



COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA

# 2019 PHI THETA KAPPA LUNCHEON

ALL-CALIFORNIA  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
ACADEMIC TEAM AWARDS

MARCH 25, 2019  
SACRAMENTO CONVENTION CENTER







# Program

## ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARDS

MARCH 25, 2019 | 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

### **I. Music by American River College Jazz Collective**

### **II. Opening Remarks**

### **III. Guest Speakers:**

**Assemblymember Evan Low**

**Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner**

### **III. Recognition of the All-California First, Second, and Third Teams**

### **IV. Award Presentations**

### **V. Closing Remarks**

### **About Phi Theta Kappa All-California Community College Academic Team Program**

Building on the success of the national All-USA Team Program, Phi Theta Kappa launched the All-State Academic Team Program. The purpose of this program is to provide recognition at the state level for these top community college students.

This year 34 California community college students were selected for the All-California Academic First Team, 34 students for the second Team and 34 for the Third Team. The Community College League of California is proud to sponsor this award ceremony at which all team members receive medallions of honor and a certificate recognizing their accomplishments.

Grades, leadership and community service determine selection to the All-California first, second and third teams. The selection for the All-California teams was determined by the scores nominees received from Phi Theta Kappa judges at the national level selecting winners for the national academic teams. These 102 students represent some of the best of the two million students enrolled in California's 115 community colleges. California's community colleges underwrite their students' success daily. The most diverse students body in higher education succeeds every day by completing associate degrees and certificate programs; getting jobs; transferring to baccalaureate programs; or furthering a lifelong habit of learning. Even though community college funding is limited - and funding per students is less than any other higher education institution in the state - dedicated and professional community college faculty and staff keep service to students their number one priority.

# Guest Speakers



## **The Honorable Evan Low Assembly District 28**

Evan Low was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2014 to represent District 28. At the age of 31, Assemblymember Low became the youngest Asian American legislator to have been elected to the Assembly in state history. The district is located in Silicon Valley and includes Campbell, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and the areas of West San Jose, Willow Glen, Cambrian, and Almaden Valley in San Jose. Assemblymember Low chairs the Business and Professions Committee. In 2015, together with Assemblymember Ian Calderon (D-Whittier), he launched the first in the state California Legislative Technology & Innovation Caucus. The Caucus comprises of a bi-partisan group of Senators and Assemblymembers who view this as a statewide effort to ensure that California remains the global leader in technology and innovation.

Assemblymember Low is a lifelong resident of Silicon Valley and has been a regional community leader. His work within the community and deep knowledge of issues local residents faced led him to run for Campbell City Council in 2006. He made history as the first Asian American elected to Campbell's City Council.

In 2010, Assemblymember Low also made history by becoming the youngest openly LGBT mayor in the country at the age of 26. While serving on Campbell's City Council, he helped balance the city budget without eliminating vital services and increase government transparency by streaming City Council meetings online. Assemblymember Low promoted small business and job growth by cutting red tape and streamlining the licensing process for business owners.

Assemblymember Low has been named "Legislator of the Year" by the Internet Association, TechNet, The Computing Technology Industry Association, California Faculty Association, Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, California District Attorneys Association and Faculty Association of California Community Colleges.

He also served as a community college instructor teaching American Government and Political Science at De Anza Community College.

A Bay Area native, Low attended local public schools and earned degrees from De Anza Community College and San Jose State University. He went on to graduate from the Senior Executives in State and Local Government Program at Harvard University.



# Guest Speakers



## **Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner** **Phi Theta Kappa President & CEO**

Dr. Lynn Tincher-Ladner tells her children that she has the best job on the planet. As President and CEO of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, she spends her time creating opportunities for some of the nation's hardest-working students by connecting them to life-changing scholarships and family-sustaining employment.

Lynn's educational background includes an advanced degree from the school of hard knocks, a Ph.D. in Community College Leadership from Mississippi State University, and both bachelor's and master's degrees in mathematics from the University of Southern Mississippi.

Lynn entered the workforce in 1990 when REM's Shiny Happy People was the Number 1 song. Before stepping into her current role, Lynn worked as a waitress at Shoney's; a high school teacher; a graduate assistant; a community college math, chemistry, and physics instructor; a computer programmer; a database administrator; an institutional researcher; and a university faculty member.

Lynn is a passionate champion for community colleges and community college students. She loves using data to tell their stories and to advocate for the support of these amazing students and their quality institutions of higher learning.

Although Lynn is an introvert, she presents her innovative research on student success at national conferences. She is also a regular speaker at college convocations and commencements. A techy at heart, Lynn likes to connect with her national audience through social media. Follow her on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook.

# ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD WINNERS

## FIRST TEAM

Chelsea Brown, Canada College  
Angelica Cruz, Mt. San Antonio College  
Eric Daniels, Feather River College  
Chance English, Cerro Coso Community College  
Dalila Gonzalez Mejia, Canada College  
Fasilat Hassan-Olajoku, Chaffey College  
Charlene Herrella, Santa Monica College  
Marian Huang, Mt. San Antonio College  
Michelle Huang, Skyline College  
Sarah Karabadjakyan, Los Angeles Valley College  
Connor Kubeisy, Moorpark College  
Joseph Liu, Orange Coast College  
Christopher Martin, Miracosta College  
Corbin McCallum, Palomar College  
Kalvin McCallum, Palomar College  
Lara L. Meintjes, Long Beach City College  
Elizabeth Montoya, Antelope Valley College  
Hong Nguyen, San Diego Mesa College  
Tram Nguyen, Orange Coast College  
Hanna Ostapchuk, San Diego Miramar College  
Esperanza Padilla, Napa Valley College  
Rémi Pourrat, Long Beach City College  
Natalie Rowland, Sierra College  
Alejandro Ruelas-Mora, Ohlone College  
Noah Saldana, Southwestern College  
Philippe Schicker, Citrus College  
Rebecca Smith, Santiago Canyon College  
Sofia Staedler, San Diego Mesa College  
Leeann Stearns, Mendocino College  
Nicholas Thiel, Norco College  
Nhi Tran, Miracosta College  
Sarah Wang, Irvine Valley College  
Karlene Zalkin, Santa Monica College  
Yuele Zhang, Skyline College

## SECOND TEAM

Farhad Alemi, Sacramento City College  
Yousef Al-Shinnawi, Hartnell College  
Lindsay Blount, Santa Ana College  
Cambria Brown, Butte College  
Elizabeth Cedillo, West Hills College  
Sage Cloutman, Feather River College  
Mushka Cohen, American River College  
Mason Gatz, Allan Hancock College  
Valorie Glasser, Cuyamaca College  
Jennifer Gomez, Southwestern College  
Paulina Gurevich, Las Positas College  
Lauren Harris, Cerro Coso Community College  
Benjamin Hart, Cuyamaca College  
Kaleb Houston, Laney College  
William Jeffries, Sierra College  
Mimmie Kallander, American River College  
Maria Katherine, Sacramento City College  
Brittany Long, Taft College  
Jeremy Lowe, Berkeley City College  
Dean Madory, Santa Ana College  
Rene Martinez Reyes, Folsom Lake College  
Connor Meador, Santa Barbara City College  
Elizabeth Monteith, Saddleback College  
Carissa Nihart, Irvine Valley College  
Phillip Pierini, Laney College  
Chloe Plummer, Columbia College  
Jennifer Rhoades, Butte College  
Sara Runion, Mt. San Jacinto College  
Frank Slewa, Grossmont College  
Isaiah Traub, Columbia College  
Wesley Tuaumu, College of San Mateo  
Aaron Untiveros, Fullerton College  
Ronny Vasquez, San Diego City College  
Janell Zendejas, West Hills College

