



BRIGHTSTAR
SCHOOLS

ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI SUPPORT & COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

CONGRATULATIONS TO BSSCA'S COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRANSFER STUDENTS!!!

Samuel Escobar: SMC to CPP
Nicholas Najera: SMC to CSULB
Lourdes Rea: SMC to USC
Jackie Guzman: WLAC to CSULA
Gaura Avatara Das: SMC to UCLA



BSSCA CLASS OF 2010-2016

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

MONICA ESQUIVEL

BSSCA 2016
CSULA 2020 (EXPECTED)
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY

Monica is a Senior majoring in Psychology and commutes to campus. She has enjoyed her experience at CSULA because it's a small campus and there are a lot of people for her to interact with. Her professors have all been really nice and approachable.



She works part-time at a flower shop but will be meeting with a counselor at the Career Center to help her identify careers. She has maintained above a 3.0 GPA and feels that CSULA has been a supportive college to get her education.

GAURA AVATARA DAS

BSSCA 2014
SMC TO UCLA 2021 (EXPECTED)
MAJOR: STUDY OF RELIGION

Guara transferred from SMC to UCLA this Fall 2019. He adheres to Bhakti yoga, is vegan, practices music meditation, and gives presentations about mindfulness, music, and nutrition.

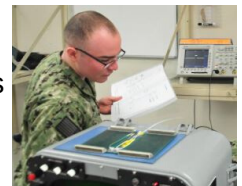
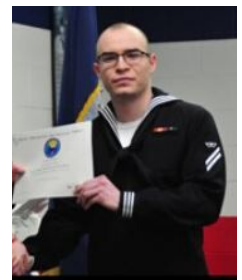


His advice to transfer students: There will always be anxiety when you're in a new environment but it's important to find friends and build your community. Gaura plans to become a Registered Dietician and work in low income communities to encourage healthy lifestyles.

JOSE OSORIO

BSSCA 2015
SFSU TO US NAVY
FOCUS: RADAR TECHNICIAN

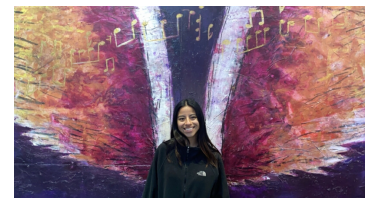
Josue enrolled at San Francisco State University upon graduation from BSSCA and was studying Mechanical Engineering. After two years, he decided to enlist in the US Navy. He has lived in Illinois, Virginia, and is currently living in Hawaii where he will be stationed for a couple of years. He has been trained to maintain and operate radar equipment on some of the newer ships and is currently stationed on the DDG 110 USS William P. Lawrence. His rate is an Aegis Fire Controlman.



BILLIEN AGUILAR

BSSCA 2016
YEAR UP LA, 2020 (EXPECTED)
PROGRAM: INTERNET TECHNOLOGY

Billien attended El Camino College for a few years where she intended on transferring to a university and major in Computer Science.



She was struggling academically and unsure if she wanted to continue. Fortunately, she heard about Year Up LA, a workforce development program that *pays students* to go to college. She was accepted into the program and has been thriving ever since. She'll start her paid internship at Kaiser Permanente Hospital in February.

BSSCA CLASS OF 2017-2019

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



BSSCA ALUMNI WINTER MIXER

BSSCA hosted the second annual Alumni Winter Mixer. Alumni from class of 2017, 2018, and 2019 visited BSSCA's new campus and shared some college advice with the BSSCA students.

BSSCA juniors and seniors attended a panel with 8 BSSCA alumni, where the alumni shared their college experiences, highs and lows, and advice for a successful college transition.

PICTURED FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: FATIMA ROMERO (UCI), DIANA JEREZ (UCSC), MARILYN REYES (SMC), LEONARDO MORENO (LATTC), BRANDON BALTAZAR (UCM), ANTHONY RUIZ (UCSD), GUSTAVO CRUZ MARTINEZ (UCSC) & JONATHON MARTINEZ (UCSD)

BSSCA STUDENTS AT UCM

ESPERANZA MARTINEZ, BIOLOGY
CHRISTIAN QUINTERO, PSYCHOLOGY
GILBERTO DE LA TORRE, ENGINEERING



The first stop of the 2019 CEL was University of California Merced. The BSSCA Alumni spoke to the juniors about their experience being away from home and what tools and activities they use to keep them motivated. Additionally students were able to see the alumni's dorm rooms and eat lunch with them at the dining hall.

BSSCA STUDENTS AT UCSC

JOSE NADALES, COMPUTER SCIENCE
GUSTAVO MARTINEZ, COMPUTER SCIENCE
DIANA JEREZ, NEUROSCIENCE

BSSCA Class of 2019 Alumni and current UCSC freshmen shared their college experience with the BSSCA Juniors during the 2019 CEL. Gustavo Martinez highlights that college is very difficult for some and easy for others. It is mainly the mindset that will determine how you will handle what they throw at you. Diana Jerez emphasized that students should start developing good study habits and time management skills while in high school so they can be more prepared for college.



