

VOLUME 1 | ISSUE 1

# SASEEP

MAGAZINE

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY AND OPPORTUNITY THROUGH REGIONAL COLLABORATION



SACRAMENTO  
STATE

*Redefine the Possible*

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

# MESSAGE FROM THE ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT



Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs devotes itself to a core vision and mission to promote the unified success of all students. We are leaders in educational equity and student success, and are proud to showcase the many programs and services that have come to comprise the Unit. We have engineered a robust external relations component through key campus and external partnerships that will help elevate the success of our programs, while helping them gain broader visibility and stature for their great and rich achievements. We hope the SASEEP Magazine helps you learn more about our supportive services, strategies for program innovation, and major milestones reached in leveraging campus and community resources for the betterment of our society as a whole.

## **HERE ARE SOME OF THE SIGNIFICANT AND LANDMARK ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE SASEEP UNIT:**

- Creation of three Centers devoted to Equity and Student Success through the Serna Center, Martin Luther King, Jr. Center, and the Dreamer Resource Center
- Provision of countless hours in tutoring and peer support through the Peer and Academic Resource Center with more than 2,000 hours of tutoring utilized each term
- Administration of three federal grants to support high school equivalency, provide support for migrant students from seasonal and farm worker families (e.g., College Assistance Migrant Program), and support to Full Circle Project/Educational Opportunity Program scholars through our Transfer Initiative
- Creation of seven summer programs to support students from underserved communities through the American Indian Summer Institute, Migrant Student Leadership Institute, the First Generation Institute, the Summer Bridge Academy, Sophomore Bridge, Transfer Bridge, and the MLK Leadership Institute
- Customized student support through campus mentorship programming, male student support, and programs for parents and families
- Delivery of comprehensive retention and graduation support services through the DEGREES Project, a program that reaches all students on campus to advance their success and acquisition of a degree.

Thank you, readers, for learning about our important work and for embracing us with support. We know that together everyone achieves more.

Unity in Action,

**Dr. Marcellene Watson-Derbigny,**

Associate Vice President, Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs



## Letter from the Managing Editor

### DEAR READERS:

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the inaugural Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs (SASEEP) Magazine. This issue, "Educational Equity and Opportunity through Regional Collaboration," features fascinating and valuable articles of the major initiatives and advances being made to support Sacramento State students.

Thank you for reading our first issue, and for your commitment and capacity to support all students in attaining their educational goals, and for preparing them for life beyond college. I wish you all a happy, healthy, and productive year.

Yours Sincerely,

**Dr. Chao Vang**

External Relations Coordinator, Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs  
Executive Coordinator, Full Circle Project  
Managing Editor, SASEEP Magazine

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# THE STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAMS



## ABOUT SASEEP

### Mission:

The Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs are committed to fostering diversity and equity while promoting a campus learning environment that encourages and supports all students in persisting toward their educational goals by increasing their retention and graduation rates.

## Strategic Planning Goals

In advancement of the University's goals, SASEEP fully supports the strategic areas outlined by the University, which include:

- Enhance student learning and success
- Foster innovative teaching, scholarship, and research
- Commit to engaging the community by building enduring partnerships that strengthen and enrich the region
- Excel as a place to learn, work, live, and visit
- Engage students in a comprehensive university experience
- Promote a strong university identity

To ensure alignment with the campus strategic plan, the following goals have been set for the Unit:

1. Increase the retention and graduation rates of students from underserved communities through efforts launched by SASEEP and the DEGREES Project.
2. Develop a research arm for Student Academic Success efforts to better explore the causes of retention and attrition.
3. Create partnerships with local schools with high numbers of students from underserved backgrounds as an outreach tool and college readiness effort to increase long-term student success.
4. Host a signature student academic success event that promotes graduation success each year.
5. Increase involvement of underserved students in co-curricular programming opportunities.
6. Establish increased media outlets to promote the success of educational equity students, adding to the heart of the Sacramento State story.

# STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAMS



## Diversity Plan

The SASEEP Diversity Plan is a project developed by the Campus Educational Equity Committee (CEEC) which saw a need to create and implement a comprehensive diversity plan at Sacramento State. The SASEEP Diversity Plan is intended to be a living, evolving document; it should never be considered final and complete. The goals and objectives of this document are to celebrate, embrace and honor diversity in all its forms and uphold the mission of Sacramento State. The plan will be reviewed and updated annually and changes will be implemented as necessary by the CEEC committee members.