# ALL-CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD WINNERS

## **THIRD TEAM**

Omar Boudiaf, Mt. San Jacinto College  
Joslyn Buckley, Porterville College  
Chigozirim Chinedu, Mt. San Jacinto College  
Brenden Davis, College of the Canyons  
Darneanna Fallins, Cerritos College  
Arturo Fernandez, College of the Canyons  
Colton Green, Folsom Lake College  
Charlotte Helms, Fullerton College  
Juwan R. Howard, Long Beach City College  
Luis Jarrin Rueda, Saddleback College  
Geoffrey Kerr, Antelope Valley College  
Karen Kilpatrick, Moorpark College  
Katherine Leckey, Shasta College  
Bianca Leon, San Diego City College  
Marta Marcos, Canada College  
Roberto Martinez Diaz, Hartnell College  
Sam Nguyen, Ohlone College  
Emma Olds, College of Marin  
Sirena Orona, San Diego Miramar College  
Justin Perkins, Mt. San Jacinto College  
Su Latt Phone, College of San Mateo  
Evan Rayder, Allan Hancock College  
Alexander Richardson, Los Angeles Valley College  
Aubrey Rifino, Chaffey College  
Rana Saleh, Porterville College  
Fisher-Aaron Skeels, Citrus College  
Ariel Smith, Allan Hancock College  
Arteja Smith, Napa Valley College  
Asia Taylor, Shasta College  
Le'Rea Thomas, Merritt College  
Trang T. Tran, Long Beach City College  
Kaitlyn Wharton, Solano Community College  
Kyle Williams, Santiago Canyon College  
Jason R. Wood, Santa Ana College

# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Angelica Cruz**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Mt. San Antonio College**  
**Major: Journalism and Film**  
**GPA: 3.70**

Angelica Cruz has always had a strong interest in storytelling. As editor-in-chief of her college's newspaper, Angelica focused on telling community stories, LGBTQ+ issues, and talking about the importance of being aware of current events, especially for young people. This led to an internship with the advocacy group, Young Invincibles. She is the inaugural recipient of a scholarship with the LA Film Critics Association and the Hollywood Foreign Press. She is currently apart of a film fellowship program with Outfest and the LA LGBT Center.



**Eric Daniels**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Feather River College**  
**Major: Social Sciences**  
**GPA: 3.77**

Eric Daniels is a wide receiver and captain for the Feather River College Football Team. Eric has consecutively made the Dean's List while also taking over 20 units of coursework each semester. He has earned his A.A. in General Studies and plans to pursue a degree in social sciences. His passion for football has earned him multiple scholarship offers to play at several universities across the country. His goal after college is to start a non-profit organization that fights for education equality across the United States. He also wants to start a career in drug/alcohol abuse counseling to help people that suffer from addiction.



**Chance English**  
**Age: 22**  
**College: Cerro Coso Community College**  
**Major: Business Administration, Mathematics, Computer Information Systems, Liberal Arts**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Chance English is an Eagle Scout and has earned the prestigious Awana Citation Award. He has completed countless community service hours and volunteered eight years as an Assistant Scoutmaster and Merit Badge Counselor, as well as an Awana Leader. In addition to working as an elementary school Instructional Aide, Chance attends Cerro Coso Community College as an honors student with a 4.0 GPA. He has earned six associate degrees including three Liberal Arts degrees, an AS in Computer Information Systems, an AS-T in Mathematics, and an AS-T in Business Administration. Mr. English plans to attend a four-year university this fall and earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a Minor in Media Arts.

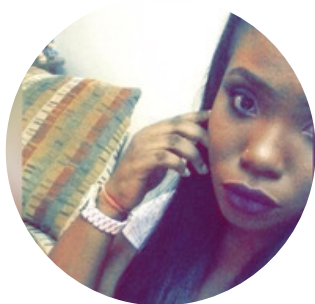


**Dalila Gonzalez Mejia**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Cañada College**  
**Major: Biomedical Engineering and Physics**  
**GPA: 3.97**

Dalila Gonzalez Mejia is a sophomore at Cañada College where she serves her community as Co-President of their Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, Beta Zeta Nu. When she is not busy studying, she enjoys practicing salsa dancing, skiing, and spending time with her loved ones. She is planning to transfer this coming fall and follow her passions as a double major in biomedical engineering and physics. Her career goals include being a physician researcher and working to close the gap in health disparities.



# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Fasilat Hassan-Olajoku**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Chaffey College**  
**Major: Nursing**  
**GPA: 3.70**

Fasilat Hassan-Olajoku is the VP of Scholarships for Phi Theta Kappa's Chaffey College chapter. After completing high school in Nigeria, Fasilat's home country, she decided to migrate to the United States to further her education in nursing. Fasilat hopes to attend UCLA's school of nursing to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Her ultimate aspiration in life is to graduate from the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and become a medical doctor. One day, Fasilat would like to establish a multitude of hospitals and clinics in Nigeria to provide basic healthcare needs to the poor, and to most importantly put smiles on people's faces.



**Charlene Herrella**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Santa Monica College**  
**Major: Sociology**  
**GPA: 3.67**

Charlene Herrella is pursuing a double major in sociology and communication studies at Santa Monica College. She currently serves as Director of Public Relations for her college's PTK chapter, Beta Kappa Delta. In this role, she outreaches to over 1,000 members and has gained valuable experience which she hopes will help her later in her career. Outside of the PTK chapter, Charlene serves as a Santa Monica President's Ambassador where she represents the students and staff of her school. In addition to this, she actively volunteers in her community. In the fall, Charlene plans to attend UCLA and study sociology.



**Marian Huang**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Mt. San Antonio College**  
**Major: Communication**  
**GPA: 4.0**

With an interest in positive social impact, Marian Huang has hosted workshops for students to craft Christmas ornaments for rehabilitation patients at St. Jude Medical Center, dog toys for Priceless Pets Rescue, and Thanksgiving cards for troops in collaboration with the Wounded Warrior Project. To further broaden her skill set, Marian enrolled at Mt. San Antonio College as a communication major. She is currently the Kiwanis Family Chair for Circle K International and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. She has volunteered for organizations such as the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Pediatric Trauma Program, and her local Kiwanis through fundraising and bringing awareness towards their initiatives. Marian hopes to one day become a Creative Director for a nonprofit.



**Michelle Huang**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Skyline College**  
**Major: Business Administration**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Michelle Huang is a business administration major at Skyline College. She is President of the Beta Theta Omicron Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa and is in the Honors Transfers Program. Michelle previously served as Student Organization and Club Council Liaison for the Associated Students, and as Secretary for the Skyline College Chapter of the Kappa Beta Delta Business Honor Society. Michelle has a passion for learning and for serving. She presented her research on tax amnesty at the Bay Area Honors Research Symposium. She is a Peer Tutor for economics, accounting, and statistics and a Peer Mentor. Through Phi Theta Kappa, Michelle volunteers at senior centers and middle schools and did a fog-use study for her college. Michelle aspires to work in finance, then give back to the community by becoming a college professor. Michelle wants to inspire individuals to aim high, believe in their capabilities, and act toward their dreams.

# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Sarah Karabadjakyan**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Los Angeles Valley College**  
**Major: Chemistry**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Sarah Karabadjakyan is a student at Los Angeles Valley College, currently in her third year and majoring in chemistry. She is an aspiring forensic pathologist. Her love for forensic pathology grew while watching the Investigation Discovery Channel. Sarah believes that telling the story of the deceased can be very powerful. She hopes to transfer to either UC Irvine or UCLA to get her bachelor's degree and then pursue medical school. She would also love to earn a master's degree in chemistry in hopes of becoming a chemistry professor. Sarah is currently the Recording Secretary of Phi Theta Kappa and is the STEP tutor for Chemistry 101. She also volunteers at Providence St. Joseph Hospital and is an intern at an auto brokerage firm.



**Connor Kubeisy**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Moorpark College**  
**Major: Political Science**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Connor Kubeisy is a nontraditional student studying political science at Moorpark College. He has maintained a 4.0 GPA as an honors student and serves as the Public Affairs Officer for his Phi Theta Kappa Chapter. He was elected to the Board of Trustees for the Ventura County Community College District as the Student Trustee. In the 2018 general election, Connor was a candidate for the Simi Valley School Board. He also works as a manager at Little Caesars. In the community, he volunteers as a baseball coach at Simi Valley High School and served on the Leadership Summit Advisory Committee with the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation.



**Joseph Liu**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Orange Coast College**  
**Major: Biomedical Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.86**

Joseph Liu is a sophomore at Orange Coast College and plans to transfer with a major in biomedical engineering and eventually obtain a master's degree. With his degree, he seeks to teach and inspire the next generation at OCC with his work experiences. Mr. Liu is VP of Scholarship of Phi Theta Kappa, treasurer for National Technical Honors Society, historian for OCC Christian Students Club, and a 5-star PTK Member. One of his biggest accomplishments was leading and submitting the honors in action project. With his team, he researched academic articles, collaborated with clubs and honors societies, organized an event complimenting the investigation, and compiled a final report. During Joseph's free time, he enjoys taking pictures, oil painting, and playing various instruments.



