

Central Valley Project

AT UCLA



Project Director's Message

Hello CVP students, mentors, parents, and community partners! My name is Cristina Diaz and I am the Project Director for the Central Valley Project (CVP) at UCLA for the 2017-2018 academic year. Since CVP was first established in the Winter of 2012, our program has strived to help students in the underrepresented communities of the Central Valley. It is our mission to motivate high school students to pursue higher education, mentor youth to build positive self-identities, and empower students to become leaders in their communities.

Keeping this in mind, fall quarter sites were focused on the academic aspects of pursuing higher education. We aided seniors on their college applications, provided valuable information to underclassmen, and had a Family Event to provide parents with information related to college education.

As we move into the winter quarter, I would like to take the time to thank everyone who helped make this a successful quarter. Thanks to the support from many school officials and teachers, we had our largest group of students attend our sites this year. We hope to see many of our students this upcoming quarter. Additionally, thank you to all the mentors who have taken time out of their busy schedules to attend sites and weekly meetings.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, see you soon!

STAFF

Project Director



Cristina Diaz

Cristina is a fourth year Psychology major from Lost Hills, California. A fun fact about her is she has a dog with extra toes.

Why did you join CVP?

"I joined CVP because I wanted to help high school students from the Central Valley in their pursuit of higher education and provide them with resources small communities usually don't get. I enjoy being part of an organization that gives back to our communities and where I get to meet other students from similar backgrounds who also enjoy helping others"

Shannel Miranda

Shannel is a second year Psychology major from Strathmore, California. A fun fact about her is that she has a birthmark on her cheek that looks like Florida.

Why did you join CVP?

"I joined CVP because I know that our community lacks resources. I want everyone from the Central Valley to have just as much of a chance as someone from Los Angeles to go to any university that they desire. Joining CVP is definitely a way to help my own community even from miles away."

Central Valley Community Coordinator



Administrative Coordinator



Diana Guzman

Diana is a third year Sociology major from Chucándiro, Michoacán. A fun fact about her is that she has been a substitute teacher in a foreign country various times and has absolutely loved it!

Why did you join CVP?

"I joined CVP my junior year of high school and it played a major role in empowering me to pursue a higher education, as well as to apply and become a UCLA student. I want to give back to my community, which includes providing resources to high school students that may not be exposed to educational/valuable information. I love how CVP feels like a home and family to me, as well as its mission and commitment to positively impact people's lives."

Leticia Martinez

Leticia is a fourth year Political Science major from Madera, California. A fun fact about her is that she has been to one of the world's 7 wonders: Machu Picchu!

Why did you join CVP?

"I joined CVP because it is important for me to help underrepresented communities. Being part of a minority group has motivated me to provide exposure and guidance to students from similar backgrounds so that they may also reach their full potential."

Finance Coordinator



Site Coordinator



Eloise Rangel

Eloise is a third year Political Science major from Fresno, California. A fun fact about her is that she figure skates!

Why did you join CVP?

"To give back to the community that helped me achieve things I never thought possible when I was younger.

I love being able to see all of the growth and development, in the CVP family, in the mentees, and in myself."

UCLA Community Coordinators

Iris Lopez

Iris is a second year Psychology major from Porterville, California. A fun fact about her is that she was captain of the golf team.

Why did you join CVP?

"I joined when I was a junior in high school because I wanted to learn more about college. What I like about CVP is that we're a community and we support one another."



Imelda Mena

Imelda is a fourth year Biology major from San Jose, California. A fun fact about her is that she did long jump in track and field.

Why did you join CVP?

"I like the energy that our students give us during site, it always makes me happy to see how much more of an impact we can make when we group together to achieve our goals. Empowering youth to me is important because it's an essential step into having a better future."

Outreach Events



Early in the year CVP Staff and Mentors make a trip to the Central Valley to recruit students and provide them information about our program and the valuable resources we provide. The schools we went to are:

- **Granite Hills High School**
- **Monache High School**
- **Porterville High School**

Site Coordinator's Message

“The purpose of learning is growth, and our minds, unlike our bodies, can continue growing as long as we live.” —Mortimer Adler

When I look back on my time as site coordinator, I feel as though it has been one of the greatest experiences gained from my time at UCLA. In my position, I've had a unique opportunity to really see the growth and development that each student goes through. It is amazing to see how far they come in such a short time, not just in their comfortability with our focused topics and events, but also with each other and their own self.