## Diversity Plan Components

The plan establishes a framework of five general goals aligned with Sacramento State's mission statement.

1. Create a Statement of Diversity and Inclusion that Sacramento State will adopt and that will be easily accessible on the Sacramento State website and other printed media. That statement is: Create an inclusive campus for all students, faculty and staff.
2. Recruit and retain students of diverse backgrounds.
3. Recruit and retain faculty, staff and administrators of diverse backgrounds.
4. Increase the graduation rates for students of diverse backgrounds and promote graduate school diversity enrollment and access.

With inclusion and diversity at the forefront of Sacramento State, the SASEEP Diversity Plan has served as a guiding document for Sacramento State's latest educational equity work.

Since its inception, the SASEEP Diversity Plan has served as a foundational document for our unit and has kept us on track with completing many of our campus educational equity goals. This document

allows for SASEEP to have a comprehensive plan of action. The SASEEP Diversity Plan is updated annually to ensure that framework items are being updated dependent upon the needs and climate of our campus community. SASEEP works tirelessly to accomplish our collective goals across our unit that align directly with Sac State's Strategic Goals. This is accomplished through working collaboratively with our various campus partners and Sacramento community members. The SASEEP Diversity Plan will continue to build campus unity and celebrate the beautiful and diverse campus that we truly are. To view the full SASEEP Diversity Plan please visit our website at [www.csus.edu/saseep](http://www.csus.edu/saseep).

Author: Rosana Chavez-Hernandez, M.S.  
EOP Counselor/Sophomore & Career Success  
Coordinator

## Welcome

Welcome to Student Academic Success and Educational Equity Programs (SASEEP)! We are a unit comprised of a variety of student success support programs that are designed to increase student retention, persistence, and graduation, while working to close the achievement gap. Programs in the Unit include:

### STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS PROGRAMS

- Dedicated to Educating, Graduating, and Retaining Educational Equity Students (DEGREES Project)
- Executive Trainers Program (ETP)
- Faculty Student Mentor Program (FSMP)
- Parents & Families Program
- Paving Excellence, Retention and Success in Student Trajectories (PERSIST)
- Peer & Academic Resource Center (PARC)
- Serna Center
- "U" Mentor Program

### EQUITY PROGRAMS

- College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)
- Dreamer Resource Center (DRC)
- Educational Opportunity Program (EOP)
- Full Circle Project (FCP)
- Guardian Scholars Program (GSP)
- High School Equivalency Program (HEP)
- Male Empowerment Collaboration (MEC)
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Center (MLK)
- Migrant Student Leadership Institute (MSLI)



### COLLEGE BASED EDUCATIONAL EQUITY PROGRAMS

- College of Arts and Letters - Supplemental Instruction Program (SI)
- College of Business - Business Educational Equity Program (BEEP)
- College of Education - Educational Equity
- College of Engineering and Computer Science - MESA Engineering Program (MEP)
- College of Health and Human Services – HHS Educational Equity
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics - Science Educational Equity Program (SEE)
- College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies - Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program
- First-Generation Institute and Project HMONG

All of the programs above provide advising, tutoring, mentoring, and peer-based support that fosters the success of students in transition, the retention of students in the University, and support to prepare students for life beyond college. We are proud of these signature services and welcome your involvement and collaboration with our unit to build a culture of excellence and success that translates into a higher education degree.

# 50TH YEAR OF EOP

## PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

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*The CSU EOP's 50th anniversary is a celebration of students who shaped California's history through activism and social justice. It is an observance of those who made access to higher education a reality and an opportunity to recognize those who continue this movement today and for those who will lead us into the future. EOP will continue to increase the access, academic excellence and retention of students who have been historically underserved through its ongoing tradition of changing lives through continuous innovation.*

See <https://eop50.org> for more information.

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## History

In 1968, an eager group of individuals worked diligently to pilot the Educational Opportunity Program. Following the successful evaluation, the California Legislature passed the enabling legislation (SB 1072), also known as the Harmer Bill, that gave rise to the EOP Program at Sacramento State and in all of the CSU in 1969. An eager group at Sacramento State established limited services in 1968, making our program one of the first operational programs in the state.

EOP is the University's first and most comprehensive postsecondary access and equity program. The program was started in response to public pressure that shed light on the fact that a large population of California citizens was vastly underrepresented in the California State University system. EOP is designed to improve access and retention of low-income and educationally disadvantaged students.





