

Issue 5



Central Valley Project

UCLA



Winter 2017

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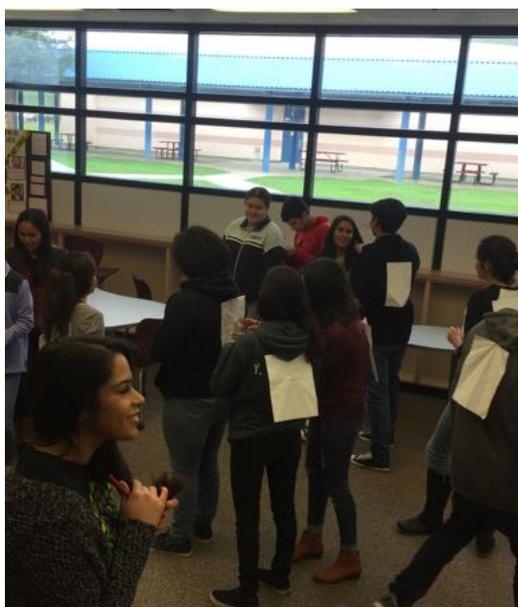
Newsletter

Project Director's Message

By: Mayra Puente

Welcome back students, parents, school officials, and community members! As we transition into a new quarter, I would like to take some time to reflect on our various successes during the Winter 2017 Quarter. Like all other winter quarters in CVP, students have about two months to plan a community service event. This quarter is treasured by many UCLA mentors because it is the quarter where we see the most growth in our students. Students use the knowledge, leadership skills, and resources they acquired during the Fall Quarter to develop and execute their community service event towards the end of February. This quarter is where we see our most timid students shine bright and begin to actively share their ideas with their peers and where we witness our most energetic students step down to create an open and safe space for other students to take initiative. We begin to learn more about the skills and experiences our students possess as we collectively identify a pressing issue in our community. While our students are young, they are hypervigilant and responsive to the needs of their community members. Moreover, the winter quarter reflects two core aspects of our mission statement, which is to mentor youth to build positive self-identities and empower young student leaders in our communities. Our students self-planned and self-directed Carnival for a Cure, which was an event intended to raise funds and awareness for cancer research. Their funds, totaling \$555, were donated to the local cancer treatment center in Porterville. While our students evidently managed to raise a large sum of money through their event, more importantly, our students learned to think critically about their privileges and the disadvantages other individuals in their community may face. Additionally, our students learned to work together as an organization, which is an important life skill needed for environments like colleges where collegiality is highly encouraged.

I, along with the other UCLA mentors, am extremely proud of our students for their patience, diligence, and overall positive energy that they consistently displayed throughout the winter quarter. I hope that our organization continues this constructive and encouraging momentum as we move forward in the academic year. As always, feel free to contact our organization if you have any questions and I hope you enjoy our Winter 2017 Newsletter that highlights the community service event along with future dates and details of CVP!



