



# ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI SUPPORT & COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

BY CARLOS FRANCO

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## COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER NEWS CSU APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED!!!

The Cal State Apply deadline has been extended for most CSU schools!!! See updated deadlines below

**Updated Cal State Apply Deadlines**  
for Fall 2022 as of November 30, 2021

Dec. 1, 11:59 pm	Dec. 15		Later
Fullerton Long Beach San Luis Obispo	Bakersfield Channel Islands Chico Dominguez Hills Fresno Los Angeles Maritime Academy Monterey Bay Northridge	Pomona Sacramento San Bernardino San Diego San Jose San Marcos Sonoma Stanislaus	San Francisco 12/30/21 East Bay 2/15/22 Humboldt 2/28/22

The California State University [calstate.edu/apply](http://calstate.edu/apply) \*Dates subject to change.

## CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION NEWS

Want a better paying job?  
Looking for a career change  
or a certificate program?  
Use the QR code to meet  
with your CTE Coordinator



## BSSCA CLASS OF 2017-2020

BY MIKE CARRERA

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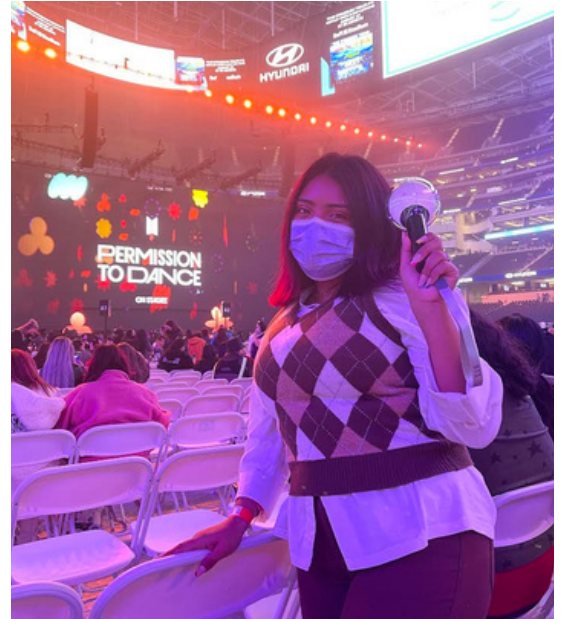
# YESSENIA BAUTISTA

**BSSCA ALUMNA 2020**  
**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON**  
**EXPECTED GRADUATION: 2024**  
**MAJOR: BUSINESS**  
**MINOR: ADVERTISING**

The December Alumni Newsletter is about two former BSSCA girl soccer teammates and now college roommates Ashley Hernandez and Yessenia Bautista.

Yessenia Bautista is embracing all that CSU, Fullerton has to offer. A current Business major and Advertising minor, she's finally having the opportunity to live on campus after a year of distance learning due to the pandemic. She mentioned that she's in the Adventure Club, Ballet Folklorico, Hermana Unidas, and the Harry Potter Club. Yessenia has her hands full but did mention that she might drop some clubs next semester because most of her classes will now be in person.

In addition to there being tons of activities to do on campus, there are also lots of free resources to help you succeed. "There are so many resources that we as students pay for and either don't know about or don't take advantage of which is unfortunate because it comes out of our tuition so make sure to go get the free stuff they are giving too." While some might see CSUF as a commuter school but that hasn't stopped her from networking with other students. Now that she is living on campus, what has changed? "I love the independence, living on my own has also allowed me to find myself and focus on school. I love visiting my family but when I do go back I take care of my sibling and help around the house. Those are things I don't mind doing but it takes up some of my time from school." The future is bright for Yessenia and we'll definitely be hearing more great news about her in the future.



**BSSCA ALUMNA 2020**  
**CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON**  
**EXPECTED GRADUATION: 2024**  
**MAJOR: KINESIOLOGY**  
**MINOR: CINEMA AND TELEVISION ART**

# ASHLEY HERNANDEZ



Ashley Hernandez is pursuing her passions at Cal State Fullerton. A current Kinesiology major and a Cinema and Television Arts minor, she's embracing all the opportunities that Fullerton has to offer. She's currently involved in the Adventure Club and volunteers at Titans TV, a streaming and cable channel for CSUF. She enjoys learning about different editing styles and techniques and can envision herself doing this as a career. Already at Junior, even though she's only been at CSUF for a year and a half, Ashley credits her numerous dual-enrollment classes with helping her get ahead while she attended BSSCA.

Was it challenging for her to make new friends on campus now that she's back? "Initially, I thought it was going to be hard because I consider myself to be an introvert. I made it a point to talk to other students on campus because I didn't want to miss out on opportunities and it's worked out. It also helps that I live on campus. I have a friend that lives in an apartment off-campus and she mentioned that I was the first person she hung out with and it was midway through the semester."