At the beginning of the year, and before every quarter, I make a broad plan for what I hope to teach and accomplish during our sites. I have found that there is a delicate balance between preparing students for their future in (or out of) higher education and giving them the space to create themselves. This quarter we went over the process of researching and applying to colleges, as well as pointing them towards resources including scholarships, job opportunities, and possibilities for those without citizenship. The Central Valley Project is also about fostering self-growth and acceptance within each student and site has been supplemented with activities and workshops to help the students gain confidence in their own capabilities in and out of academia. My goal so far has been to provide students with resources and information, and at the very bottom line that's what each of us mentors are really meant to be. And still, CVP has proven to be even more than that.

The Central Valley Project has taught me a lot about what it is to really be a part of a team and community, and it's given me the indescribable feeling of giving back to a community that has done so much for myself and my peers. It holds a very special part in my heart and makes me glad to be a part of something so wonderful. Thanks to everyone who have already made this such an amazing year.

First site had an outcome of 70+ students (the highest number yet). The site was filled with icebreakers for students to be comfortable with the other students as well as with mentors.

SITES

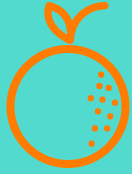


Introductions and High School Road Maps



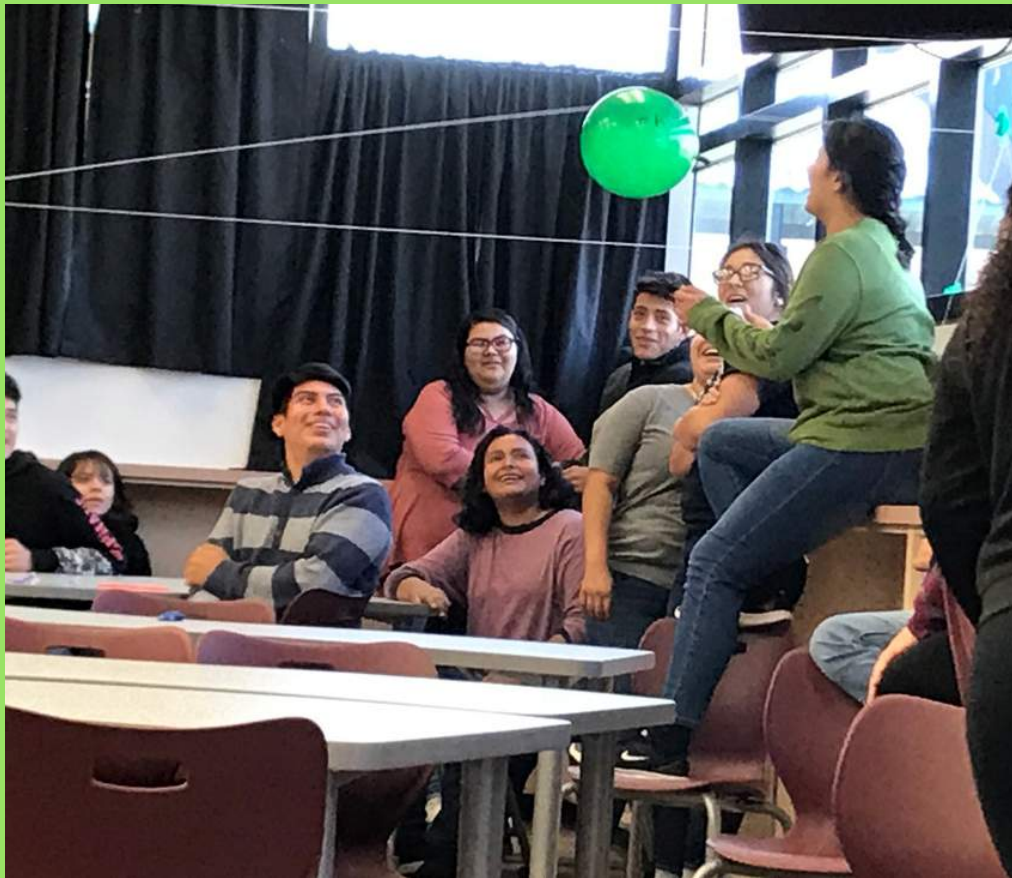
We also had presentations and Q & A's on deadlines and requirements from freshman year to the point of admissions during senior year.

SITES



Team Building

Our last site consisted of team building exercises in preparation for our community service event in the Winter.



STUDENT SHOUT OUTS

This is **Johnny's** first year in CVP. He is very consistent in attending sites and always very engaged in our activities.



Johnny

Celeste has been a part of CVP for a few years now and has definitely grown as a leader! She is always willing to share her insight throughout site.