2016-2017 CVP Staff



Mayra Puente
Project Director



Diana Moron Guzman
Administrative Coordinator



Maria Torres
Site Coordinator



Angelica Gomez
Finance Coordinator



Cristina Diaz
Central Valley Community Coordinator



Rafael Pantoja-Zarate
Co-UCLA Community Coordinator

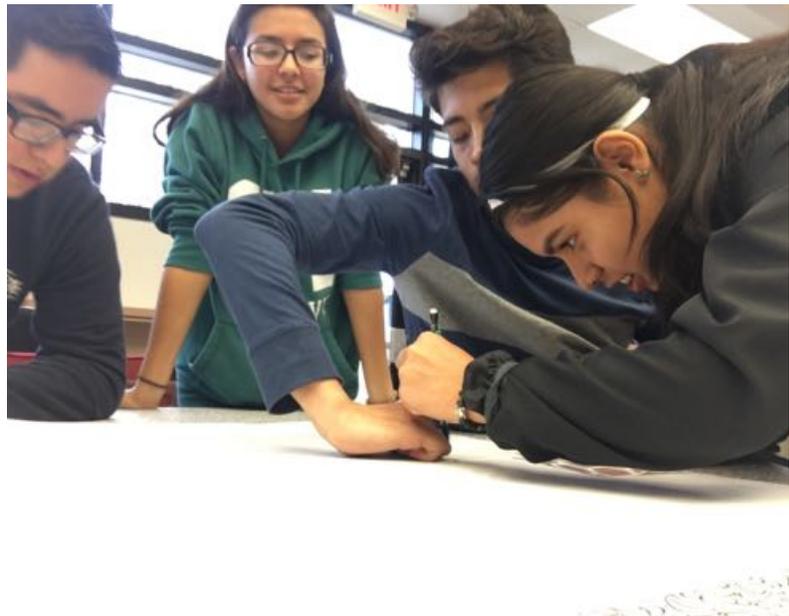


Danielle Renteria-Andrade
Co-UCLA Community Coordinator

OUTREACH EVENT

January 20th

CVP is open to high school students in Porterville and its surrounding communities. One of CVP's goals this year was to outreach to schools we had not previously outreached to. During outreach events, CVP staff and mentors give brief presentations to students so they can learn about the educational services we provide. We visited Monache High School for the first time this quarter. Thank you to Mr. Wallis, Mr. Massei, and Ms. Driver for allowing us to visit your classrooms!



Site Coordinator's Message

By: Maria Torres

Our CVP community service event revolved around the subject of cancer awareness. Our students decided to organize an event in support of cancer research. By organizing “Carnival for a Cure,” they aimed to raise awareness and funds for the Cancer Treatment Center in Porterville, CA. The event took place on February 25th, 2017 at the Monache High School basketball courts. The mini carnival included 10–15 games, food stands, and music.

The students compartmentalized their efforts by dividing themselves into four committees: Advertisement, Location, Game Donations, and Food Donations. Besides working during our biweekly site visitations, they also planned their efforts based on availability. The students on the Advertisement Committee created the flyer for the event. Meanwhile, the Location Committee prepared all accommodations and secured our event location. The other two committees gathered the necessary games and food to make our event successful. Our students also created a GoFundMe to raise funds for their cause.

The students’ planning successfully came to fruition. Overall, they raised \$555 from donations and in-site revenue. Our students did an excellent job at distributing responsibilities, managing their tasks, and executing their plans. It makes me proud to say that this has, by far, been the most successful community service event in CVP history.

We would like to give special thanks to the following individuals for making our event possible: Mr. Wagner, Mr. Contreras, Rachal Rowel, and last but not least to all CVP mentors and students for working arduously to organize a successful event.



Site 1

January 21st

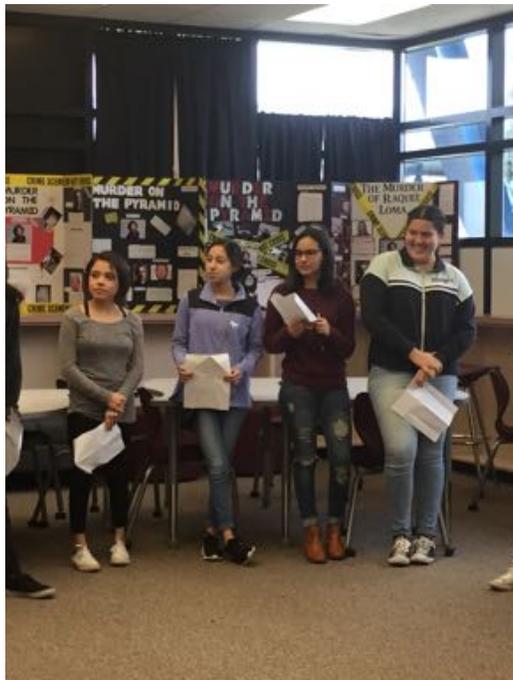
The students conducted an activity to help them understand the importance of problem solving and reliability. These two skills are very important for planing an event, such as the community service event. Students also brainstormed ideas on topics for the community service event. Students were broken up into committees to complete tasks for the community service event.



Students and mentors participated in icebreakers to help build self confidence. In a community service event, it is important that all students express their ideas and contribute to helping the project move forward. Additionally, students finalized their project ideas and decided to raise funds for cancer research. Each student was assigned to a committee and was given tasks to complete.