Ashley also mentioned that she felt burnt out a few weeks ago because she was working 4 days a week and managing school but she spoke to the manager about her schedule so she could get reduced hours. Many times, students make the mistake to prioritize their job over school and realize it too late when they fail classes and are forced to retake them. Not Ashley! She continues to make wise decisions prioritizing school and her wellbeing. It's certainly paying off and she is closer to accomplishing her goal of graduating!

**VAHS CLASS OF 2017-2021**

BY KYLE PETRIE

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**ANGEL ORTIZ FLORES**

**VAHS ALUMNUS 2021**  
**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, DAVIS**  
**MAJOR: ANIMAL SCIENCE & ZOOLOGY**



**What skills/mindsets/attitudes did you learn while a student at Valor that have helped you as you have begun your college career?**

An attitude that I learned while at Valor that has helped me through my first year of college is to be outgoing. Being able to put yourself out there and talk to people without being shy is very beneficial. Valor helped me develop that skill and apply it to my first year of college.

**What has it been like to go away to a new school in a new area of the state?**

Being in a new school in a new area is very difficult to be honest. It's a whole different environment that you have to adapt to pretty fast because if not it will affect you in the long run. It's especially hard when you come from a big city into more of a rural area with not as many options for activities.

**What is living in a dorm like? Have you met a lot of new people? Made any friends already?**

Living in a dorm is an amazing experience because you get to meet new people and experience different cultures. I have met a lot of people because my roommates are very compatible with each other. I feel like some obstacles when living in the dorms are having to share restrooms, the kitchen, the washing machines and other things that you're not used to while living with your own family.

**How has your world perspective changed during your short time on campus at UC Davis?**

You start to value the small things and people from back home. I have begun to realize that sometimes your culture isn't as common in different areas, and you start owning up to it trying to input into a city that doesn't see your culture the same way. Always important to keep your head up and pursue your goals in spite of the challenges that you face.

**What do you plan on studying during your time at Davis? Have you thought about any potential career paths?**

I came into Davis for one reason and one reason only: I plan on studying animal science/zooology as my potential career path. Davis is known as having the most outstanding programs in the biological and agricultural sciences.

**What do you plan on studying during your time at Davis? Have you thought about any potential career paths?**

Some advice I would give to future students is stay on task and really do your work. Stay on top of your work and don't let it stack up because when you get into college no one is going to be behind you telling you what to do. It's also important to appreciate the staff and teachers that are helping you stay on task during your time at Valor, because those are valuable lessons for whatever your chose to do after graduation.

## RKHS CLASS OF 2020

BY STEPHANIE CALDERON

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### KINNERETH VILCHIZ-ALANIZ

RKHS ALUMNA 2021

CSUN FRESHMAN

MAJOR: CHEMISTRY

#### How did you pick your major?

A few years back I became interested in forensics. I began doing research and came to realize I enjoyed the idea of becoming a Forensic Pathologist. I am not a squeamish person when it comes to forensics so this was a huge advantage for me. Science is also a subject I enjoy so I was excited to learn more about it.



#### What has been the best part of your college experience so far?

This year I chose to take all of my classes online and it has worked well for me. It was not the way I originally planned the start of my college year but I have managed to make the best of it and still enjoy it!

#### How do you like your professors at CSUN?

I have really enjoyed my classes and professors this fall semester. Many of them are really passionate about the subject they teach and in helping their students. They do fair grading and provide feedback which is really helpful. I'm engaged in their class even if it is through a virtual setting.

#### Have you joined any clubs, activities or do you plan to?

I have joined a music club this semester. It has been fun and I have met a lot of great people with similar interests. We meet once a month and I plan to continue being a part of the club. Over the summer I took part in a paid summer program as well as Camp Matador which was virtual this year. I am also a part of a mentorship program and my mentor has been of great help.

#### What advice would you give to high school seniors who are preparing to apply to college?

Get to know yourself. Knowing your likes and dislikes can be very helpful when trying to narrow down your options when selecting a major. Building good study habits will only benefit you once you enter college. Try your best not to procrastinate. Enjoy your senior year and do not stress yourself too much. March can be both exciting and worrisome so be prepared and do not be hard on yourself when letters arrive. If you get a chance to attend an in person campus tour, do it! It will save you a lot of time when fall semesters begins.

# BRIGHT STAR SCHOOLS ALUMNI SUPPORT & COLLEGE SUCCESS TEAM

All Bright Star Schools Alums, high school graduates, will be supported in graduating from college for up to 6 years. Our goal is for our Alumni to earn a Bachelor's, Associate's, Career Technical Education degree, or workforce development certificate from an accredited college or program. If you are a BSS Alumni from the class of 2016-2021, we will be there to help you navigate, thrive, and succeed in graduating from higher education.