# SAC STATE EOP ALUMNI VOICES

## Jorge Arturo Reyes

**SUPERINTENDENT/PRESIDENT MENDOCINO COLLEGE  
B.A., SPANISH AND COMMUNICATION STUDIES, 1985**

As a poor, former ESL, first-generation, underprepared, specially admitted student, entering a CSU campus for the first time was both terrifying and rewarding. Simply attending a CSU was Jorge parents' dream, but his first university experience as a person of color was a nightmare. Jorge doubted his ability, felt he didn't belong, and was convinced failure was inevitable.



*Jorge Arturo Reyes*

At EOP, Jorge met faculty, staff, and students of color and for the first time he felt at ease among the diversity. The EOP counselors' wisdom and cultural understanding created a multicultural community, and a sense of family. Jorge credits EOP with the foundation for and the catalyst to his success to become a community college CEO, where he passionately serves underrepresented and marginalized students by confronting institutional racism and sexism to remove barriers and promote academic success and opportunity.

The abilities, humility and confidence Jorge learned through EOP have forged his character, life path, and professional success. The accomplishments Jorge hold dear include creating a unique educational program with Native American communities, developing programs to serve first-generation college students, creating a Dreamer/Latino center, and mentoring students and staff of color.

Jorge tells students this advice from his personal and professional experience: "Cherish your family, your experiences, and your values. Believe in yourself, yet learn from your peers, counselors, faculty, and mentors. Trust that your effort will lead to educational, personal, and professional success and a rewarding, fulfilling life."

We are honored to call Jorge Arturo Reyes a Sacramento State EOP alumnus.

## Stephanie Gomez

**B.A., SOCIOLOGY WITH A MINOR IN COUNSELING, 2018**

Support is the first thing that comes to mind when Stephanie thinks of the Educational Opportunity Program. EOP has served her with a constant support system, volunteer opportunities, employment, and the tools necessary to receive a baccalaureate degree. She is grateful to have had the EOP family motivating her and supporting her through this process. Stephanie was recently accepted into graduate school--another accomplishment she credits to the EOP support she has received.



*Stephanie Gomez*

"From the beginning of my EOP experience," Stephanie says, "I have always felt this program has genuinely cared about my path to success. I was a part of the Summer Bridge program that gave me a head start in my academics and allowed me to become more familiar with the campus and my peers." The Summer Bridge Program at Sacramento State is a 6-week program that offers English, Math, and leadership courses at no cost to qualifying students. "Through the Summer Bridge Program, I was able to get ahead in my academics and become more familiar with the campus before starting in the fall. After my first year, EOP continued to offer workshops, courses, and advising throughout my time at Sacramento State," she says.

Stephanie is excited for new and future EOP students, and wants to welcome them to the family. "Congratulations on being admitted to a program that is dedicated to serving and supporting your educational aspirations and college success!" She offers this advice to new EOP students: "Utilize all that EOP has to offer. The Educational Opportunity Program has so much to give to you in your pursuit of a degree."

We are proud to call Stephanie Gomez a Sacramento State EOP alumnus.



# MALE EMPOWERMENT COLLABORATIVE

*By Jerry Blake, Educational Opportunity Program Retention Coordinator/Male Empowerment Coordinator*

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*The Male Empowerment Collaborative was established through the support and guidance of SASEEP and the work of the Graduation Initiative. As conversations continued the program was expanded to include Latino males and eventually it was concluded that all male students could benefit from such an endeavor.*

*A planning committee of male faculty, staff, students and administrators developed a plan to address the growing number of concerns that male students face. That committee developed key concepts such as a mentoring component, success workshops, and one-on-one conversations with students. The program operates from a collaborative approach through the establishment of campus and community partnerships.*

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## PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The Male Empowerment Collaborative sponsored several Men's Conferences featuring keynote speakers Dr. Frank Harris, Associate Professor, San Diego State, Coach Viliami Tuivai (Coach V), the CEO and President of the Invictus Foundation, and professor and writer Dr. David Inniss. The program has also featured events such as panel discussions, presentations on politics, personal development, academic success and self-actualization.

## IN CLASS PARTICIPATION

Students can register for the supplemental instruction class entitled "Navigating Success for Male Empowerment at Sacramento State." The class will provide opportunities to explore strategies for academic success, cultural enhancement, leadership, development, and career explorations.