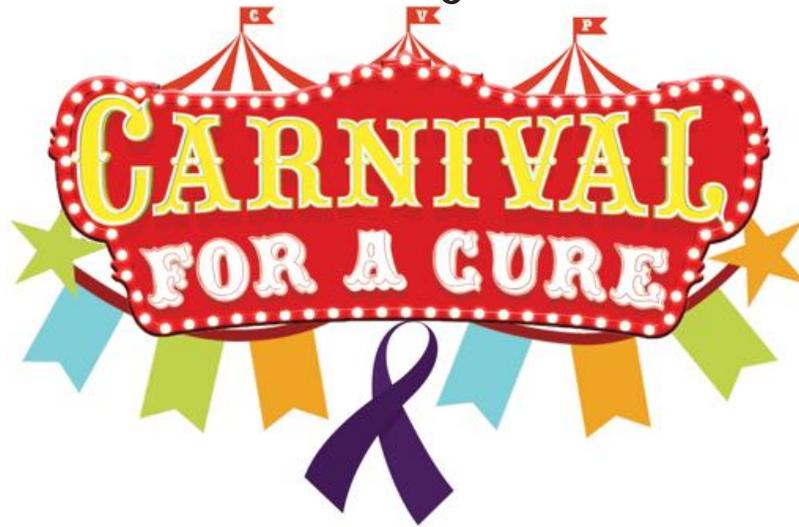


Students and mentors conducted activities to help build each others' self esteem. Students engaged in icebreakers where they gave each other compliments in order to learn how to work together and be more cohesive.



COMMUNITY SERVICE EVENT

February 25th



AFTER WEEKS OF PLANING, STUDENTS WERE FINALLY ABLE TO SEE ALL THEIR HARD WORK PAY OFF. WE HAD A GREAT TURNOUT AT OUR CARNIVAL FOR A CURE EVENT. STUDENTS PUT TOGETHER 10-15 BOOTHS FOR THE PUBLIC TO ENJOY. OVERALL, STUDENTS WERE ABLE TO RAISE \$555 TO DONATE TO THE CANCER TREATMENT CENTER IN PORTERVILLE.



Students made pastries to sell during the carnival.



Minute to win it game booth.

Students also had a face painting booth.



Students created a "Feed CVP" booth.

FIELDTRIP TO UC SANTA BARBARA

March 4th

Following the community service event, CVP took active and eligible students to visit and engage in workshops at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB) on Saturday, May 4th. One of our main goals as an education organization is to expose students from the Central Valley to higher education opportunities outside of their respective communities. Many of us at UCLA were unaware of institutions outside of the Central Valley, given that the institutions primarily emphasized in our local high schools were CSU Fresno or CSU Bakersfield. As UCLA Bruins, we recognize that institutions like UCLA have an array of resources and opportunities unattainable by students who attend less selective institutions close to home. We strive to emphasize the importance of pursuing higher education at a 4-year institution. We discuss what it is like to be on a big campus, to be away from home, and what it is like to acculturate oneself in an institution that lacks the diversity of some of our communities. These are important topics to consider when choosing a college, and we hope that our students gain a better understanding of college life through our experiences and through visiting other institutions they may not have had access to otherwise. UCSB was a highly popular college within our student group this year, so we connected with our Gauchos to plan a fruitful and enlightening experience for our students. Not only did students tour the UCSB campus, but they engaged in workshops related to majors, time management, and science education. More importantly, we allowed students to spend some time on the beach and treated them to dinner off campus, so that they could familiarize themselves with the community that surrounds UCSB. We hope that our students learned a lot about UCSB and the college life more generally, and that they made new connections with the student presenters at UCSB. Lastly, we would like to express my deep gratitude to the UCSB student organizations that collaborated with CVP and showed our students what the typical life of a Gaucho looks like and what opportunities are available at this specific institution. Thank you!



Students were given a tour of the UCSB campus by Reyna Montellano, a member of the Gaucho Tour Association.



Mohan, a member of the Gaucho Experiment, gave students insight into the marine life around UCSB.



After lunch, students participated in a Thai Chi class that was given by EAOP.



Students were given free time on the beach.



Students pose in front of the UCSB Visitor Center.



Student Shoutouts



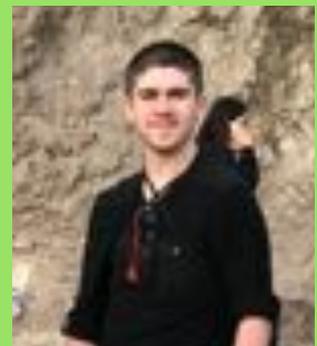
Cross De Leon demonstrated his leadership through his participation in the Location Committee. He used his free time at school to talk to the ASB adviser to secure the tables and chairs that were needed for the event. Lastly, he coordinated the distribution and allocation of the tables, once again, taking the lead.