**Christopher Martin**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: MiraCosta College**  
**Major: Computer Science**  
**GPA: 3.89**

Christopher Martin is a full-time student at MiraCosta College. As a supplemental instructor, tutor, and intern, Christopher helps students of all levels as they face the daunting path of higher education. Understanding the necessity of community and the power it instills, Christopher further dedicates himself to supporting students outside the classroom. He co-founded MiraCosta's Computer Science Club as the central community for all students passionate in exploring computer science. Additionally, he helped establish a mentoring program for computer science students to build an even stronger support network and give them the best chance at success. Christopher hopes to continue make positive impacts on the lives of students.

# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Corbin McCallum**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Palomar College**  
**Major: Aerospace Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.92**

Corbin McCallum is an international student from South Africa currently in his second year of studies at Palomar College. He serves as the Vice President of Scholarship for the Alpha Omega Rho Chapter in San Diego. Corbin grew up in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa where he attended Westville Boys High School. He raced motorcycles professionally for several years in South Africa, which lead him to engineering—as he used to work and fix his own motorbikes with his dad. He is currently working towards earning a degree in Aerospace Engineering and plans to get a master's degree and possibly and doctoral degree in this field of study.



**Calvin McCallum**  
**Age: 25**  
**College: Palomar College**  
**Major: Chemical Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.78**

Calvin McCallum is an international student from South Africa majoring in Chemical Engineering. He currently serves as the Chapter President of Phi Theta Kappa Alpha Omega Rho Chapter. Calvin also works as a STEM & English tutor at Palomar College and is a member of his college's chemistry club. Calvin is currently working towards earning his associate degrees in engineering, mathematics and chemistry before he transfers into a chemical engineering program at a four-year university. He plans to complete his Fundamental Engineering exam after receiving his bachelor's degree and he hopes to find employment in fields associated with aerospace technology, renewable energy, or process engineering.



**Lara Meintjes**  
**Age: 35**  
**College: Anthropology**  
**Major: Long Beach City College**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Lara Meintjes grew up in South Africa during the early years of democracy and witnessed the extraordinary power of a person's vote. After moving to the U.S. with her husband and daughter she gradually began exploring other means of making positive change through public-policy work. An anthropology major, Lara has conducted and presented independent research on how culture informs law. She aims to continue this work through a combined JD/Ph.D. with the goal of diversifying legal systems to echo the diversity of the populations these systems serve and represent. Through parenting-student advocacy on campus and in state government Lara recently contributed to the passage of AB-2785, a bill that mandates the availability of lactation facilities on California college campuses. This bill recognizes the presence of parenting students, who represent 26% of undergraduate students nationwide, and is a positive first step in ensuring fair and equitable access to education for these students.



**Elizabeth Montoya**  
**Age: 22**  
**College: Antelope Valley College**  
**Major: Biological Science**  
**GPA: 3.78**

Elizabeth Montoya is the student trustee at Antelope Valley College and advocates for various groups on/off campus. Last summer, she was part of the Summer Health Professions Education Program at UCLA for healthcare issues affecting medically underserved communities. She volunteers at a Hospital Emergency Room and is currently a Public Health Scholar for the American Medical Student Association, working to prevent problems through the implementation of educational programs. She enjoys learning about healthcare law, has conducted research on infant development and is an active member in STEM and the Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society. After earning her associate degree in chemistry, biology, physics, and math, she plans to earn her biochemistry degree in intensive research on biosynthesis and attend medical school to become an Emergency Room Surgeon. As a first-generation college student and the daughter of two war refugees, she aspires to be a role model for her younger sisters.



# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Tram Nguyen**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Orange Coast College**  
**Major: Biology**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Tram Nguyen is a first-generation, biology major at Orange Coast College. As a Vietnamese immigrant, she migrated to the United States three years ago, and has been a member of the PTK Beta Mu Alpha Chapter for two years. She has served in leadership positions including Green Coast Day Director, Concerts in the Park Coordinator, and Book Drive Coordinator. Last summer, she coordinated an event that raised \$3,000 for her chapter scholarship funds. In addition, she is the president of a pre-health honor society at Orange Coast College, a support network to promote diversity in the healthcare system. Her goal is to attend medical school and become a doctor and researcher in Oncology. She wants to use her experience and knowledge to advocate for women's health and improve treatment for breast cancer patients.



**Hanna Ostapchuk**  
**Age: 25**  
**College: San Diego Miramar College**  
**Major: Business Administration & Social and Behavior Science**  
**GPA: 4.0**

At the age of twenty, Hanna Ostapchuk arrived in the United States with limited English and \$700 dollars in her pocket. She started her journey by working as a hotel housekeeper in the mornings and in the evenings transitioned into her second job, a line cook at a McDonald's. Within a year, Hanna went on to manage a coffee shop. After enrolling at San Diego Miramar College, Hanna completed 18 units in her first semester and has participated in various organizations on campus. Hanna joined Beta Iota Lambda PTK's Chapter where she was elected Treasurer. This position has provided her with a more meaningful academic experience. Hanna's next step is to transfer to a four-year university to become a well-educated business professional.



**Esperanza Teresa-Guadalupe Padilla**  
**Age: 27**  
**College: Napa Valley College**  
**Major: Sociology**  
**GPA: 3.8**

Esperanza Teresa-Guadalupe Padilla is a first-generation college student at Napa Valley College. Esperanza plans to attend the University of California this fall with a major in sociology. She hopes to earn her bachelor's degree and go on to graduate school. Esperanza is inspired by her working-class parents and farm-working grandmother to improve the social conditions that contribute to the injustices and inequalities in our world. She is the student representative of the Napa County Hispanic Network, founder of the Napa County Young Democrats, and the executive VP of the Napa Valley College Phi Theta Kappa Chapter. Esperanza's passion for life and community service is in part due to her mother who supports her in all her successes.



**Natalie Rowland**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Sierra College**  
**Major: Biochemistry and Molecular Biology**  
**GPA: 3.83**

Natalie Rowland is a Biochemistry major at Sierra College and is the current Vice President of the Beta Mu Zeta Chapter. She will be pursuing her bachelor's and master's degrees in Biotechnology and a minor in Organic Chemistry at the University of Nevada, Reno this fall. She plans to utilize her education to one day work in forensic science or immunology. Through PTK, Natalie has founded and championed a committee in which collegiate honor students mentor economically disadvantaged fifth-grade children. She also plans and executes her chapter's annual induction ceremony. Aside from academia, Natalie is dedicated to volunteering as a short-term missionary in Chile, Slovenia and Costa Rica, and serves as a vocalist on the worship team at her local church. In her free time, Natalie is passionate about physical fitness and enjoys kickboxing, weightlifting, swing dancing, and hiking along the American River.



# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Alejandro Ruelas-Mora**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Ohlone College**  
**Major: Psychology**  
**GPA: 3.6**

Alejandro Ruelas-Mora is a peer mentor at Ohlone College, where he helps current and prospective students with questions they have about the college and assists them with the enrolling process. He is a police explorer for the City of Newark Police Department and helps volunteer at various events throughout Newark and its neighboring cities. He has accomplished the beginner, intermediate, and advanced phases of the explorer academy at UC San Diego, and has been a member of the debate team and participated in various debates representing Ohlone College. Alejandro attended the UC Riverside Puente Program, a large networking opportunity for Latinx students and founded the Puente Club at Ohlone College. He serves as Vice President for Ohlone's PTK Beta Tau Mu Chapter.



**Philippe Schicker**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Citrus College**  
**Major: Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.87**

Philippe Schicker is an international student from Hamburg, Germany. Philippe is currently attending Citrus College, where he is studying to become an engineer. More specifically, he plans to focus on Engineering-Physics with an emphasis on renewable energies. Philippe builds rockets and last year competed in NASA's Student Launch competition. He is currently serving as the International Vice President for Division IV of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society. In addition to this role, he is a strong advocate for homeless students on his campus and works as a Student Ambassador at Citrus College. In his free time, Philippe enjoys jogging, playing baseball, and a good book.



**Sofia Castellani-Staedler**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: San Diego Mesa College**  
**Major: Sociology**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Sofia Castellani-Staedler is a first-generation Italian-American college student from Los Angeles, California. She began attending San Diego Mesa College at the age of 17, and currently serves as the Associated Student Body President and a Student Trustee for the San Diego Community College District. As she completes her final year at Mesa College, Sofia is one of the newly announced Semi-Finalists for the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. She is plans to transfer to a 4-year university to earn a bachelor's degree in sociology.