## MALE EMPOWERMENT COLLABORATIVE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

Another way for students to get involved in the collaborative is to join the student club. The organization was started in 2014 and consisted of young men interested in helping participants succeed personally and professionally. The club hosts events and participates in campus and community activities promoting male success. The organization will re-establish active club status in fall 2018.

## MENTORING

MEC will be re-launching its mentor component in fall 2018. Faculty, staff and community leaders serve as mentors for our male students.

## MENTOR MONDAYS

Monday mentoring sessions provide opportunities for male students to engage in culturally relevant conversations with a guest mentor on such topics as education, career goals and aspirations, current events and life skills.

## VOLUNTEERING

There are ample opportunities for students to volunteer in campus event planning and implementation, participation in collaborative campus events, or helping out in the community.

## CLOSING STATEMENT

Young men face tremendous obstacles when it comes to academic success. Particularly men of color. MEC is a program designed to engage and empower students to be lifelong learners and active participants in education, the campus, and the community.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Visit [csus.edu/saseep/mec](http://csus.edu/saseep/mec) for more information, or contact Jerry Blake at [blake@csus.edu](mailto:blake@csus.edu) or (916) 278-6183.



# DEGREES PROJECT

## COACH LAY VANG RECEIVES CSU TRUSTEES' AWARD



The CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement is awarded annually to students who demonstrate superior academic performance, personal accomplishments, community service and financial need. The Awards Selection Committee is comprised of Board of Trustees leaders, and members of the Academic Senate, Alumni Council and California State Student Association.

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*Lay is one of ten children to Hmong immigrant parents. He faced many challenges navigating the public school system as a child of refugees. His father worked two jobs while his mother raised him and his siblings. Currently, Lay is a coach for the DEGREES Project at Sacramento State where he mentors, advises, and connects students to campus resources, and facilitates career development workshops. Lay does his best to preserve the Hmong culture by teaching the Hmong language, traditions, and history to students.*

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Lay is pursuing his Master of Science degree in Counseling, specializing in Career Counseling, from the Department of Counselor Education at California State University, Sacramento. He expects to graduate in May 2019. Lay plans to become a counselor in the same community where he grew up after completing his master's degree program and to continue his commitment to help underrepresented minority students reach their full potential.

***Congratulations Lay Vang for this prestigious award!***

# “U” MENTOR

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*“U” Mentor facilitates mentoring opportunities for Sac State students utilizing faculty, staff and community leaders as mentors.*

*One-on-one mentoring experiences support students to achieve academic success. “U” Mentor is designed to address the needs of our 30,000 students through the formulation of mentoring relationships.*

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Once matched, students actively communicate with mentors and receive assistance with academic advising, career advising, and overall achievement of success. Both mentors and mentees are required to complete a Development Plan together to ensure students and mentors experience a fulfilling mentorship relationship.

Working with a mentee requires good listening skills and a strong interest in supporting our students and their academic success. Mentors are provided training opportunities to develop a strong mentoring foundation and background information on resources and conversations, and insight on student identity from a cultural perspective.

“U” Mentor is currently seeking mentors for the 2018-19 academic year. This one-year commitment requires mentors and mentees to meet three times per semester.

## CENTER SPOTLIGHT



# THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CENTER

## VISION

To foster an ethos of success that permeates the scholarly experience, the community and the world by setting a tone of change and lifelong improvement that inspires and fulfills the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## MISSION

The program is designed to support and ensure the success of African American students or those with an interest in African American heritage in their quest toward a degree at Sacramento State.

## SAC STATE MLK SCHOLARS

The MLK Scholars Program hosts community-building and community-enriching events such as Black Family Day and the MLK Gala, as well as academic events such as the Black Student Success Forum and community events like Afro Yoga. The MLK Center employs five MLK leaders who are exemplary students that serve as an example to their Sacramento State peers.

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MLK'S VISIT TO SACRAMENTO STATE: HORNET FAMILY GATHERED TO HONOR MLK'S CAMPUS VISIT AND LEGACY

Half a century has passed since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. graced Sacramento State with his personal power and transformative oratory. A celebration of the great civil rights leader's 1967 visit took place Oct. 16, 2017 and reawakened the spirit that infused his campus appearance five decades ago.

The University reverberated with energy generated by events meant to celebrate Dr. King's visit with an emphasis on empathy, equality, and esteem to shine a light on the power of his impact on promoting equity today some decades later. The gathered throngs who participated in the 50th anniversary celebration did so with community leaders showing the way and with their own feet, voices, and hearts.

