



## Emma Montalbano, Sac State Student

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### Artist “Believe” Statement

I interpret the mural theme “Believe” in the context of my time as a first-generation college student. As I move to graduate this semester, I have reflected on how much I had to believe in myself, and my decision to attend college and receive a degree. Inspiration for my proposed piece titled “Future for All” stems from a belief that higher education should be an accessible option to all people at any stage of their lives. In a larger sense of the theme, the piece reflects my ability as a brown woman to access higher education, as historically that would not have been an option. Although many challenges accompany the process of higher education, the student must progress and overcome these challenges. The proposed piece represents the idea of progression in the forward motion of repeated faces.

The progression of individuals through higher education programs mirrors the progression of institutions toward increasing diversity, equity, inclusivity, and advancement of humankind in this same direction. The proposed artwork represents the increasing diversity not only on our campus at Sacramento State but generally in our society. I chose to use a shift from grayscale to prismatic color palettes to represent the forward movement toward inclusivity in higher education populations. “Future for All” exemplifies our school’s ability to believe in inclusive education.