Celeste

Evanie and **Tina** joined CVP two years ago. We have enjoyed seeing them go out of their comfort zones and join other social circles. They also are very approaching with any questions or concerns they have.



Tina

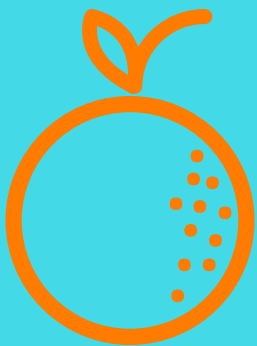


Evanie

Central Valley Community Coordinator's Message

Hello parents, mentors, students, staff, and community partners! My name is Shannel Miranda and I am the Central Valley Community Coordinator for the 2017/2018 year. My position in this project is to build a good connection between our project and the parents and community partners in the Central Valley. If there are any questions, I am always here to help!

We had our Fall Family Event on November 11th. Cristina Diaz (Project Director), and I gave three presentations in English and Spanish. The first presentation was an introduction to our program and what we do as an organization. The second presentation was more focused on the financial aspects of going to college, such as loans, grants and scholarships. The third presentation was focused on popular parent concerns; this included concerns for living quarters, safety precautions, and resources available. We also had Cristina Moron Guzman, a parent of one of our mentors, share her experiences and concerns of having her daughter going to a university out of the area. Once again, thank you for being a part of the Central Valley Project in any way possible. We look forward to seeing you at the next Family Event in the Spring.



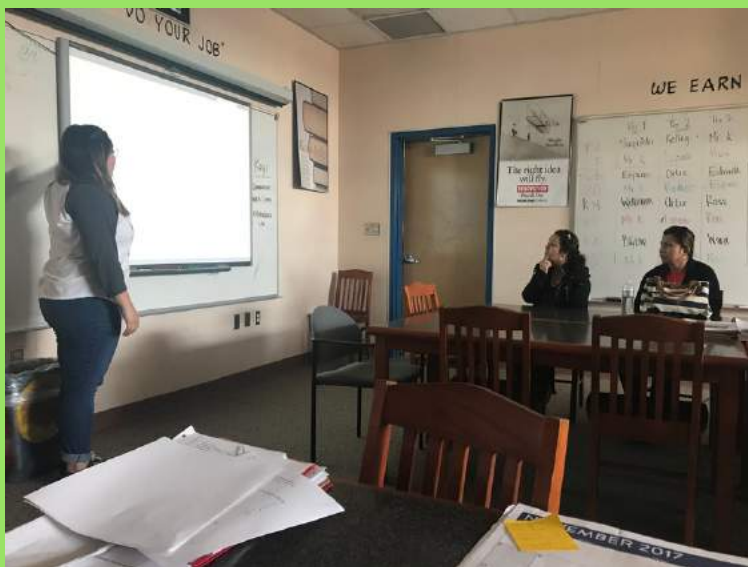
Family Event



Parents were invited to our Family Event where we gave information on higher education and tips for their role along the process.

"Thank you for the presentation especially on campus life and bringing the parent to discuss about her daughter attending UCLA. This gives me a better perspective for when my daughter goes."

- Ms. Prado, CVP Parent



"Many of the doubts I had were cleared up. Please keep doing what you are doing; thank you for your time!"

- Ms. Campos, CVP Parent

MENTOR SHOUT OUT



Citlali Lopez



Lorna Mendoza



Citlali and **Lorna** have been consistent mentors to our weekly meetings as well as to sites. They are always willing to help in our activities, have great feedback and show a great commitment to CVP.

Special Thanks to...

Cristina Moron Guzman
for taking time out of her
day to come speak at our
family event!

Leticia Miranda for the
catering of flautas lunch
at the family event!



Granite Hills High School Staff
and **Mr. Marroquin** for
providing a space for our
organization.

COMING UP NEXT...



WINTER QUARTER



Students 2017 Community Service
Event: Carnival for a Cure

Community Service Event

The students will all work together to choose and plan an event that they believe will address an important issue in their community. This gives students the opportunity to develop leadership and collaborative skills and become more involved in their own community.

Trip to a University



Students at our 2017 trip to UC
Santa Barbara.

Since a majority of universities are outside of the Central Valley, many students do not get the opportunity to visit them. We provide the opportunity to see a university of their choice.



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, comments, or feedback about the organization.

Website: centralvalleyproject.weebly.com

Email: centralvalleyproject@gmail.com



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The Central Valley Project at UCLA



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@cvp_ucla



Thank you! We hope to see you soon.