**Leeann Stearns**  
**Age: 33**  
**College: Mendocino College**  
**Major: Allied Health**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Leeann Stearns is a full-time student receiving the highest honors at Mendocino College. Upon receiving an AA in Allied Health this coming spring, she plans to transfer to pursue a BS in Biology/Physiology. Her goal is to become a nurse with a master's degree specializing in surgical nursing. Due to a congenital defect in her spine, she has been through many medical procedures, including six major spinal surgeries, so Leeann knows firsthand the importance of a good nurse to guide patients through difficult times. In addition to serving as President of the PTK Alpha Omega Lambda Chapter, she is very involved in the exhibition poultry community. She is a founder of NorCal Poultry Association, as well as the president and show superintendent for the annual nationally sanctioned poultry show. She also is a certified Poultry Health Inspector and a mentor to poultry youth.

# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Nicholas Thiel**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Norco College**  
**Major: Political Science**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Nicholas Thiel is an honors student currently studying at Norco College and hopes to pursue a Ph.D. in Political Science. Throughout his time at Norco College, Nick has devoted himself to high-achievement. In addition to serving as Secretary of his Phi Theta Kappa Chapter, he serves as an English and writing tutor and President of the Pre-Law Society and the Political Science Student Association. Nick's tenacity and admiration for research has earned him recognition for his cross-disciplinary study into the politics of art in ancient civilizations and he plans to present at the upcoming annual HTCC Honors Research Conference at the University of California, Irvine. Off campus, he volunteers and fosters for the Golden Retriever Club of Greater Los Angeles Rescue.



**Nhi Tran**  
**Age: 22**  
**College: MiraCosta College**  
**Major: Chemical Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.92**

Four years ago, Nhi Tran moved to the United States from Vietnam to pursue a higher education. As a first-generation college student, her goal is to transfer to UC Berkeley and obtain a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering. With a passion for healthcare, she hopes to one day become a pharmacist. Nhi currently serves as president of the Chemistry Club and is a member of the PTK Alpha Chi Lambda Chapter, the International Club, and the Natural Science Club at MiraCosta College. She served in the associated student government as a senator for one year, and enjoys her job as a chemistry, physics and math tutor for the Stem Center and the Math Learning Center. Nhi also serves as an International Peer Leader. These jobs and activities have strengthened her leadership skills and allowed her to assist other students in achieving their goals.



**Sarah Wang**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Irvine Valley College**  
**Major:**  
**GPA: 3.92**

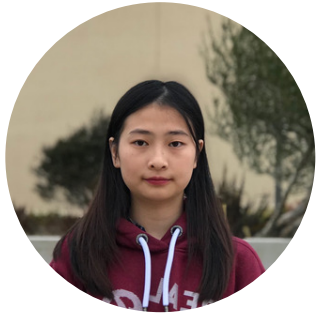
Sarah Wang is a public health major at Irvine Valley College. She is the VP of Service for Alpha Omega Mu and coordinated the first college project with her teammates and advisors. As the VP of Green Team, she listened to her friends' concerns about the unhealthy cafeteria food and spent eight months to finish a nutrition report. As a researcher with Psi Beta and President of Effective Altruism Club, she educated 198 students on antibiotic resistance to find the most effective teaching method. Sarah will attend UC Irvine's Public Health Policy Program to continue working to integrate basic cooking into the Tustin Unified School District before approaching the state senate. Sarah wants to become a public health attorney to integrate basic cooking and antibiotic resistance into the general education of as many states as possible and address international overfishing through the United Nations.



**Karlene Zalkin**  
**Age: 24**  
**College: Santa Monica College**  
**Major: Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems**  
**GPA: 3.7**

Karlene Zalkin moved to Los Angeles from Miami, Florida four years ago to pursue higher education. She currently serves as Executive Vice President for PTK's Beta Kappa Delta Chapter at Santa Monica College. Karlene is a sustainable agriculture and food systems major with a minor in chemistry and plans to transfer to UC Davis next fall to work on their student farm. This is her fourth semester in PTK, having served as a commissioner for different board member positions each semester. PTK holds a special place in Karlene's heart, as it has helped her to open up and become a more well-rounded individual. Her career goal is to become a naturopathic doctor and specialize in nutrition and ayurveda.

# All-California Academic 1st Team



**Yuele Zhang**

**Age: 19**

**College: Skyline College**

**Major: Biochemistry**

**GPA: 4.0**

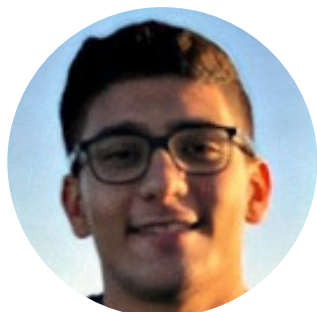
Yuele Zhang is a biochemistry major at Skyline College. She is in the Honors Transfer Program and serves as Vice President of Records for the college's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter. Yuele has a passion for learning and promoting education for everyone. Last spring, she organized science labs to encourage young women to pursue STEM. She currently works in the College Learning Center as a chemistry tutor and volunteers for coastal cleanups, which help strengthen people's awareness about the environment. Yuele also volunteers at a senior center to help elders with technology. She plans to transfer to UC Berkeley. Her long-term goal is to be a pharmaceutical researcher and contribute to medicine development.

# All-California Academic 2nd Team



**Farhad Alemi**  
**Age: 23**  
**College: Sacramento City College**  
**Major: Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Farhad Alemi is an electrical engineering and computer science major at Sacramento City College. His hobby is writing computer programs. Currently, Farhad is taking 18 units and works as a tech help-desk technician. He plans to transfer to a 4-year institution this fall.



**Yousef Al-Shinnawi**  
**Age: 18**  
**College: Hartnell College**  
**Major: Electrical Engineering and Computer Science**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Yousef Al-Shinnawi was born and raised in Elyria, Ohio. Just two years ago he moved to California with the rest of his family, and ever since then he has loved it. All throughout childhood he has played video games and has been fascinated by the electronic world around him which has led him to pursue a degree in electrical engineering and computer science. He hopes to one day work in the field of Artificial Intelligence or Machine Learning to fulfill his dreams of opening his own business.



**Lindsay Blount**  
**Age: 25**  
**College: Santa Ana College**  
**Major: Occupational Therapy**  
**GPA: 3.84**

Lindsay Blount has completed the Occupational Therapy Assistant Program at Santa Ana College. Lindsay looks forward to joining the workforce and hopes to work with children who have developmental disabilities. She is passionate about helping people reach their optimal level of independence and has been an active member in her OTA program where she helped coordinate a community outreach project for the homeless and participated in various professional development opportunities. Lindsay is a volunteer for a transitional housing program for women and children suffering from domestic violence and homelessness and has given her time to multiple pediatric clinics and athletic events for children with physical disabilities. She has been involved in disaster relief trips overseas and believes those experiences have shaped who she is today. Her passions are driven by her faith and desire to serve Jesus Christ as well as her genuine hope to see equality and inclusion in her community.



**Cambria Brown**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Butte College**  
**Major: Biology**  
**GPA: 3.91**

Cambria Brown is a passionate student who desires to become a physician assistant and work in Dermatology. Cambria acquired her passion for the medical field after being a Medical ROP student. Regardless of a person's current economic state, she believes in providing care for all patients. Next fall, Cambria plans to transfer to California State University, Chico to pursue her Bachelor of Science in Biology. Cambria also loves to serve her community by volunteering to teach middle school students art and ushering for a local theater company. In her free time, Cambria organizes local community service projects and is the Vice President of Service for Butte College's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter.



**Elizabeth Cedllo**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: West Hills College, Lemoore**  
**Major: Communication**  
**GPA: 3.5**

Elizabeth Cedllo is 20 years old and an immigrant from Mexico. She is very passionate about her education and bettering herself. Elizabeth has been blessed throughout her life with opportunities she has taken advantage of. Her education is one thing she will never take for granted and will always be proud of. Being educated and bettering herself is a testimony to the American dream—one can always achieve their dreams as long as they are dedicated to it.