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT



# STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS DAY

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*Student Academic Success Day is an annual event hosted each September that focuses on the path to a degree. The event includes plenary sessions for students, along with workshops on life readiness and academic success at every stage of the higher education trajectory, a resource fair, and an entertainment showcase. Attendees gain resources vital to their academic and personal achievement to elevate and reach for more along the quest for ongoing excellence.*

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## NEW INITIATIVE



# EXECUTIVE TRAINERS PROGRAM

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*The mission of the Executive Trainers Program is to create an atmosphere of caring and direct scholarly support that enhances the student success experience. As a driver for degree completion, the program strives to provide for the ongoing vibrancy of our communities through peer leadership, campus engagement, and fostering a dual sense of belonging for undergraduates and graduate students.*

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The Executive Trainers Program is led by a mission of service, activism in day-to-day student success activities, and is designed to promote retention, student persistence, and timely graduation through peer leadership programming and interventions that support college degree attainment.

## SUMMER SPOTLIGHT



# FRESHMAN AND TRANSFER SUMMER BRIDGE

*By Berenice Espitia, M.S., EOP Counselor/ Summer Bridge, Transfer Bridge & Leadership Development Coordinator*

EOP offers two support programs for incoming Sacramento State freshmen and transfer students. Both freshman and transfer bridge offers a six-week program with academic courses to give students a head start at no cost. The six-week program provides academic content as well as numerous workshops that serve as resources throughout their college experience. Sample workshops include financial literacy, research skills, and portfolio submission tips. In previous years, EOP has offered incoming freshmen English, Math, General Education and leadership courses taught by devoted faculty members. Tutoring services are available for those students who find themselves struggling in these summer courses.

Our program values student excellence, community involvement, and leadership skills. Through the Bridge programs, students are able to form collaborative relationships with their peers and faculty through the six weeks of the program.

An annual Summer Bash and Crossing Ceremony close the program at the end of each summer. These events celebrate students' hard work during the six weeks of instruction.

Summer Bash is hosted at the residence halls on campus, where students enjoy activities like recreational time in the swimming pool, playing basketball, and eating pizza with their cohort.





# MIGRANT STUDENT LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

The Migrant Student Leadership Institute (MSLI) has more than 10 years of experience developing capacity-building programs in college readiness, leadership development and self-empowerment. The MSLI serves one of the most underserved minority groups in higher education: migrant and seasonal farmworker students. Migrant students who participate in the summer institute are often motivated to pursue college. Without the program, these students may lose interest in high school and/or pursuing a higher education. Students who complete the program return to their home communities as knowledgeable, experienced, confident and committed future college students and leaders.

One important component of the institute is developing students' self-advocacy skills. These skills are refined and improved to help students advocate for themselves as well as their parents, siblings and other community members. Participants improve their own knowledge, advance their personal goals, and use the knowledge to empower others.

More than 500 students have participated in the Migrant Student Leadership Institute at Sacramento State over the last six years.

## MSLI Alumni Spotlight

Nestor Barbosa from Esparto, CA participated in MSLI as a high school sophomore in the summer of 2013. Currently, Nestor is a second year Sacramento State student majoring in Criminal Justice and is the first in his family to attend a four-year university.

When asked, "What is your lasting impression of MSLI?" Nestor commented, "My MSLI experiences gave me the motivation and that extra boost I needed to go back home and finish high school with the highest grades possible in order to get into a good university." He added, "It gave my MSLI colleagues and I the sense that college was obtainable; that college was actually possible for myself and my MSLI colleagues who at first did not want to go to college."

Ana Chaveli Lopez attended MSLI summer of 2013. Reflecting back on her MSLI experience, Ana described MSLI in two words: "fun" and "innovative." She explains, "[It was] fun because I had the opportunity to meet awesome people that I am currently still great friends with. [It was] innovative because we got the opportunity to take an engineering course--something that my high school did not provide."

Ana is a senior at Sacramento State, studying Child Development, with a minor in counseling. She will graduate in Spring 2019, and plans to pursue a Master's Degree in counseling upon graduation.

