



ALUMNI NEWS

ALUMNI SUPPORT & COLLEGE SUCCESS PROGRAM

BY GENOVEVA CORTES

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INTRODUCING CARLOS FRANCO, OUR NEW ASCS COORDINATOR SPECIALIZING IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE & CAREER TECHNICAL EDUCATION!!!



Carlos Franco with his former teacher and mentor, Ms. Barbosa, on far right.

Please help us welcome Carlos Franco, the newest member of the ASCS team! He will be working with our Alumni classes who are still within the 6 years of their membership of the ASCS program: class of 2017-2021 for BSSCA and VAHS only. Carlos will be working with those Alums who are in the community college, completing a Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate, or who are not enrolled in any post secondary pathway but want to go to college to either transfer to a university, earn an Associate's degree, or a CTE certificate.

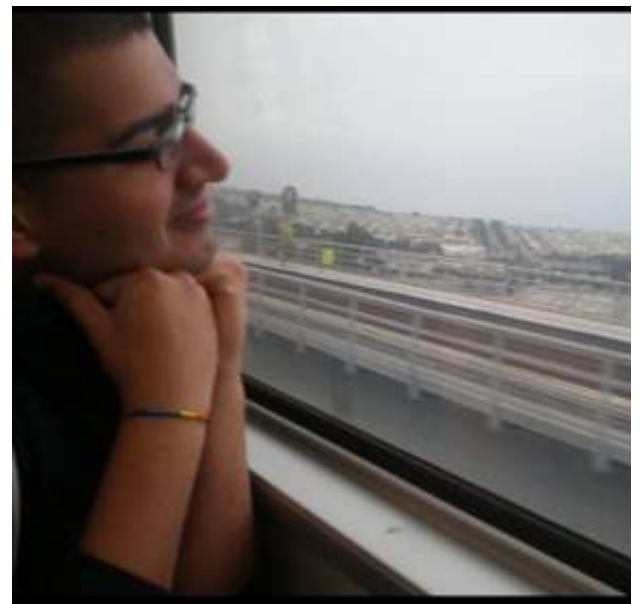
He graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills in 2008 with his Bachelor's of Arts degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in math education. He recently earned his Master of Arts in Social & Cultural Analysis of Education from California State University, Long Beach last May of 2020. IN addition to having over a decade of experience as an educator and in supporting students through college, he also earned two CTE credentials: his bartending license and certification for teaching Zumba.

Carlos grew up in Paramount, California which borders the cities of Compton and Long Beach. He is the child of immigrant from Jalisco, Mexico and the youngest of seven children. At last count, he has sixteen nieces and nephews and is a grand uncle. Although he is the first in his family to go to college and graduate with his masters, he won't be the last. One of his younger cousins is already following in his footsteps pursuing her master's degree as well.

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"When I was in high school, I didn't have a lot of teachers who cared. I skipped under the radar." Carlos wasn't a mischievous student or one who stood out. "I was kind of just there. But I had one teacher who showed she cared and saw that I had potential. She was the one who talked to me about college. She was the one who told me to take the PSAT but because I missed the deadline to get a fee waiver, Ms. Barbosa paid for me to take it." Carlos decided he wanted to be more like her, someone who has empathy and pushes kids to work to their potential.

As the new ASCS CC & CTE Coordinator for BSSCA and VAHS, Carlos will be able to continue the specialized support we provide to our Alumni on those pathways. "What I most look forward to about this position is the ability to have conversations with Alums regarding their plans for the future. I like helping others identify their strengths and interests and using those things to potentially help create a happier, more fulfilling, future."



BSSCA CLASS OF 2017-2020

BY MIKE CARRERA

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EMELY DELCID

BSSCA ALUMNA 2018
CALIFORNIA STATE, DOMINGUEZ HILLS
EXPECTED GRADUATION: 2023
MAJOR: PSYCHOLOGY

Congratulations to Emely Delcid who recently transferred to California State University, Dominguez Hills this Fall!! She plans to major in Psychology and is considering a career in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy which would prepare her to work with people on the autism spectrum. She's also thinking about other career paths as she'll now have numerous options. I've known Emely since she was a Junior at BSSCA in her Credit Recovery Class. During that time, Emely didn't enjoy going to school and had her mind on other things. In fact, she recalls having barely graduated with her high school diploma in 2018. However, not one to ever give up, Emely worked hard and earned her diploma which allowed her to be a member of the ASCS program.