# All-California Academic 2nd Team



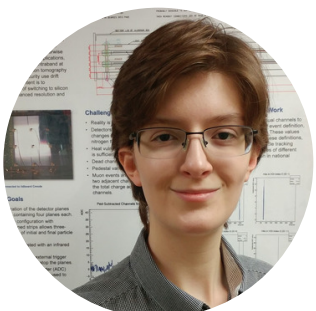
**Mushka Cohen**  
**Age: 18**  
**College: American River College**  
**Major: Psychology**  
**GPA: 3.9**

Mushka Cohen started her college journey at sixteen and plans to transfer to a 4-year university this fall to continue her love of learning. She is a psychology major with a minor in criminal justice and is passionate about improving the mental health system and helping others. Currently, she volunteers for a California Crisis Line as well as volunteers at a religious community center and an after-school program helping youth. She previously volunteered as a peer mentor in high school for Helping Our Own (HOO), a program to help families in need in the community, and Friendship Circle, which is a program helping kids with disabilities. She values mental as well as physical health and promotes self-love, viewing every day as a new chance and adventure.



**Mason Gatz**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Allan Hancock College**  
**Major: Chemistry**  
**GPA: 3.93**

Mason Gatz is a second-year chemistry student at Allan Hancock College with a passion for learning and teaching others. He works part time as a peer tutor for chemistry, physics, mathematics, and leads study groups for his courses. He is also the treasurer of his college's Science and Engineering Club which helps puts on a yearly event called Friday Night Science—where STEM students give science demonstrations to youth in the community to increase interest in the sciences. Mason participates as an active member in the Allan Hancock chapter of the community college honors society Alpha Gamma Sigma. He plans to transfer to the University of California San Diego this fall and complete a research internship at a biotechnology company this summer. Mason hopes to earn a Ph.D. in chemistry and have a career in pharmaceutical research.



**Valorie Glasser**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Cuyamaca College**  
**Major: Physics & Mathematics**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Valorie Glasser has been committed to pursuing a Ph.D. in physics since the age of thirteen, upon learning of the surprising and profound properties of modern physics. She performed research at the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory during the summer of 2018, collaborating on a project developing new detector systems for muon tomography in homeland security. Currently, she works as a physics tutor at Cuyamaca College. After having been involved in classical piano for over twelve years, she has recently taken up voice lessons and sings in the Grossmont Master Chorale. Valorie is a first-generation college student and will be transferring this fall to a four-year institution. She intends to minor in music in addition to finishing her math and physics Bachelor of Science degrees, and then on to earn a doctorate in physics.



**Paulina Gurevich**  
**Age: 18**  
**College: Las Positas College**  
**Major: Sociology**  
**GPA: 3.89**

Paulina Gurevich grew up in Pleasanton, California, and began attending Las Positas College in 2016 at the age of 15 as a Tri-Valley ROP Middle College student. During her two and a half years at Las Positas College, Paulina was active on campus as an officer and member of Alpha Gamma Sigma Honor Society, serving as Vice-President. Paulina graduated from Las Positas College in 2018 with associate degrees in sociology and anthropology. In January of 2019, she transferred to the University of Wyoming. Paulina is en-route to graduating in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in sociology and hopes to attend graduate school at CSU Fort Collins to become a licensed mental health professional.

# All-California Academic 2nd Team



**Lauren Harris**  
**Age: 27**  
**College: Cerro Coso Community College**  
**Major: Biology**  
**GPA: 4.0**

After high school, Lauren Harris traveled the world working and volunteering for humanitarian organizations for seven years. During that time, Lauren got two serious concussions that resulted in doctors saying she was coping for life. Despite the odds, she recovered and wanted to know if her brain was capable of performing at a college-level to fulfill her dream of higher education. She enrolled at her local community college and both excelled at and enjoyed every course she took. Lauren will graduate with her AA degree this May. She looks forward to attending a four-year university to complete a Bachelor of Science degree with the intent to eventually go to medical school. Overcoming her own medical challenges has inspired her to help others with their own.



**Benjamin Hart**  
**Age: 34**  
**College: Cuyamaca College**  
**Major: Automotive Technology**  
**GPA: 3.97**

Benjamin Hart is a father of four beautiful children and husband to a wonderful wife. Benjamin works tirelessly to tend to his family—being the sole provider. He is currently attending Cuyamaca College and studying automotive technology. His long-term goal is to acquire a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. Understanding electricity and electrical components has always fascinated Benjamin. He is a very driven individual and hopes to own his businesses in the not too distant future. He has acquired two of his ASE certifications since beginning school and plans to obtain his Master Certification within the next four years. He is honored to be a member of PTK and elected for the All-California team.



**William Jeffries**  
**Age: 25**  
**College: Sierra College**  
**Major: General Humanities and Communication Studies**  
**GPA: 3.75**

At the age 12, William Jeffries was blinded by Leukemia. Currently, Will attends Sierra College and serves as the VP of Fundraising for Beta Mu Zeta (Sierra College's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter). He will graduate with honors this fall receiving associate degrees in humanities and communication studies. He plans to transfer to UC Berkeley or Davis where he will pursue degrees in classical civilizations, rhetoric, and eventually attend law school. Utilizing opportunities afforded to him through his vision loss, Will intends to use his academic achievements and personal experience to serve his community, advocate for systemic equity, and work towards positive ecological reform. Helen Keller once said, "the only thing worse than being blind is having sight but no vision." Will envisions a future where we, as a species, can acknowledge historical wrongs, transcend negative emotion/biases, and celebrate our differences as unique and necessary, to perpetuating a more just, egalitarian future.



**Mimmie Kallander**  
**Age: 22**  
**College: American River College**  
**Major: Business Administration**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Mimmie Kallander is an international student from Sweden. She recently graduated from American River College with three associate degrees in business administration, economics and social science. Recently, she transferred to Western Michigan University to continue her studies and was offered a full-tuition scholarship thanks to her high GPA. Mimmie hopes to one day open up her own law firm, as she realized at a very young age that she has a passion for justice. The complexity of the American justice system and the high demand for lawyers in this country drove her to pursue higher education in the United States. She spends her free time volunteering as a soccer coach for youth in her neighborhood. In addition, she founded and ran a student organization that focuses on peer mentoring to help fellow students reach their academic goals.

# All-California Academic 2nd Team



**Maria Katherine**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Sacramento City College**  
**Major: Electrical Engineering**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Maria Katherine is an international student from Indonesia. She is currently Vice President of Sustainability and Service for the Beta Eta Psi Chapter at Sacramento City College, where she has provided members with volunteering opportunities and helped coordinate events related to food insecurity awareness and Earth Day. Her goal as a future engineer is to accelerate technological advancement in communities around the world and to encourage more people to pursue STEM degrees. As a student assistant for the CTE program, she does outreach to the high schools to provide future students a clear orientation to the technology programs at her college. In addition, Katherine is a math tutor and a volunteer coach for Team Davis Special Olympics. In her spare time, she enjoys puzzles, reading and video editing. She is on track to transfer to UC Davis fall 2019 and to ultimately do research in sustainable energy.



**Jeremy Lowe**  
**Age: 29**  
**College: Berkeley City College**  
**Major: Journalism/Liberal Arts with an Emphasis in Arts & Humanities**  
**GPA: 3.87**

Jeremy Lowe is a first-generation college student. While attending Peralta Community Colleges, Jeremy is an active member of the Umoja Community and Black Student Union, a Staff Writer for the Laney Tower Newspaper, and a Senator for Associated Students of Laney College. He is the Lead Transfer Assistant at Berkeley City College, where he assists students seeking transfer admissions, personal statement editing, and much more. He hopes his experience is a beacon for others to see the greatness within themselves to pursue their dreams. Jeremy has received his acceptance into the University of Pennsylvania and Columbia University. He hopes to complete his Bachelor of Arts and move towards graduate school and a career in journalism.



**Dean Madory**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Santa Ana College**  
**Major: Biology**  
**GPA: 3.76**

Dean Madory initially started at Santa Ana College with the desire to work as a firefighter, but after working in the field as an EMT he soon realized he wanted to do more. He changed his major to neuroscience and began working towards becoming a neurologist. He conducts research in a biochemistry lab at California State University, Fullerton that creates mutant proteins in order to understand how the PTB protein works in the human body, with the end goal that this knowledge will help develop therapeutic medicines for Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease. Dean volunteers 300 hours a semester in research labs and works as a supplemental instructor to a biology class on evolution and animal diversity at Santa Ana College. He also assists the port of Los Angeles and Cabrillo Marine Aquarium by helping conduct a survey of marine life in the port in order to see lasting ecological damages caused by humans.