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



# FIRST-GENERATION INSTITUTE

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*The First-Generation Institute (FGI) is an intensive, three-day program designed for students to integrate their college experiences into the world of work. FGI will empower first-generation students through critical mentoring, skill-building and reflection to enhance their knowledge, increase their efficacy, and give them a path to become first-generation professionals.*

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### PROGRAM CURRICULUM

The curriculum offered through the First-Generation Institute will utilize a network of partners to offer a wide variety of vibrant workshops and expert speakers in three areas: communication proficiency, thinking and reasoning, and workplace professionalism.

### STUDENTS WHO PARTICIPATE IN THE FIRST-GENERATION INSTITUTE WILL:

- develop skills and perspectives needed to progress from first-generation students to first-generation professionals.
- receive guidance in mapping out short- and long-term career goals.
- build a customized plan for professional growth to increase self-awareness and professional marketability.
- establish a personal network conducive to building lasting collegial relationships; friends with whom the students can explore their identity and how it relates to personal and professional success.

## EVENT SPOTLIGHT



# DEGREES PROJECT RECOGNITION

“UNSTOPPABLE, ALWAYS SUCCESSFUL: FRIENDS AND FAMILY, THE DIFFERENCE MAKERS”

The Dedicated to Educating, Graduating, and Retaining Educational Equity Students (DEGREES) Project was established at Sacramento State in 2013 to provide enhanced services to underrepresented students to make timely progress to their degrees and to reduce the achievement gap. The program provides a comprehensive and integrated menu of academic and student support services designed to improve the retention and graduation of underrepresented minority (URM) students. Since its inception, the DEGREES Project has successfully elevated the six-year graduation rate by 10 percent, and closed the achievement gap among the Chicano/Latino student population, its largest program demographic. More than 90 percent of students in the program are in

good academic standing and, because of its success, the program model was extended in 2016 to serve all students to assist them in meeting their degree-attainment goals.

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*The DEGREES Project hosted its annual Recognition Ceremony on Monday, May 7, to honor students who have maintained a 4.0 GPA as well as the persistence and dedication of all students across the campus.*

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## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT



# GUARDIAN SCHOLARS PROGRAM

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*The Guardian Scholars Program supports former foster youth to enter, excel in and graduate from college.*

*Sacramento State's Guardian Scholars program was created in 2007 for former foster youth who "age out" of foster care services at 18 years old, and enter young adulthood with no support system. This program is a support system on campus that provides a safe space for students to obtain academic advising, career counseling, personal counseling and financial advising. The program office is also a place for these at-risk students to gather and call home.*

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Research on former foster youth shows that very few--less than 10 percent--make it to college. "Of the 10 percent of foster care youth who are successful in enrolling in a post-secondary program, only 26 percent ... complete any kind of degree or certificate" (Tzawa-Hayden, A., 2004). This means a small group enters college, and an even smaller amount obtain a degree. "College students who have been in foster care continue to lag behind their peers with respect to college retention and graduation, even when compared to low-income, first generation students" (Day, et.al., 2011). One reason they may fall behind in retention and graduation is the absence of an extensive infrastructure to act as a safety net. Sacramento State's Guardian Scholars Program acts as a safety net for former foster youth at admission through graduation.

Sixty-six guardian scholars were enrolled in the fall 2016 semester. Of these 66 guardian scholars, five of them graduated in the fall 2016 semester. Twelve scholars graduated from Sacramento State in May 2018.



# PA KOU STUDIES IN THAILAND

*Full Circle Project student Pa Kou Her reflects on her study abroad experience in Thailand*

*When Pakou entered college, one of her dreams was to study abroad. She thought it would be impossible because she came from a low socioeconomic background. But when she saw her peers from similar backgrounds and with similar life experiences study abroad, she decided to apply. To her surprise, she was selected to study abroad in Bangkok at Chulalongkorn University, the oldest university in Thailand (founded in 1917).*

Pakou took five courses for college credit:

Communicative Thai for Foreigners, Cultures of the Body, Tradition and Culture in Thai Lifestyles, Food and Culture, and Gender and Cultural Representation. She was busy attending class during the week, and used her weekends to travel to other countries like Vietnam and Laos, exploring Bangkok, or studying.

Pakou's advice for students interested in studying abroad is "just go for it!" She continues, "It's an amazing life experience. Don't let financial insecurities and other reasons stop you from studying abroad. Studying abroad will show you a whole new world and broaden your perspective. Not only that, but you will learn and appreciate other cultures and traditions."