## STEPHANIE CALDERON

**BA, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES  
M.ED. CSU, LONG BEACH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Stephanie Calderon has over 6 years of experience supporting students and their families in college access and success programs. She currently serves as the Alumni Support and College Success Coordinator for Rise Kohyang High School. Her goal is to support all RKHS Alumni with their post-secondary plans to ensure they accomplish their goals and aspirations for the future.

Stephanie is a first-generation college graduate. She obtained her bachelors in 2014 from UCLA in Women Studies. Upon graduating college she decided she wanted to help facilitate the process for applying and earning a degree for youth in her community of Los Angeles.

**RKHS ASCS COORDINATOR  
SUPPORTING CLASS OF 2020 & 2021  
SCALDERON@BRIGHTSTARSCHOOLS.ORG**



## MIKE CARRERA

**BA, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE  
M.ED. AND PPS, UNIVERSITY OF LA VERNE**

Mike Carrera has worked in education for over seven years, five of which have been at Bright Star Schools. Mike is a first-generation college graduate and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of California, Riverside in Latin American Studies and History. He also earned his Pupil Personnel Services credential and Master's in Education degree in 2019 in Education Counseling from the University of La Verne.

Throughout the years, Mike has held various roles at BSSCA and has assisted students and families on multiple levels. He is passionate about supporting the student body at BSSCA and is a firm believer that higher education can positively shift a student's life and career choices. As the new ASCS Coordinator, Mike is determined to assist all BSSCA Alums in navigating higher education and in contributing to students' success in college and career.

**BSSCA ASCS COORDINATOR  
SUPPORTING CLASS OF 2017 - 2021  
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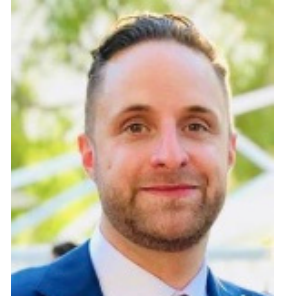
## KYLE PETRIE

**BA, BOWDOIN COLLEGE**

As the ASCS Coordinator at Valor Academy High School, Kyle's primary responsibilities revolve around ensuring that all Valor alumni receive adequate support with the financial, academic, and social-emotional concerns that they face while pursuing higher education. Kyle is primarily motivated by the belief that higher education is the foundation that will allow our students to be successful and happy in both their careers and personal lives.

Kyle Petrie has worked in urban public education for over 13 years. He initially entered the field as a high school history teacher in the Bronx, NY, as part of Teach For America. After his time in New York, Kyle spent seven years as an AP teacher, advisor, coach, and Director of Alumni Support at Gary Comer College Prep on Chicago's south side.

**VAHS ASCS COORDINATOR  
SUPPORTING CLASS OF 2017 - 2021  
KPETRIE@BRIGHTSTARSCHOOLS.ORG**



## CARLOS FRANCO

**BA, CSU, DOMINGUEZ HILL  
M.ED. CSU, LONG BEACH COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**

Carlos currently serves as the Community College & CTE Coordinator for Bright Star Schools' Alumni Success and College Support (ASCS) program, where he brings his expertise in community college transfer success and in supporting Alumni in completing a Career Technical Education. He has over 15 years of experience working in education and for the last 8 years, has focused on higher education success for all students. A first-generation college graduate, Carlos' goal as an educator is to create a learning community of diverse, self-sufficient student leaders. Carlos holds a bachelor of arts in liberal studies from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a master's degree in education from California State University, Long Beach.

**BSSCA & VAHS ASCS CC & CTE COORDINATOR  
SUPPORTING CLASS OF 2017 - 2021  
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## GENOVEVA CORTES

**BA, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES  
M.ED. HARVARD GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

Geno developed and launched Bright Star's ASCS Program to support the organization's alumni to persist in and graduate from higher education. ASCS tracks, supports, and coaches Bright Star Schools' alumni to get to and through higher education, with a goal of 60% of Bright Star Schools alumni graduating with a bachelor's or associate's degree, vocational certificate, or from a workplace development program within six years of high school graduation.

Genoveva Garibay Cortes has over two decades of experience working as an elementary and middle school teacher, K-12 and college administrator, and program coordinator. She was Bright Star Schools' founding math teacher for Stella Middle Charter Academy in 2003, and currently serves as the Director of the Alumni Support and College Success (ASCS) Program for the organization.

**ASCS DIRECTOR  
SUPPORTING BSSCA CLASS OF 2016  
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