to the PHS administration for allowing us to visit your school!



# ***Site Coordinator's Message***

By Maria Torres

This past Fall quarter has been a learning experience for all CVP students, mentors, and staff members. This quarter focused on higher education, so students were exposed to a lot of important information such as A-G requirements, college/university requirements, financial aid, resume examples, and job Interviews. As a site coordinator, I was in charge of creating the agendas for site. Although it wasn't easy to create an interactive agenda that was also informative, seeing the students' interest and excitement paid off. The activities on the agenda were tailored to the topic of the site and the overall theme of the quarter, higher education. On our last site, our topic for the day was "Resume Building and Job Interviews". We had small ice breakers that explained the importance of a firm handshake, resume workshops to help students create their resume, mock interviews, and all mentors and staff members dressed professionally to give CVP students an example of what to wear to an interview. It is important to note that students were very appreciative of this site, as a lot of them were planning on looking for a job very soon but they had no idea how to start their resume or what was expected at a job interview. All the success of our sites and students' learning wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for staff members and mentors that go to site and interact with our CVP students. Thank you all for your time and dedication!



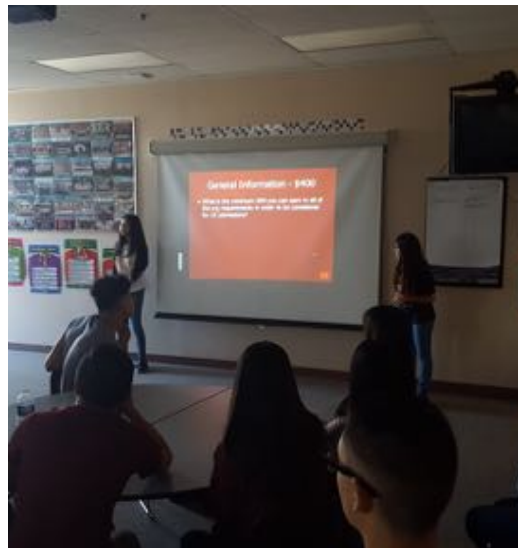


# Site 1

October 15th

## Introductions and A-G Requirements

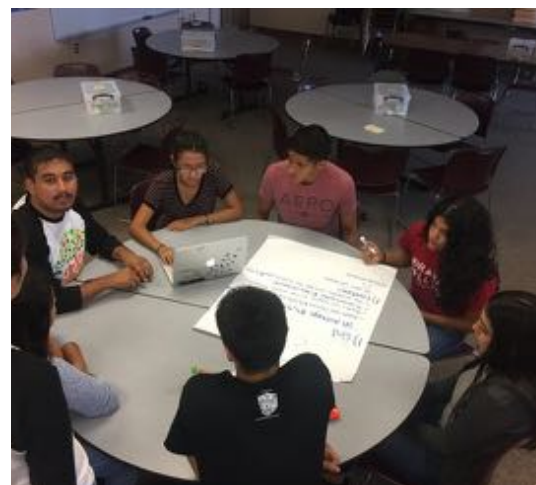
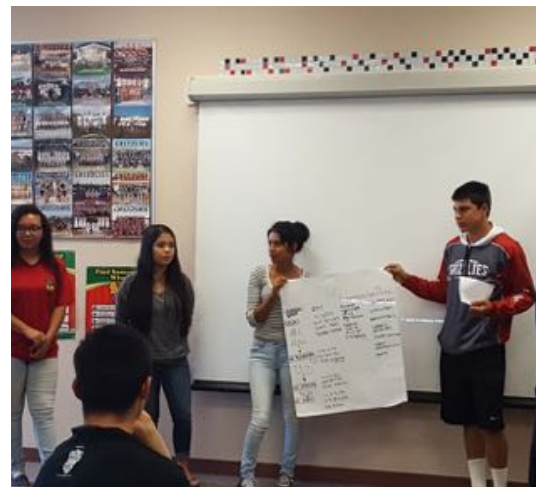
Students and mentors participated in icebreakers to get to know one another. An activity was conducted to help students get familiar with the A-G Requirements. These are a series of high school classes a student must complete with a grade of a C or better to be eligible to apply to a California State University (CSU) or a University of California (UC).





