Below you will find the first edition of the Office of Educational Partnerships (OEP) Newsletter. We intend to continue the newsletter to keep everyone updated and informed on the latest happenings in our department and community.

Best,

Silvia Alvarez
Program Coordinator | Educational Partnerships
California State University, Dominguez Hills
1000 E. Victoria Street, Carson, CA 90747
Office: (310) 243-3692
Email: salvarez@csudh.edu
My StrengthsQuest Themes: | Harmony | Communication | Activator | WOO | Context
services we provide to CSUDH and the surrounding communities. As we continue our work, it is my hope to keep faculty, staff, and students updated on our latest events and happenings. I welcome you to read the highlights of all the great things each program has done over the last year.

Matthew Smith
Director, Educational Partnerships

Educational Partnerships Programs:
Student Support Services (SSS)
Veterans Resource Center
Upward Bound Math & Science
Upward Bound Classic
Male Success Alliance (MSA)
GEAR UP I & II
Educational Talent Search (ETS)

Educational Partnerships Mission Statement:
The mission of the Office of Educational Partnerships is to improve college access and success for historically marginalized student populations in the South Bay of Los Angeles. Through various partnerships, programs, and services, the department aims to holistically develop students and improve their educational and social outcomes by providing tutoring, mentoring, college visits, civic engagement opportunities, and college and career readiness workshops.

Meet the Educational Partnerships Team
Student Support Services (SSS) - Elizabeth Hanna (Director), Omar Guzman (Advisor), Estefania Valois (Advisor), Alyssia McPherson (Administrative Assistant)

Veteran's Resource Center - DaWayne Denmark (Director), Hershell Hardimon (Advisor), Jartizy Herrera (Administrative Assistant)

Upward Bound (UB Classic) - Luz E. Ponce (Director), Paola Garay (Program Coordinator), Nivardo Martinez (Program Coordinator), Agustin Rangel-Gonzalez (Educational Advisor), Mirella Leyva (Educational Advisor)

Upward Bound Math Science (UBMS) - Amel Khan (Director), Fuab Yang (Project Coordinator)

Project GEAR UP I - Linda Franco Bustamante (Director), Josie Robles (Administrative Coordinator), Mayra Rodriguez (GEAR UP HS Coordinator)

Project GEAR UP II & Educational Talent Search (ETS) – Dr. Graciela Fernandez (Director), Jorge Herrera (ETS Advisor)

Male Success Alliance (MSA) Vince Flowers (Project Coordinator), Leo Sloan (Coordinator), JC Lugo (Coordinator)

Educational Partnerships (OEP) - Matthew Smith (Director), Silvia Alvarez (Program Coordinator), Tyffanye Hoang (Administrative Coordinator)
Upcoming Important Events & Dates for OEP

Super Sunday - Sunday, February 25
TRiO National Day - Wednesday, February 28
MSA Spring Summit - Friday, March 23

For any questions please contact thoang@csudh.edu or salvarez@csudh.edu

TRiO Upward Bound

Program Overview:
The TRIO- Upward Bound Program (UB) at California State University Dominguez Hills offers a wide network of support services that help ensure academic and personal success for 125 first-generation, low-income students from Carson, Gardena, Hawthorne, and Leuzinger high schools. Upward Bound is designed to increase high school retention and graduation rates of underrepresented students. The program also strives to enhance participants’ potential for acceptance and graduation of four-year universities and professional schools. UB is part of the federally funded TRIO programs that help disadvantaged students overcome environmental, cultural, and academic barriers to higher education.

Mission
The mission of the Upward Bound Program at the CSU Dominguez Hills is to assist low-income, first-generation high school students in the successful completion of their secondary education and prepare them academically and socially for enrollment into higher education. We begin by building an atmosphere that enhances positive self-esteem while fostering unity and collaboration to help students value themselves, their culture and to envision their own success.
Outstanding Student: Crystal-Marie Chacon

Crystal, a graduating senior from Carson High School, will be attending UCLA to pursue a degree in Earth and Environmental Science. She began her journey with Upward Bound during her sophomore year and since then she has committed herself to participate in as many activities to help her reach her academic goals. Throughout her life, Crystal has overcome financial and personal barriers that have not only made her a strong, determined student, but also a leader in her academic circle. She is one of the few young ladies in the Environmental Science, Engineering and Technology Academy at Carson High as well as a member of the Robotics Club and Co-President of the Go GREEN recycling program. Crystal is the recipient of the Horatio Alger Association State Scholarship, Dell Foundation Scholarship, and Toyota Make Life Easier Scholarship. She hopes to one day be able to educate the next generation about ways to sustain an eco-friendly environment in the urban cities.
Student Support Services, also known as SSS is a federally funded TRIO program under the U.S. Department of Education. Our program is designed to support the academic and personal needs of 160 eligible CSU Dominguez Hills students. The mission of the SSS is to increase the retention and graduation rates of first generation, low income students, former foster youth and students with disabilities. Program participants are offered an array of services to ensure a smooth transition to CSUDH as well as ongoing support towards the successful completion of their postsecondary education.