VAHS CLASS OF 2017-2019

KYLE PETRIE

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VAHS ALUMNI WINTER WELCOME

On December 19th, 2019, Valor hosted its third annual Alumni Winter Welcome. That afternoon graduated Valor students and current faculty were able to come together for food, drinks, and fun.

The third iteration of the event was the best-attended yet, with over 40 Valor Alumni present. Pictured with Ms. Stern (from left to right) are class of 2019 graduates: Crystal Pineda, Kathy Amaya, Naja-Janae Rosales, Gisselle Espinosa, and Ashley Perez.

ALBERTO DIAZ - CSUN**VAHS 2017****PSYCHOLOGY - EXPECTED GRAD: MAY '22**

Since Alberto came onto the campus at CSUN, he's been on the Dean's List. The consummate student - he has always taken his work very seriously. Although has shown an interest for both history and politics, Alberto has declared his major as Psychology. In the future, he's interested in becoming a clinical psychologist and his current lab work is focused on depression and suicide prevention. While the transition to a large research university was daunting at first, Alberto says that it was ultimately "very liberating." He credits the rigor of Valor's AP curriculum with preparing him for the academic challenges of college. His best advice to current students: "Don't slow down as a senior...enjoy yourself and end high school on a good note."

**NAJA-JANAE ROSALES - LA MISSION COLLEGE****VAHS 2019**

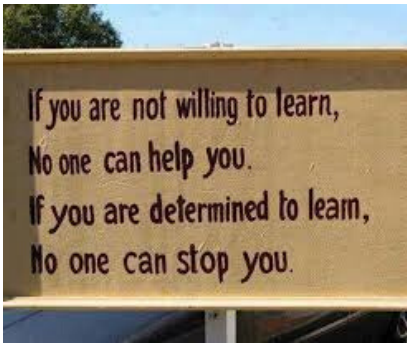
Since graduating in June of 2019, Naja-Janae has continued her education at Los Angeles Mission College in Sylmar. Always a positive influence on Valor's campus, Naja has continued spreading her positive attitude in college. While she has welcomed the independence that college brings, Naja also acknowledges that advocating for herself is something she had to get used to. As a self-identified "shy student," Naja says that the changes in social structure have also taken some getting used to. She says that seeing the same people in her classes has been a nice way to adjust. Naja currently is preparing to become a psychology major when she transfers to a four-year college. She's interested in both criminal and abnormal psychology and can see herself doing that as a career upon graduation.



RKHS CLASS OF 2020

STAY TUNED...

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



Fear nothing in front of you because of who is behind you!!

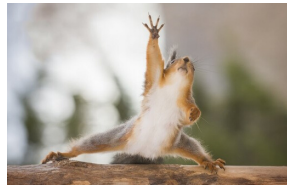


Your family and Bright Star Schools Alumni Support Coordinator

You were put on this earth to achieve your greatest self, to live out your purpose, and to do it courageously.

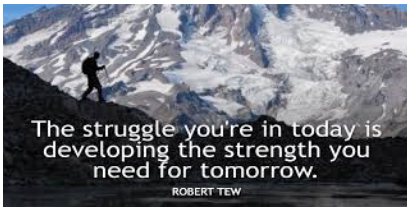


YOU MAY SEE ME STRUGGLE BUT YOU WILL NEVER SEE ME QUIT...

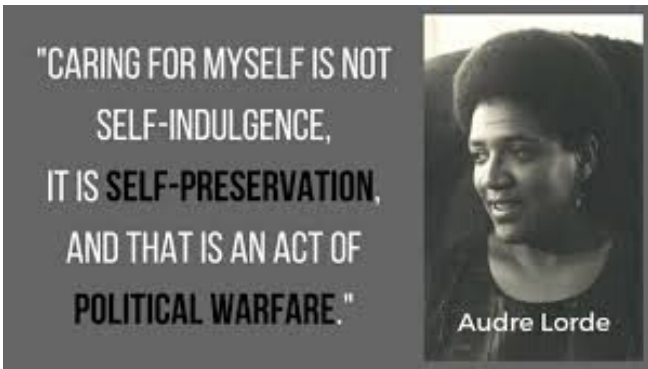
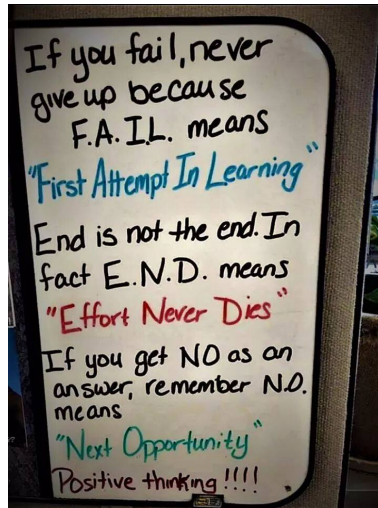


THREE SIMPLE RULES IN LIFE

1. If you do not **GO** after what you want, you'll never have it.
2. If you do not **ASK**, the answer will always be **NO**.
3. If you do not step **FORWARD**, you will always be in the **SAME PLACE**.



VALOR ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL



We should be lifting each other up and cheering each other on, not trying to outshine one another. The sky would be awfully dark with just one star.