**Rene Martinez Reyes**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Folsom Lake College**  
**Major: Chemical Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.92**

Rene Martinez Reyes is an international student from Mexico whose passion for chemistry and physics led him to major in chemical engineering. He hopes to one day become a researcher in the field of alternative energy. After witnessing many environmental issues in Mexico, he decided to dedicate his life to science and solving environmental problems in the world. All of the challenges that he has faced as an international student have motivated him to also make a difference as a student leader. He was as a Student Ambassador for over two years, and a founding member of the LatinX Club. He also served as treasurer for the International Life Club and secretary for his college's PTK chapter. Rene has an 11-year background in mixed martial arts, plays soccer, and enjoys running.



# All-California Academic 2nd Team



**Connor Meador**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Santa Barbara City College**  
**Major: Chemical Engineering**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Connor Meador is an eager student and math tutor at Santa Barbara City College maintaining a 4.0 GPA while majoring in computer science. His love of international travel has recently taken him to five continents, highlighted by humanitarian and mission trips to Africa and Eastern Europe. He interns for a Santa Barbara based nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting small, sustainable projects in the developing world. This gave him the opportunity to spend his last summer break in Rwanda, working to assess the community's needs and meeting the people. He personally sponsors a primary school student in Rwanda and has purchased several goats for the co-ops he visited. Connor sees a future for himself in entrepreneurship, so he founded the SBCC Entrepreneurship Club. Passionate to make a positive change to the world, Connor continues to strive for academic excellence and community service.



**Elizabeth Monteith**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Saddleback College**  
**Major: Chemical Engineering**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Elizabeth Monteith is currently a student at Saddleback College who plans to transfer to a 4-year university fall 2019 with associate degrees for transfer in physics and mathematics and an associate degree in chemistry. During her time at Saddleback, she completed the honors program in spring 2018, which was built on a core curriculum of English composition and mentored research in a cross-disciplinary setting. Elizabeth has also presented her research at the HTCC Conference. As a dedicated and hardworking student, she pushes herself to succeed in her classes and to learn the material. She is also an embedded organic chemistry tutor at Saddleback, and she helps other students understand the course material. Elizabeth plans to major in chemical engineering and participate in undergraduate research on finding and developing alternative, sustainable energy sources at the university she transfers to.



**Carissa Nihart**  
**Age: 34**  
**College: Irvine Valley College**  
**Major: Film**  
**GPA: 3.4**

Carissa Nihart grew up in and around Orange County, California. A life-long lover of the arts, Carissa contributes to Irvine Valley College's literary journal The Ear as an editor and a videographer for the Alpha Omega Mu chapter of Phi Theta Kappa. She is currently working on a short documentary to be presented at the HTCC Student Research Conference that deals with the topic of sexual harassment and the emotional ramifications for survivors. As a singer-songwriter, visual artist, and writer Carissa was drawn to her film major as it incorporates all of her passions. Her goal as a filmmaker is to draw attention to social issues and create films that capture the human spirit. She hopes to make a difference by moving audiences with her work. She plans to transfer into a film program at a four-year university this fall.



**Phillip Pierini**  
**Age: 48**  
**College: Laney Community College**  
**Major: Business**  
**GPA: 3.95**

Phillip Pierini is re-entry student who came back to school as way to get out of the house while recovering from a serious illness. Phillip soon developed goals that seemed previously unattainable. He credits his focus and new habits he has developed as a re-entry student in aiding in his rapid recovery. He developed a passion for social justice and working to promote previously incarcerated students in higher education through organizations such as the Underground Scholars Initiative at Cal Berkeley and Restoring Our Communities at Laney Community College. Phillip believes it is time to empower our returning citizens.



# All-California Academic 2nd Team



**Jennifer Rhoades**  
**Age: 31**  
**College: Butte College**  
**Major: Clinical Social Work**  
**GPA: 3.81**

Jennifer Rhoades is student a Butte College. At the end of 2014, Jennifer decided to make some changes in her life and went back to school to get her GED. An Oroville Adult Education instructor encouraged Jennifer to get her high school diploma and since that day forward she has strived to achieve beyond what she thought she was capable of. This spring, she will be graduating from Butte College with her AA-T in Psychology. She will be the first in her family to graduate from college and is looking forward to the bright future that lays ahead of her.



**Sara Runion**  
**Age: 35**  
**College: Mt. San Jacinto College**  
**Major: Accountancy / Business Administration**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Sara Runion is currently the PTK Beta Delta Omega Chapter President. She also serves as a mentor for the Honors Enrichment Program at Mt. San Jacinto College. She plans to transfer this fall with associate degrees in business administration, economics, liberal arts-business and technology, math and science, and social and behavioral sciences. After earning her Bachelor of Science in Accountancy from a California University, Sara hopes to work for one of the "Big 4" accounting firms while earning her CPA license. With a passion for law, she would like to participate in USC's dual degree program which awards Master of Business Taxation and Juris Doctor Degrees upon completion—allowing Sara to practice Tax Law as her full-time career.



**Frank Slewa**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Grossmont College**  
**Major: Computer Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.68**

Frank Slewa is a community college student majoring in computer engineering. He recently applied for transfer to SDSU and UCSD. Born in Iraq, Frank was forced to move to Greece at the age of six because of war and terrorist threats. He learned the new language and managed to pick it up quickly, so he could help his family with translations. In 2012, he migrated to the United States after his father lost his job. Once he arrived in the U.S. he had a really hard time learning the language, but was able to pick it up. Frank plans to obtain the highest possible education. He is really motivated to reach his goals because he wants to repay his parents for all the hard work and support they have provided him.



**Isaiah Traub**  
**Age: 18**  
**College: Columbia Community College**  
**Major: Political Science**  
**GPA: 3.82**

Isaiah Traub is a sophomore at Columbia Community College and will be graduating this spring with an AA-T in Political Science. Isaiah hopes to transfer to UC Santa Cruz to earn a bachelor's degree in politics and work towards becoming a credentialed teacher for political science. Isaiah strives to succeed in his academic, professional and social life while maintaining a healthy balance between them. He stays active at school as the Beta Xi Delta Chapter President, Senator for the Associated Students of Columbia College and a math tutor. Aside from academics, he has hiked the John Muir Trail, climbed several of California's tallest mountains and has been to every state in the union. Ultimately, Isaiah seeks to leave a positive impact on the lives of students through the education system.

# All-California Academic 2nd Team



**Ronny Vásquez**  
**Age: 22**  
**College: San Diego City College**  
**Major: Chemical Engineering**  
**GPA: 3.47**

Ronny Vásquez is an international student from Venezuela who is currently in his last semester at San Diego City College. Ronny came to the U.S. in 2015 and learned English in 6 months. Since then his educational journey has positively developed. Ronny is pursuing a degree in chemical engineering and has an associate degree in French. He is currently the vice-president of PTK as well as the vice-president of SACNAS (Advancing Chicanos/Latinos and Native American in Science). Recently, he was selected as the recipient of SDG&E Leadership Award and recognized by the college as a Peer Advocate lead. He promotes science in his community by going to elementary schools and engaging younger generations through scientific games. His career goal is to work in the energy industries to develop new methods to use natural energy resources more effectively with a lower pollution index and help other countries such as his home country Venezuela.



**Janell Zendejas**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: West Hills College Lemoore**  
**Major: Elementary Education**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Janell Zendejas is an elementary education major with the hope to one day become a third-grade teacher at her old elementary school. She plans to graduate this May from West Hills College Lemoore and hopes to transfer to Fresno State University. At FSU, Janell plans to earn her bachelor's degree, get into a credential program, and possibly obtain a master's degree. Her biggest motivation is to one day make a difference in the lives of students, just as many teachers have made a difference in her own. Janell has been awarded the Presidential Scholarship, Teacher's Association Scholarship, and Warkentin Scholarship. As a first-generation college student, she has accomplished a lot and hopes to keep doing so, so she can motivate others to do the same.

# All-California Academic 3rd Team



**Omar Boudiaf**  
**Age: 21**  
**College: Mt. San Jacinto College**  
**Major: Business Administration**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Omar Boudiaf is an international student from Algeria. He came to the U.S. two years ago and enrolled at Mt. San Jacinto College. Omar is a highly motivated person and always wants to make the world a better place. For these reasons, he tries to be involved in as many activities as he can while trying to maintain a good GPA. He is majoring in business administration and serves as the Finance Officer for his school's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter. During his two years at MSJC, he reactivated the International Club and serves as its President with the purpose of sharing things about different cultures and languages as well as helping Foreign students adapt to American culture and the education system. In addition, Omar is also an Honors Mentor. Omar plans to transfer to a four-year college and major in finance.