Emely started college in the spring of 2019 at West Los Angeles College. She decided to take the first semester off after graduation because she needed to take care of some things. Initially, she wanted to studying Nursing but once she took Biology, she decided to change her major. She also mentioned that she failed two classes that spring but that didn't discourage her. In fact, it only motivated her! I asked her if she thought about dropping out. She said "No, I knew that I had to change something but not drop out. I made school my priority instead of my job and I also dedicated more time to school."

I also asked what helped her transfer. She mentioned "Two things, my friend Lucia (2018 BSSCA Alumna). We helped each other at West LA and the Educational Plan that Ms. Aparicio, former BSSCA ASCS Coordinator, gave to me when I graduated from BSSCA. That Ed plan was my guide and it also told me what classes I needed to take to transfer." Emely was able to take care of business while she worked part-time, balancing work and school simultaneously.

Emely started her first semester at CSU, Dominguez Hills and is getting adjusted to the new environment and workload. While she gets acclimated at CSUDH this semester, I plan to find her internship opportunities for next spring to help her get some relevant work experience and find out what she's truly passionate about. This determined, ambitious, and hard working student has some wise advice for all students: "Use the resources offered to you and do your research, use Rate My Professors.com and talk to other students about what class to take and what professors to avoid."



VAHS CLASS OF 2017-2021

BY KYLE PETRIE

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KELLY DE LA ROSA

VAHS ALUMNA 2021
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA CRUZ
POTENTIAL MAJORS: SOCIOLOGY & EDUCATION



What skills or mindsets did you learn while at Valor that has helped you as you've begun your college career?

Valor helped me build my note taking skills along with my study skills. I use everything I learned from Valor at my university.

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

Coming here to a new part of California has really opened my eyes. I didn't think I could fit in anywhere else besides Los Angeles, but it was easy to adjust since everybody has been so friendly.

What has it been like to live in a dorm for the first time? Have you met a lot of new people? Have started making new friends already?

Dorm life was not something I was ready for, but now I love it. My roommates are my best friends here. We travel everywhere new together!

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

During my time here at UCSC I plan on studying sociology and education, definitely thinking about double majoring.

Is there anything else that you would like to share, or advice you would give to current students and staff at Valor?

One piece of advice that I would give to current students is to keep pushing yourself! There were many times where I thought I wouldn't have the opportunity to go to college, but I worked hard and made it, and I believe everyone can have that same opportunity as well.

University of California Santa Cruz: The Basics

Established: 1965
Total Enrollment: 19,700 (17,792 undergraduate)
Endowment: \$215.4 Million
Academic Term: Quarter System
Nickname: Banana Slugs
School Colors: Blue & Gold
Acceptance Rate: 51.3%
Graduation Rate: 78%
NCAA Affiliation: Division III
Notable Alumni: Cary Fukunaga, Reyna Grande, Bell Hooks, Huey Newton, Maya Rudolph, Andy Samberg, Susan Wojcicki



RKHS CLASS OF 2020

BY STEPHANIE CALDERON

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KEVIN BACHEZ

RKHS ALUMNUS CLASS OF 2021
UC, RIVERSIDE
MAJOR: CHEMISTRY

Kevin is a graduate of RKHS, Class of 2021. He is excited to be attending UCR. See what Kevin has to say about his experience so far!

1. Why did you choose UCR?

I chose UCR because they gave me a REALLY good financial aid package. Also, the campus was really nice and welcoming.

2. How has your experience been so far in the dorms?

I highly recommend dorming. You get to experience college better because you spend more time on campus and you also you meet more people like that.



Fun facts about UC Riverside:

- UC Riverside has 101 Bachelor's Degrees, 55 Master's Degrees, and 42 Ph.D.'s
- Among all the UC's, UCR is showing strong progress in retaining and graduating African American students, due to the robust supports they offer.
- UC Riverside is ranked No. 2 in the country for financial aid



3. How did you choose your major?

In high school I took Honors Chemistry and AP Chemistry and noticed I was really good at it. It was something I was really interested in learning, so that's why I decided to major in Chemistry.

4. Are there any clubs or activities you want to join?

I am currently in the process of trying out for the UCR men's club soccer team.

5. How similar or different are your classes in college from high school?

In college you have to really hold yourself accountable because no one else will. Also, in college you get to choose your class schedule based on your preferences which is pretty cool too.

6. What are you most excited about for your freshman year of college?

I am most excited about going to some of the sports games on campus. I'm also really excited about meeting new people and just overall starting fresh especially after being in distance learning for so long.

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
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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
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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 ASSC 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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