# PARENTS & FAMILIES PROGRAM

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*The Parents & Families Program provides direct services to students-with-children, and provides support for first-generation families sending students to college.*

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The program establishes a community on campus for Students-with-Children by providing monthly social, professional and celebratory events. The program provides advising, career planning, advocacy, CalWorks paperwork assistance, an e-newsletter, resource referral, and more to

students-with-children. This fall, the program will launch the first peer-to-peer student-parent mentor program to exist in the CSU system.

The program also supports family members of first-generation students through communications, events, customer service, and Parent Ambassadors. The program is always looking for committed parent volunteers to help explain college life to other parents and help families develop a strategy to support their students as they enter this new arena of life and learn to become adults. It provides guidance to parents about matters such as methods and processes to pay for college, how their student can navigate the university, academic timelines, and more.

# MIKELA JONES, PHILOSOPHY 2004

Principal, United Auburn Indian Community Tribal School

I remember being really nervous about going to college. I had the potential of being the first male from my Tribe to get a four-year degree, so I felt a lot of pressure. Coming to Summer Bridge was an amazing experience for me. I was able to make some great friendships, some I maintain still. It also prepared me for the academic rigor that I was about to embark on when the fall semester began. The staff was amazing, too. They really helped inspire, motivate, and build a sense of belonging for me on campus.

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*Finding a place in the university is difficult. Learning communities allowed me to develop a peer group and friends that made college more enjoyable. We held each other accountable, cared for each other, and supported one another.*

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I had the incredible opportunity to work for EOP as an Outreach Assistant. I had the chance to return the favor that was given to me. I got to help students. At the outset, I didn't know that this experience would come to shape my career. I became a School Counselor, which led to my work as a Principal. I became the first male from my Tribe to have a four-year degree and the first person from my Tribe to attain a Master's degree. Three other members of my Tribe followed my path to higher education after I graduated from Sacramento State, and two of them graduated.

I still use the knowledge I gained from EOP to help students today. I focus on creating a strong sense of belonging for my students, help them build relationships, and create support services. Success is not by chance, but by choice. Do not settle for anything less than greatness. EOP helped teach me these lessons, and I am grateful for their work.





# SAVE THE DATE

## Dreamer Ally Training

Date: September 17, 2018  
 Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm  
 Location: Hinde Auditorium, University Union  
 Host: Dreamer Resource Center (DRC)

## Migrant Ed Counselor Conference

Date: September 18, 2018  
 Time: 8:00 am-3:00 pm  
 Location: Ballroom 1 & 2, University Union  
 Host: College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

## Student Academic Success Day

Date: September 24, 2018  
 Time: 10:00 am – 3:00 pm  
 Location: University Union Ballroom  
 Host: DEGREES Project

## Hmong Male Leadership Circle Summit

Date: September 29, 2018  
 Time: 9:00 am -3:00 pm  
 Location: Redwood Room, University Union  
 Host: SASEEP/FCP

## Male Mentoring Mondays (M3)

Date: September 17, 2018  
 October 1, 2018  
 October 15, 2018  
 October 29, 2018  
 November 19, 2018  
 Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm  
 Location: University Union, Miwok Room  
 Host: MEC/SASEEP

## Feria de Educación

Date: October 13, 2018  
 Time: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Location: Sacramento State  
 Host: Serna Center

## College Motivation Day

Date: Monday, November 5, 2018  
 Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Location: University Union  
 Host: SASEEP/EOP

## 3rd Annual Keeping the Dream Alive Conference

Date: December 3 - 4, 2018  
 Time: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm  
 Location: University Union  
 Host: Dreamer Resource Center (DRC)

## Cesar Chavez Legacy Week

Date: March 11 – 15, 2019  
 Location: University Union  
 Host: Serna Center, College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

## STRONG: Hornets Imagine Tomorrow's Solutions

Date: April 12, 2019  
 Time: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
 Location: Riverview Hall Conference Room  
 Host: Parents & Families Program

## Migrant Student Leadership Institute

Date: June 17-29, 2019  
 Location: Sacramento State  
 Host: College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)

**FOR MORE EVENTS AND INFORMATION, VISIT [WWW.CSUS.EDU/SASEEP](http://WWW.CSUS.EDU/SASEEP)**



# SASEEP SUPPORT

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Best Times to Reach You: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your interest in supporting initiatives and efforts to advance educational equity. So that we might follow-up with you as a Unit or program, please check off the areas that most interest you in terms of offerings of support.