## Types of Institutions and College Applications

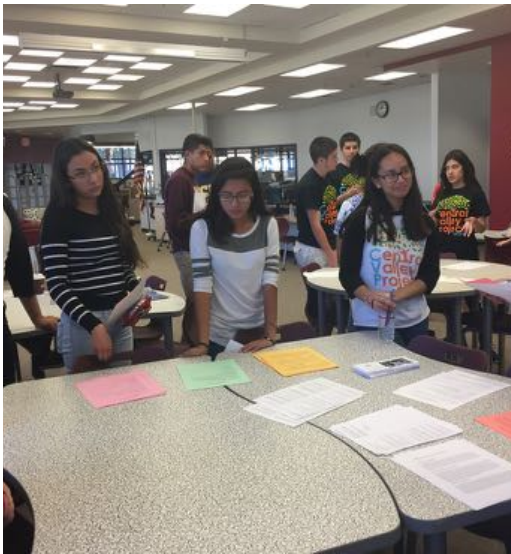
Students were split into groups to research the three different types of institutions: California Community Colleges (CCCs), California State Universities (CSUs), and Universities of California (UCs). They were also introduced to the SAT and ACT tests, standardized tests. Seniors were given an opportunity to get help on their college applications. Applications for CSUs and UCs were due November 30th.





## Student Panel, UCLA Housing, Researching Majors, and Major Fair

Mentors shared their educational trajectory stories and students were given the opportunity to ask any question they might have about the college experience of CVP mentors. Students were given a presentation about the different housing options available at UCLA. Additionally, students were given an opportunity to research majors. Mentors had booths where they presented students with information related to their major.





## Resume Workshop and Interview Skills

Students were given a presentation about how to build a resume. A resume will help students keep track of what activities they have participated in and will help them fill out their college applications their senior year. Mentors were dressed in professional attire and gave the students guidelines about what to wear to an interview. Students participated in mock interviews for a career they would like to have in the future.



# Collaborations

CVP tries to provide as many educational resources as possible. This sometimes requires us to work with other organizations and individuals from the UCLA campus. This quarter, we worked with two individuals who gave presentations to our students.

**Martin Vazquez** is a 5th year Biology and Chicano and Chicana Studies double major from Delano, CA. A lot of our students are interested in pursuing a career in the medical field. We asked Martin to give a pre-health presentation to our students.



"I wanted to give back to my community in the Central Valley and reach out to students interested in a career in the medical field to be able to provide information about medical school that I did not have in high school."  
-Martin Vazquez



**Milton Ramirez** is a 4th year Sociology major from Porterville, CA. For Site 4, he gave a resume building workshop to our students and explained to the students how to format a resume as well as what to include in it. He also explain to the students that even if they are not planning on applying for a job soon, a resume will help keep track of what they've been involved in throughout high school, and when their senior year comes, they will have all the information saved.

Thank you to both collaborators, we enjoyed working with you!

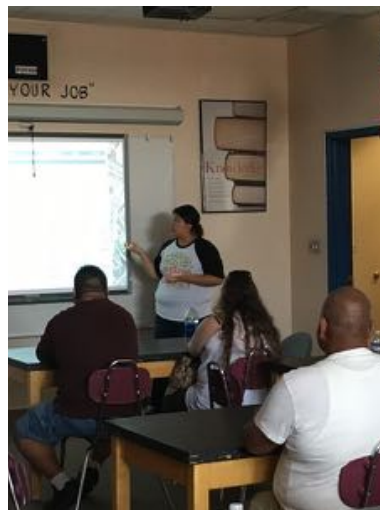
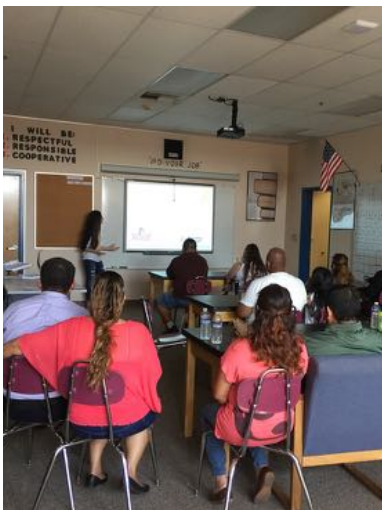


# ***Central Valley Community Coordinator's Message***

By Cristina Diaz

Hello students, parents, mentors, and community partners! My name is Cristina Diaz and I am the Central Valley Community Coordinator for this year! My role in the project is making sure we build a good relationship between our project and our community partners and parents in the Central Valley. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. I am here to help!

