



**BRIGHTSTAR**  
SCHOOLS

# ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI SUPPORT & COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

BY GENOVEVA CORTES (310) 948-1733 GCORTES@BRIGHTSTARSCHOOLS.ORG

## BSSCA CLASS OF 2010-2016

### ANGELICA REYES-ARROYO

**BSSCA 2015**  
**CSU FULLERTON 2019**  
**MAJOR: HUMAN SERVICES**  
**GRADUATE SCHOOL: CSU LONG BEACH 2022 (EXPECTED GRAD)**



After thoroughly researching careers that would allow her to work with youth who struggle with academic and socio-emotional challenges, Angelica decided to continue her education. She is earning her Master's in Social Work (MSW) at CSU Long Beach. She appreciates the diversity of students and experiences in her program.

Some advice she has for new college students:

- do not procrastinate
- take advantage of all the resources on campus and in the ASCS Program
- Research careers to see what's out there
- Network with people in the career you are interested in to ask them questions

### MERLIN SOSA

**BSSCA 2015**  
**YEAR UP LA 2020**  
**PROGRAM: INTERNET TECHNOLOGY**

When he heard about YearUp LA, Merlin thought the benefits seemed too good to be true: they pay you \$50 a week to attend Business or Internet Technology classes and you earn \$150 a week in an internship. YULA's year-long program helped him get out of his comfort zone and prepared him for a career in the tech industry.

He loves the fast-paced and supportive environment at Sony Pictures Entertainment where he is starting his career in technology as a Desktop Support Analyst. He received the same message at Sony as he did at YULA: don't ever be shy about asking for help. Never one to settle and stop learning, Merlin now has a clearer sense of what his career goals are and is taking classes at night to finish his Associate's of Science degree in Computer Network and Management Security.



### PEDRO BERNAL

**BSSCA 2016**  
**SMC - UCSD 2022 (EXPECTED GRAD)**  
**MAJOR: MECHANICAL ENGINEERING**

Ambitious, driven, and hard-working, Pedro transferred in 2 years by enrolling in classes every Summer, Fall, Winter, and Spring. Being that he loves to learn, is insatiably curious, and is constantly asking questions, his major is perfect for him. While attending SMC, he interned at SpaceX and UCLA. He has been accepted into a highly coveted summer internship program through the LADWP as a Mechanical Design Intern and persevered in getting accepted into the SEDS Club (Students for Exploration and Development of Space), a highly competitive, world-wide organization.

His advice to other transfer students would be to pursue work, project, leadership, and program experiences because they enhance your resume and college applications. "This is going to give you the ability to get your dream job (as well as) help you get into the colleges of your choice."



### LINCY VILLATORO

**BSSCA 2016**  
**WLAC - TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL U.**  
**2020 (EXPECTED GRAD)**  
**MAJOR: KINESIOLOGY**

After attending West LA College for two years, Lincy transferred to Texas A&M International University where she played on the women's soccer team.

She loves being escorted to class by deer and being surrounded by nature. The campus is secluded and she does miss the accessibility in LA. In Laredo, Texas, the nearest store is at least 10 miles away and requires a car to get to. Also, because it's a small town, she frequently runs into her professors outside of school. To all graduating Seniors and transfer students, she recommends going away to college if you can because it's a challenge living on your own but it will force you to become more independent.



# BSSCA CLASS OF 2017-2019

BY GRACIELA APARICIO (818) 398-2358 GAPARICIO@BRIGHTSTARSCHOOLS.ORG

## BSSCA UCSD HOUSE

**ADRIAN RODARTE**  
MAJOR:  
OCEANIC SCIENCE

**RAUL ENCISO**  
MAJOR:  
COMPUTER SCIENCE &  
MUSIC

**JONATHON MARTINEZ**  
MAJOR: BIOLOGY

**ANTHONY RUIZ**  
MAJOR:  
POLITICAL SCIENCE

**BSSCA 2019**  
**UCSD 2023 (EXPECTED GRAD)**



BSSCA's class of 2019 has 8 students attend UCSD. Four of those alumni moved into an apartment off campus together and are enjoying their experience so far. Anthony Ruiz in particular shares the following: the college experience so far has been interesting to say the least. While you get more freedom to do what you want, the independence can sometimes feel overwhelming. Being new can also feel lonely at first. However, UCSD provides many opportunities to become involved and meet new people. Living with friends is great! It is easy to get along and you always have someone to rely on. That being said living off campus, while cheaper, makes you lose chances to meet new people in dorms. All in all, UCSD is great and I can't wait to get more involved.

## MARILYN REYES-DURAN

**BSSCA 2017**  
**SMC - CSU?: 2022 (EXPECTED GRAD)**  
**MAJOR: COMMUNICATION DISORDERS**

Marilyn Reyes is a student at Santa Monica College and will be transferring this Fall 2020. Marilyn has been accepted to all the colleges she applied to (CSULA, CSUN & CSUDH) and is waiting for financial award letters to make her decision. Marilyn aspires to become a speech therapist and an early childhood education teacher. Her goal is to work closely with children in helping them develop their linguistic skills and to help them have the power to communicate effectively and confidently. Ultimately, Marilyn's goal is to get a Masters in Speech-Language Pathology. She shares her keys to success at community college for students: when planning out classes, make sure to look over the classes that are needed to transfer into the university you want through the website while also keeping in mind the classes that the college is requiring you to take.



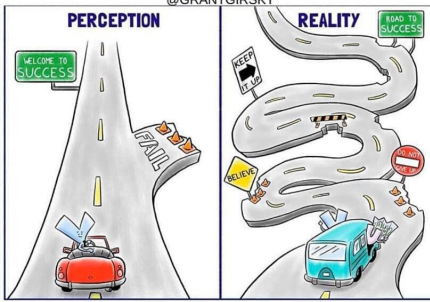
# RKHS CLASS OF 2020

STAY TUNED...

IN JULY 2020 WE'LL HAVE RKHS'S 1ST GRADUATING CLASS

Be so positive that negative people don't want to be around you.

## EXPECTATIONS

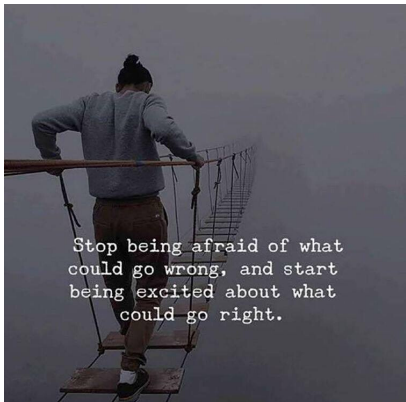


Easy to spot a yellow car when you are always thinking of a yellow car.

Easy to spot opportunity when you are always thinking of opportunity.

Easy to spot reasons to be mad when you are always thinking of being mad.

You become what you constantly think about. Watch yourself.



SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE	UNSUCCESSFUL PEOPLE
Read every day	Watch TV every day
Compliment	Criticize
Embrace Change	Fear change
Forgive others	Hold a grudge
Talk about ideas	Talk about people
Continuously learn	Think they know it all
Accept responsibility for their failures	Blame others for their failures
Have a sense of gratitude	Have a sense of entitlement
Set goals and develop life plans	Never set goals



Be the reason someone believes in good people

I am going to make a very beautiful life for myself no matter what it takes

## How to train your brain

1. Read every day
2. Keep intelligent company
3. Get enough rest every day
4. Eat nutrition foods
5. Take notes / write down ideas
6. Prove yourself wrong
7. Step out of your comfort zone
8. Do something different repeatedly