**TRIO Scholar Highlights**

**Britani Bell**

From the graduating class of 2017, TRIO Student Support Services would like to honor Britani Bell for persevering in higher education and exemplifying what a student leader is at CSUDH. Her upbringing in Watts, California has led her to challenge the status quo and through her experiences, she is a woman who is passionate about social injustices, lack of equity in the school system and is an active child advocate. During her time at CSU Dominguez Hills, she majored in Child Development and became one of the finer women of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She’s a world traveler, having visited nine different countries in one amazing summer trip. She is a phenomenal human, and a valued TRIO SSS Alumni. Congratulations Britani!

**Crystal Yanez**

From our graduating class of 2017, TRIO Student Support Services would like to honor Crystal Yanez for persevering in higher education and becoming a true advocate for the foster youth, first generation and low income students on campus. Raised in Compton, CA, Crystal transferred to CSUDH and majored in Human Services with a concentration in Mental Health. She’s passionate about learning and sharing information to disadvantaged populations—whether it is on campus, in her community and or on a national level. Her drive and determination to succeed and see others succeed makes her stand out from her peers, hence, why
she is often sought after on campus. She’s facilitated impactful workshops in the past, providing guidance and support to first generation, low income students and former foster youth. She’s an inspiration to many and a valued TRIO SSS Alumni. Congratulations Crystal!

Project GEAR UP

Project GEAR UP is a Federally Funded program from the U.S. Dept. of Education that works with a cohort from Bethune MS and continues with the students to John C. Fremont, Diego Rivera Learning Complex, and Dymally High Schools for the graduating class of 2017 until September 2018. The program’s goal is to work with the 825-student cohort to help them become competitive college applicants. The students are mainly low income and First-Generation college bound students from the South Central Los Angeles area that have limited support and resources.

We had the pleasure to take 4 GEAR UP students to the National Conference in San Francisco. They were 4 out of the 10 students representing California. They spent 3 days learning about leadership and what will make them Future Proof, the theme of the conference.

We chose the following students:

Misty Gasca-Dymally HS and will attend UCI in the fall
Raquel Mendiola-Fremont HS and will attend UC Davis in the fall

Yesenia Rojas-Rodriguez-Diego Rivera LC and will attend CSU Los Angeles in the fall

Ronald Gonzalez-Diego Rivera LC and will attend Cerritos College in the fall on a soccer team.

---

**Student Highlight**

Brian Sanchez, a top scholar and avid participant in the GEAR UP Program attending Tufts University. He is happy about his move to the East Coast to pursue his undergraduate studies and has received more than $75,000 in grants and scholarships from the university. He has participated in the BLAST Summer Program and plans to pursue a major in Community Health in the hopes of one day becoming a medical doctor in his South Los Angeles community.

---

**Educational Talent Search (ETS)**

The Talent Search program identifies and assists individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who have the potential to succeed in higher education. The program provides academic, career, and financial counseling to its participants and encourages them to graduate from high school and continue on to and complete...
their postsecondary education. The program publicizes the availability of financial aid and assists participants with the postsecondary application process. Talent Search also encourages individuals who have not completed educational programs at the secondary or postsecondary level to enter or reenter and complete postsecondary education. The goal of Talent Search is to increase the number of youth from disadvantaged backgrounds who complete high school and enroll in and complete their postsecondary education.

---

**Veterans Resource Center**

The Veterans Resource Center provides assistance to veterans, service members, and their dependents as they pursue their academic and professional goals. Services include academic advising, tutoring, counseling, VA/CalVet benefit information. Additionally, students have access to a study/lounge space, computers, and printing access. The Veterans Resource Center also serves as the primary campus advocate for veteran and military students and works to ensure their unique needs are met by collaborating with various resources both on and off campus.

---

**Student Highlight**

Greg James served over three years in the US Army as a Sergeant. During his time at DH, he has made the Dean’s Honors List every semester. This past fall, he graduated with a BA degree in Public Administration with a concentration in Public Personnel Administration. Greg will be attending USC this Fall to pursue a Masters of Social Work degree.
The mission of the Male Success Alliance (MSA) is to improve access, retention and graduation rates of young men of color through academic support, professional development and mentoring. We believe that through brotherhood, integrity and perseverance we can positively impact every life we encounter.

MSA is an initiative focused on improving the educational and social outcomes of middle school, high school and college students. Fueled by the notions of consciousness, competence and commitment our program goals are to:
1. Create a college-going, college staying and college graduating culture
2. Close the achievement gap between male and female counterparts
3. Increase success via college preparation, access and participation
4. Focus on student persistence and retention
5. Build partnerships and strengthen collaborations with K-12 schools, community colleges, community-based organizations, faith-based institutions and families.

There were 2 MSA college chapter members admitted to the following graduate schools:

Alex Guerrero (California State University, Fullerton)
Kendrick Jones (California State University, Dominguez Hills)
The Male Success Alliance would like to highlight a few of Alex Guerrero’s accomplishments. Alex obtained a bachelor’s degree in Sociology and earned a 3.653 grade point average (magna cum laude honors). He was elected President of the MSA college chapter for two consecutive years. Mr. Guerrero is the recipient of the 2017 CSUDH Presidential Outstanding Student Award. He is currently completing his Master’s in Education program at the California State University, Fullerton.