Savannah Rowell's leadership skills were noticeable during our community service event of this quarter. She was a member of the Food Donation Committee. In all brainstorming activities, she was actively engaged and presented many of her her own ideas. At the event, she helped her parents with the food that was sold there the entire five hours.



Daniel Orozco was the leader of the Game Donation Committee and was very responsive when it came to the planning that occurred within the committee. For the event, he was able to provide some materials of his own for the tossing games that made a good amount of the revenues.

Jonah Flores was a member of the Game Donation Committee and did not limit himself on his creativity. He went above and beyond when it came to coming up with games that were attractive and engaging for the kids who came to the event. He came up with about nine games by himself and anyone who would play his games was fascinated and would want to play again.



Mentor Shoutouts

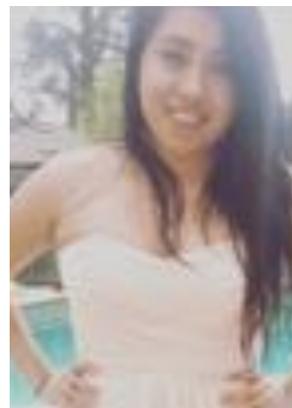
CVP's success could not be achieved without the help of our mentors. The staff and students appreciate all the the hardwork and effort they put into helping out at sites and fundraisers. We have a lot of great mentors! Staff chose to recognize four mentors who have put in a lot of hardwork into our project.



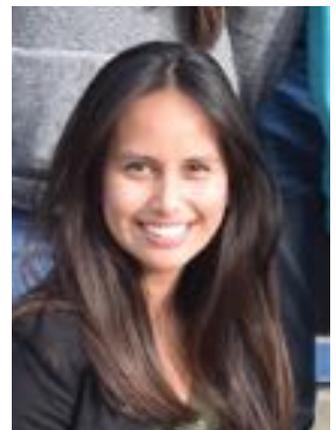
Shannel Miranda
1st year
Psychology Major



Melissa Cabral
4th year
Psychology and
Political Science
Double Major



Leticia Martinez
3rd year
Political Science
Major
Global Health Minor



Imelda Mena
3rd year
Biology Major



COLLABORATIONS

We would like to thank everyone who was able to help put our events together. Thank you for helping us promote higher education to the Central Valley youth.



Mr. and Mrs. Rowell, CVP parents, helped during our Carnival for a Cure event by providing hot dogs to sell during the carnival.



Monache High School provided us their basketball courts as the location for our Carnival for a Cure event.



Reyna Montellano, a member of the Gaucho Tour Association, gave students a tour of UCSB.



**PORTERVILLE
COLLEGE**

MECHA students from Porterville College came out to help with the Carnival for a Cure event.



The Gaucho Experiment gave students a chance to learn about Marine life when we visited UCSB.



When we visited UCSB, The UCSB Sigma Lambda Beta chapter provided a workshop about majors available at UCSB.



Mr. Contreras, teacher at Monache, helped us obtain tables and chairs for the Carnival for a Cure event.



Granite Hills High School provide us with transportation for our fieldtrip to UCSB.



Mrs. Valdez, counselor at Granite, accompanied us on our field trip

La Escuelita of UCSB

Est. 1969

La Escuelita at UCSB provided a workshop on time management when we visited UCSB.



UCSB EAOP allowed us to join their Thai Chi workshop and provided our students with a free lunch on our fieldtrip to UCSB.

What's Next?

Spring Family Event May 13th



We will be having our second Family Event of the year on May 13th Parents will be provided with important topics related to higher education. Parents will also be given information about our up coming Shadow Day.

Fall Family Event 2016

5th Annual Shadow Day May 19th- May 20th

We will be bringing our students to visit UCLA. During Shadow Day, students will get the opportunity to shadow a current college student and experience the college student life. Details about this event will be provided during the Spring Family Event.



Shadow Day 2016

End of the Year Banquet June 3rd



Banquet 2016

This event is a celebration of all of the students' accomplishments throughout the school. Students and their families will be provided with dinner. We will be presenting participation and recognition awards to our students as well as providing scholarships.

Spring Site

Information

Site Location:

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



Dates:

Saturday, April 22nd
Saturday, May 13th



CONTACT US!

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

Website: centralvalleyproject.weebly.com

Email: centralvalleyproject@gmail.com



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The Central Valley Project at UCLA



Follow us on Instagram:
[@cvp_ucla](https://www.instagram.com/cvp_ucla)



Thank you and see you soon!