One of the tasks I am in charge of planning is our Family Events. I think events such as these are important because parents/guardians play an important role in a child's education. Many of our parents may not have the resources and information available to them to aid their kids in pursuing a college degree. CVP supplies vital information to parents in both English and Spanish. Our first Family Event of the year was held on November 12th. We gave three different presentations to our parents. The first presentation was given by Mayra Puente and introduced parents to what our project does and the resources we provided to their children. Angelica Gomez gave the second presentation and it explained the differences between California Community Colleges (CCCs), California State Universities (CSUs), and Universities of California (UCs). The final presentation was about the different options available to pay for higher education. We also provided some time for parents to ask any questions they had about higher education. I hope we clarified any worries parents had. We hope to see you at the next Family Event in Spring 2017!



# Family Event

November 5th

"I learned why college is important."

-Ana Carranza, CVP Parent



Parents and students were provided with lunch.



Project Director Mayra gives parents an introduction to CVP.

"I learned the necessary requirements to send my children to college."

-León Hernández, CVP Parent

"I came to learn about the aid available at colleges and universities."

-Jorge Santoyo, CVP Parent



Parents and students enjoy food donated by Subway.



Parents were given three presentations.

"I came to support my son."

-Mrs. Flores, CVP Parent



# Student Shout Outs

CVP is grateful for all the active students in our organization. We know it takes a lot of time and effort to come to site on Saturday morning and be active. Site Coordinator Maria Torres chose to recognize three students who have been consistent, active members.



**Maggie** and **Guadalupe** have attended all our sites and mentors and staff members have seen them grow out of their comfort zone throughout this Fall quarter. At our first site, they were very shy, however, they participated in all the activities. Little by little, they started elaborating more on their responses and interacting with more students. This is something that deserves to be recognized as getting out of our comfort zone is not an easy task, it takes a lot of courage!



**Jonah** has an energy that everyone notices. He's always trying to participate in every activity and he also knows how to step down to give others an opportunity to participate. In addition, when he sees that other students are struggling, he knows how to step up and help them out. During workshops, he's always showing interest by asking very good questions to whoever's leading the workshop. Overall, Jonah is a very engaged and charismatic student who deserves to be recognized!!

# Mentor Shout Outs

CVP's success could not be achieved without the help of our mentors. The staff and students appreciate all the the hardwork and effort they put into helping out at sites and fundraisers. We have a lot of great mentors! Staff chose to recognize three mentors who have done a lot for our project.



**Melissa Cabral**

4th year

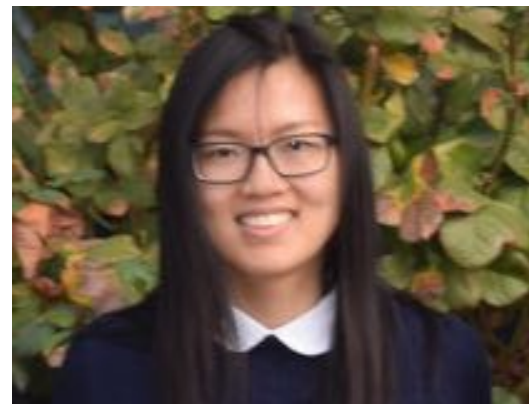
Psychology and Political  
Science Double Major



**Andrew Juarez**

2nd year

Electrical Engineering  
Major



**Xen Ping Hoi**

1st year

Biochemistry Major





# Donors

We would like to thank our sponsors for all their generous donations and for helping make our events a success. Thank you for helping us promote higher education and aiding the Central Valley youth.



The Subway on W. Henderson Ave. graciously donated sandwiches that we served during lunch at our Family Event. Thank you for supporting our project.



If you would like to make a donation to The Central Valley Project at UCLA, contact us through email at [centralvalleyproject@gmail.com](mailto:centralvalleyproject@gmail.com)



# What's Next?

## Community Service Event



The community service event allows students to become more aware of issues happening in their communities. Students will be working together to create an event to help solve an issue of their choice. This will allow students to gain leaderships skills, collaborative skills, and will increase their community involvement.

## Fieldtrip to a University

Many students do not get the opportunity to visit a college campus. One of the opportunities we provide our students is a visit to a university outside of the Central Valley. In past years, we have taken students to Stanford University and UC Davis.







# Winter Site Information



## Site location:

Granite Hills High School Library  
1701 E. Putman Ave. Porterville, CA 93257  
10:00 am- 2:00 pm

## Dates:

Saturday, January 21st  
Saturday, January 28th  
Saturday, February 11th  
\*Saturday, February 18th

**Join us!**



\*Projected date for Community Service Event

# Contact us!



Students, parents, and community partners should know that our assistance is not limited to to our biweekly site visits. Please feel free to contact us with any questions.

**Website:** [centralvalleyproject.weebly.com](http://centralvalleyproject.weebly.com)

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



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# Thank you and see you soon!