**Joslyn Buckley**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Porterville College**  
**Major: Communication**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Joslyn Buckley is a full-time student completing her last semester at Porterville College. She will be transferring to a four-year university in the fall to earn her bachelor's degree in communication with an emphasis in public relations/advertising. Joslyn has maintained a 4.0 GPA while at Porterville College and has been named to the President's Honor List. In addition to serving as her Phi Theta Kappa's Chapter secretary, she also stays involved on campus by serving as the Instructional Services Representative in student government, and as a student representative on additional campus committees. Joslyn enjoys working on campus as a student ambassador where she is involved with campus outreach events and the college's career center. She also balances two additional off-campus part-time jobs. Joslyn would like to thank Porterville College for providing her with multiple opportunities to succeed as well as her family for always supporting her.



**Chigozirim Rowland Chinedu**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Mt. San Jacinto College**  
**Major: Nursing**  
**GPA: 3.76**

Chigozirim Rowland Chinedu is a sophomore at Mt. San Jacinto College, where he currently serves as the Executive Secretary of MSJC's Phi Theta Kappa Chapter. Besides being a full-time student, he also works two jobs to support his family. He plans to transfer to the University of California Irvine in the fall to earn a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. With his degree he hopes to fulfill his passion of being an aid and serving as a support system to those that are sick. His passion for helping others extends beyond the classroom where he is a mathematics and science tutor, assisting students learn better. He hopes to, one day, make an impact in third world countries, improving the quality of healthcare services provided to the sick.



**Brenden Davis**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: College of the Canyons**  
**Major: Anthropology**  
**GPA: 3.92**

Brenden Davis is an honors student at College of the Canyons studying anthropology and pursuing a career in environmental law. When he doesn't have his head deep in textbooks, Brenden loves to spend his time working with a wide variety of animals and insects. Having always had a passion for the natural world, Brenden understands how important it is to protect the delicate ecosystem. With his college's Biodiversity Initiative: Hands-On Earth program, Brenden pioneered a project to encourage the population of bee's in his community to expand while simultaneously conducting research on local bee populations. Outside of school, Brenden volunteers at an animal sanctuary, where he engages with many exotic animals. There, he researches Capuchin monkeys to understand how changes in social dynamics manipulate their behavior. Brenden plans to transfer to a 4-year university, where he will develop the tools necessary to save the natural world.

# All-California Academic 3rd Team



**Arturo Fernandez**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: College of the Canyons**  
**Major: Business Administration**  
**GPA: 3.75**

Arturo Fernandez is a business administration major at College of the Canyons. He plans to graduate and transfer to a 4-year university this spring. His goals after earning his bachelor's degree is to start a clothing brand and invest in other peoples' businesses. He is a Phi Theta Kappa and Honors Club member. He volunteers at Holy Family Catholic Church-Glendale leading and inspiring teens on the right path. In addition to volunteering at his church and with various clubs, he was selected to be a part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, an internship preparing taxes for low income people this year. Arturo is grateful for all the opportunities he has received while attending college, being a member of PTK, and volunteering. He is honored to be a part of today's awards luncheon and the All-California Academic Team.



**Charlotte Helms**  
**Age: 25**  
**College: Fullerton College**  
**Major: Business Administration**  
**GPA: 3.53**

Charlotte Helms is a business administration major and plans to graduate this spring with two associate degrees. She will be transferring to Stetson University in DeLand this fall to pursue a bachelor's degree in accounting. Alongside taking 15 units, she is currently the treasurer of Fullerton College's PTK chapter and works part time in the accounting department of a manufacturing firm.



**Juwan Howard**  
**Age: 23**  
**College: Long Beach City College/ Los Angeles Harbor College**  
**Major: Film and Media Studies**  
**GPA: 3.7**

Juwan Howard is a proud member of the PTK family and appreciates their strong advocacy in serving the community. He recently earned a position on the Long Beach City College Dean's List and plans to further his commitment to media studies either at UCLA or NYU this fall. Mr. Howard aims to create a kinship between media production and under privileged communities. He finds it imperative that these communities understand that their stories matter and deserve to be acknowledged.



**Geoffrey Kerr**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Antelope Valley Community College**  
**Major: Computer Software Developer**  
**GPA: 3.71**

Geoffrey Kerr is an honors student completing his third year at Antelope Valley Community College in computer software with courses in microelectronics and mathematics. He participated in NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars, consisting of an online course, and culminating with a week-long onsite experience with NASA professionals from the Armstrong Flight Research Center. In addition, he has completed two projects that went aboard the International Space Station during his time in high school. The focus of his work has been research on the behavior of graphene-based supercapacitors in a microgravity environment.



# All-California Academic 3rd Team



**Katherine Leckey**  
**Age: 22**  
**College: Shasta College**  
**Major: Business Administration Accounting**  
**GPA: 3.95**

Katherine Leckey plans to complete her bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in public accounting and get a minor in musical theatre at Southern Oregon University. Along with being a full-time student and working part-time, she enjoys performing in local ballet productions. Her most memorable role was stepping in as the Sugar Plum Fairy in Redding City Ballet's 20th year of the Nutcracker in 2018. Dance has always been one of her passions and she hopes to one day start her very own dancewear brand.



**Bianca Leon**  
**Age: 26**  
**College: San Diego City College**  
**Major: Administration of Justice**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Bianca Leon is a mother, wife, and student at San Diego City College. She is pursuing a degree in administration of justice and plans to transfer to San Diego State University. Bianca maintains a 4.0 GPA and is regular on the Dean's List. She is the treasurer of San Diego City College Phi Theta Kappa Chapter since 2017 and looks forward to serving as the Vice President this fall. Bianca has been re-selected to participate in the International Laureate Program. At her commencement in college, Bianca was among the first cohort to participate in the Promise Program. After her completion, she received a certificate for outstanding participation. Recently, she was selected as a recipient of the Osher Scholarship. With much pride, Bianca landed a job in her field of study as a Student Worker at the San Diego Superior Court, where her goal is to work permanently after completing of her degree.



**Marta Marcos**  
**Age: 32**  
**College: Cañada College**  
**Major: Early Childhood Education**  
**GPA: 3.66**

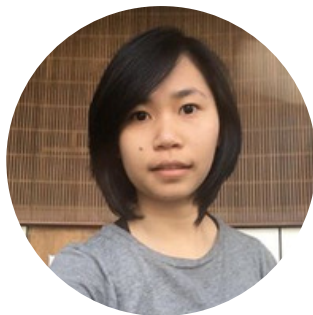
Marta Marcos emigrated from El Salvador with her two daughters in 2014. When she came to the United States, she had the dream of continuing her education and becoming a teacher, so she started taking ESL classes at an adult school. She transferred to Cañada College and after completing her ESL classes, Marta enrolled in a child education program to become a teacher. She is now a preschool teacher, but as a first-generation college student it has been difficult for Marta to achieve her goals. Since she started taking college classes, Marta has been on the Dean's Honor Roll seven times. She aspires to earn her AA in early childhood education and then transfer to a four-year university to get her bachelor's degree.



**Justin Perkins**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Mt. San Jacinto College**  
**Major: Administration of Justice**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Justin Perkins is Fellowship Officer for Phi Theta Kappa's Beta Delta Omega Chapter, President of the Criminal Justice Club at Mt. San Jacinto College, and a peer tutor. He is an administration of justice major and hopes to transfer to a four-year university to earn a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. Ultimately, he wishes to be a Deputy Sheriff for the Riverside Sheriff's Department. He believes that this is an excellent position to give back to the community and make it a safer place for its residents. Further, Mr. Perkins understands that community is a key component in effective policing and wishes to help communities become more involved with assisting in the reduction of crime. During or after completing his career in law enforcement, he wishes to earn a master's degree and teach criminal justice courses at the college-level.

# All-California Academic 3rd Team



**Su Latt Phone**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: College of San Mateo**  
**Major: Computer Science**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Su Latt Phone is an international student from Myanmar, studying computer science at College of San Mateo. She plans to transfer to a 4-year university this fall. Although she got into computer science a bit late (only after high school), she is passionate about the subject and enthusiastic about promoting it as a field of study. She joins panels and fairs organized by TEALS that target high school students interested in computer science. She is also a computer science tutor and a computer lab aide, always welcoming other students and giving them a hand. Su joined her college's PTK chapter her very first semester, even participating in the HIA project and volunteering.