## IN-KIND SUPPORT

- Mentorship of students
- Volunteering for an Event
- Conducting a workshop for program scholars
- Serving on a departmental committee or task force
- Other, please indicate the nature of support \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

To provide financial support (Check all that apply):

- Funding a scholarship
- Provision of funding for an event
- Emergency grant support to help students in high need
- Co-sponsoring a community event
- Financial contributions to a program or component  
(Specify the amount) \_\_\_\_\_

# THANK YOU!



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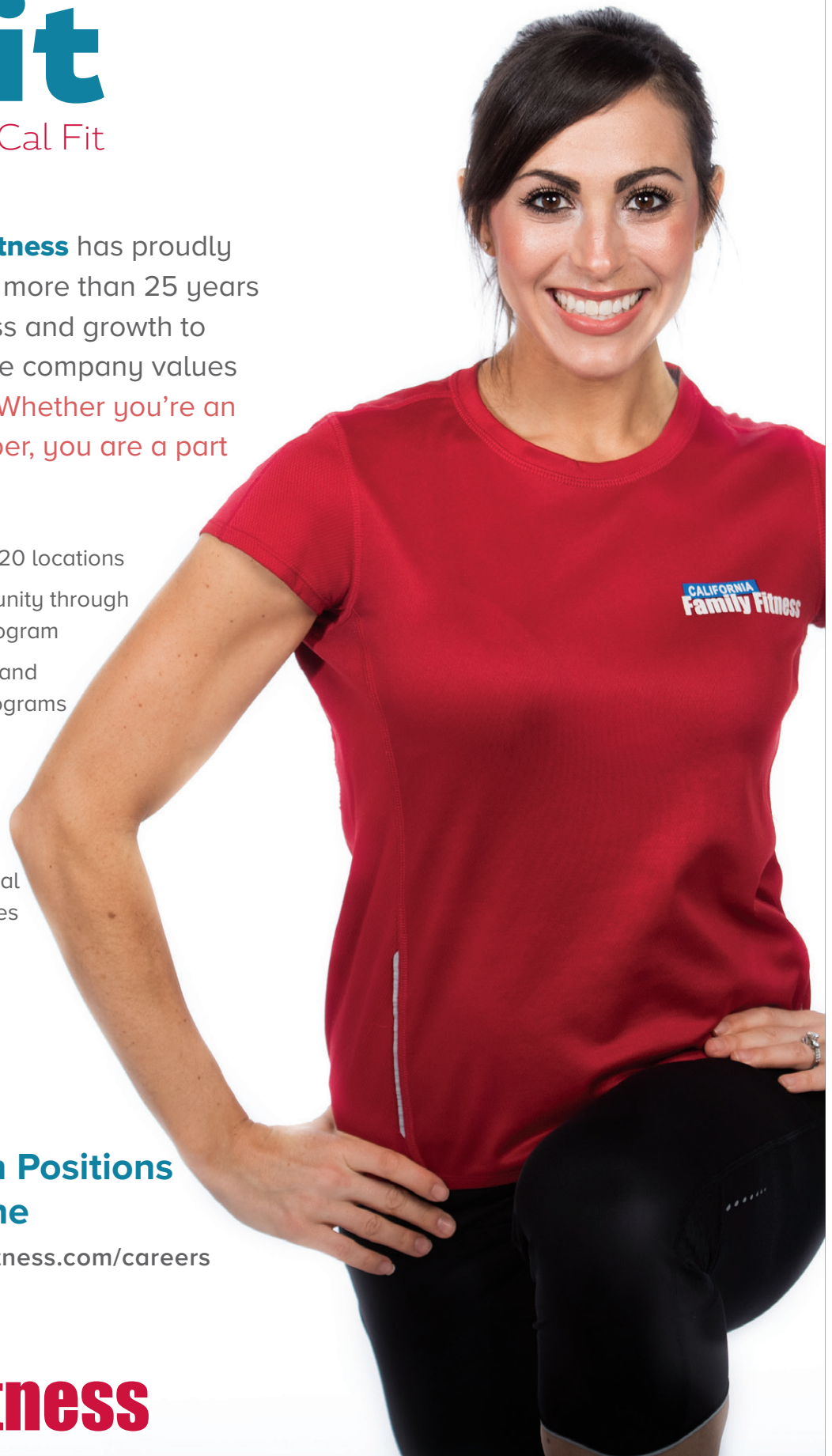
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