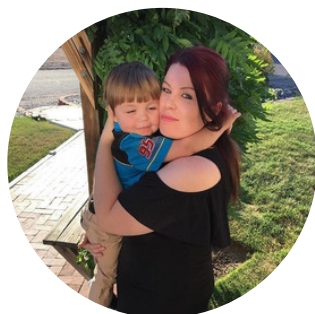
**Evan B. Rayder**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: PCPA-Pacific Conservatory Theatre of Allan Hancock College**  
**Major: Theatre: Design/Technical Theatre**  
**GPA: 3.61**

Evan B. Rayder was born and raised in San Diego, California where he discovered theater and has been a theater artist since 2014. Mr. Rayder is currently a theater major at the Pacific Conservatory Theatre of Allan Hancock College (PCPA). His passion and experience are primarily in lighting and electrical work, having just closed PCPA's production of Shakespeare in Love as the Assistant Master Electrician. Through PCPA's rigorous training program he has gained much experience and is in his final year at PCPA. After graduation, Evan hopes to work for Disney at their park in Anaheim, California starting as a maintenance specialist on the World of Color. Outside of theater, he loves to camp, hike and ski, and enjoys volunteering for his local Rotary Club. He has held a seat on the Scripps Ranch Fire Safe Council and is an Eagle Scout.



**Alexander Richardson**  
**College: Los Angeles Valley College**  
**Major: Astrophysics**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Alexander Richardson is incredibly grateful for the experience and insight he has received at Los Angeles Valley College from all the faculty, staff and students he has had the chance to interact with since his time at the institution. He looks forward to carrying these valued life lessons on with him to his next destination this coming fall.



**Aubrey Rifino**  
**Age: 31**  
**College: Chaffey College**  
**Major: Psychology**  
**GPA: 3.96**

Aubrey Rifino is a single mother to her 4-year-old son Rylan. Last year, she completed her AA-T in Psychology at Chaffey College. She will be continuing her education this fall as she works towards completing her bachelor's degree in psychology. She is currently working as a social sciences tutor at the Multidisciplinary Success Center at Chaffey College, a job she enjoys very much. She has a passion for helping others, as well as spending time with her son and family. She is very honored to be a member of the 2019 All-California Academic Team and she attributes her success to hard work, perseverance and her family. Her parents and son have been her amazing support system and she knows that she wouldn't be where she is today without them.

# All-California Academic 3rd Team



**Rana Saleh**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Porterville College**  
**Major: Biological/Physical Science**  
**GPA: 3.81**

Rana Saleh has been a full-time student at Porterville College since the fall of 2017. After graduating she plans to transfer to a physical therapy program which will allow her to enter the field of pediatric physical therapy. As a first-generation college student, Rana has worked hard to reach the position she is in now. She has earned her recognition as a prestigious student during her first year of high school when she joined the Academic Decathlon team. Rana graduated high school as a junior and entered Porterville College determined to excel. Currently, she is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Chapter at her college, and an active volunteer around her community. Her main goals are to give back to her community, serve individuals who do not have access to adequate healthcare and, to help bring the next generation up and running faster than ever.



**Fisher-Aaron Skeels**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Citrus College**  
**Major: Aerospace Engineering & Computer Science**  
**GPA: 3.72**

Fisher-Aaron Skeels is currently a full-time student at Citrus College. Taking apart every toy placed into his possession, asking strings of questions until they could no longer be answered, and reading books ten times over was just the beginning. At the end of third grade, Aaron was offered to skip ahead two school years. Up through graduating high school, he continued his tradition of studying independently outside of the classroom while achieving above a 4.0 and maintaining on the AP Honors Roll. In 2016 he was awarded "Most Inspirational Student" at Claremont High School. Aaron plans on graduating from Citrus College, attending Stanford University, and eventually working at OpenAI or SpaceX. He believes that here, he will be able to contribute to some of the largest technological innovations ever conceived.



**Ariel Smith**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Allan Hancock College**  
**Major: Marine Biology**  
**GPA: 3.4**

Ariel Smith is a marine biology major at Allan Hancock College. She has kept busy over the past year with a total of three jobs and a full-time internship. She interned at the Central Coast Aquariums for a total of 6 months after her internship was extended twice. There she held a wide range of responsibilities including animal care and education. Recently she was accepted to study marine biology at the University of Hawaii Manoa. She plans to transfer this fall and immediately get involved with the community. Ariel also enjoys photography and plans to include underwater photography into her career. Her long-term goals are to earn her Ph.D. in marine biology and become a lead scientist researching conservation issues and shark populations.



**Arteja Smith**  
**Age: 20**  
**College: Napa Valley College**  
**Major: Psychology/Social Sciences**  
**GPA: 3.78**

Arteja Smith is a student in her last semester at Napa Valley College. This spring, she will receive her AA-T in Psychology. Arteja will be transferring to her dream school, University of California, Davis. During her time there, she will work to receive her bachelor's degree in psychology and communications. While at UC Davis, she hopes to intern and become a research assistant. She is extremely passionate about helping others. Some of her long-term goals include obtaining her doctorate and owning her own practice. She currently holds a position as the President of Phi Theta Kappa's Beta Beta Sigma Chapter. Along with being a full-time student and other scholarly obligations, Arteja works with students at Silverado Middle School as a classroom leader through the After Class Enrichment Program.

# All-California Academic 3rd Team



**Asia Taylor**  
**Age: 28**  
**College: Shasta College**  
**Major: Social Sciences/Basic Business**  
**GPA: 3.81**

Asia Taylor enrolled in the ACE program at Shasta College in the spring of 2018. She plans to earn her social sciences degree this spring and a business degree by the summer. One day Ms. Taylor hopes to become a licensed mental health therapist. She also volunteers for her college's SNIPPP program helping cats and kittens find their forever homes. Asia hopes to inspire her two young daughters by showing them it's never too late to accomplish your goals.



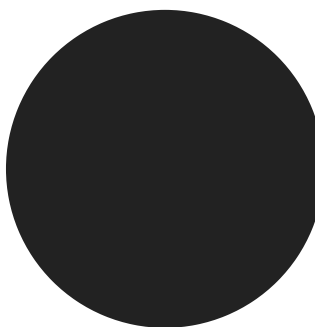
**Le'Rea Thomas**  
**Age: 29**  
**College: Merritt College**  
**Major: Health Science**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Le'Rea Thomas is a health science major at Merritt College. She hopes to be accepted into a Cal State University Nursing program this fall. During her college career, she has maintained a 4.0 GPA while being an active mother to her three beautiful children. She wants to inspire her children to go after their dreams and to never limit themselves or their abilities. After receiving her BSN, Ms. Thomas wants to continue her education by becoming a DNP and opening a clinic based in her community.



**Kaitlyn Wharton**  
**Age: 19**  
**College: Solano Community College**  
**Major: Social Science/Linguistics**  
**GPA: 4.0**

Kaitlyn Wharton grew up finding a passion in the realms of language and literature. Having loved the works of J.R.R. Tolkien, Lewis Carroll, and C.S. Lewis from a young age, she was enthralled to pursue a collegiate path that combines the two. She began her college career at the age of sixteen through dual enrollment and found that the experience gave her much insight into the career she would like to pursue. Through the trials of life, such as a close family members chronic autoimmune illness since she was twelve and her own autoimmune problems, she is grateful to have found her passion.



**Jason R. Wood**  
**Age: 35**  
**College: Santa Ana College**  
**Major: Nutrition**  
**GPA: 3.84**

Jason Wood is studying nutrition at Santa Ana College. Jason not only hopes to make a difference in the sick, obese, confused, and dying world around him by earning a degree, but also to learn how to live in a way that will allow him to avoid disease, obesity, injury and mental illness.

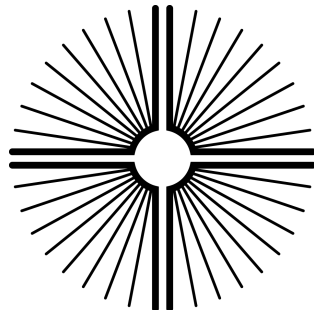




# PHI THETA KAPPA

HONOR SOCIETY





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