Welcome EOPS/CARE students to Fall 2013. I hope that each of you had a wonderful summer with your family and friends and are ready and committed to succeed fall 2013!

Several students have taken advantage of The Deferred Action and have already a work permit and a driver license!! Congratulations to each of you who have been able to get one step closer to becoming a legal resident. Make sure you keep abreast of what is going on with the residency process. For those students who have not applied for deferred action make sure you take advantage of this great opportunity that could become the door to your legal residency. I caution each of you to be very careful where you go to get help with this process.

Several places that are trustworthy are:

- Orange County Dream Team
  http://www.istillhaveadream.org/

- Coalition for Human Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA)
  http://www.chirla.org/

- United We Dream
  http://unitedwedream.org/

- National Immigration Alliance
  http://www.huffingtonpost.com/tag/national-immigrant-youth-alliance

Again, welcome to fall 2013 and congratulations to Fabiola Padilla who interviewed our Santiago Canyon College President: Juan Vázquez.

Meet President Juan Vázquez

Santiago Canyon College is a great place to attend. It is not only the great location, flexible learning opportunities, vibrant campus life, or transfer programs that make it one of the best options, it is the people behind all the planning that make SCC such a successful college. Today, I had the amazing opportunity of meeting the head of all the planning, President Juan Vázquez. In my two years at SCC, I never got to know him much, but I would like to share some of his story with you because I find it extremely inspiring. He is a real example of integrity, hard work, and success. Cont. on page 2
Meet President Juan Vázquez

Cont. from page 1…

In a lot of cases the environment in which we grow up influences our goals. Was this your case? In what kind of environment did you grow up?

“My family is originally from Puerto Rico and immigrated to an area in New York City called El Barrio, which is almost 100% Latinos. That area was often called the ‘Spanish Harlem.’ My father was a restaurant worker. He started by washing dishes and then became a short-order cook. He worked for forty years in the same restaurant. My father would leave our house at two in the morning to take the train and start cooking breakfast for the morning patrons. My parents were always very devoted to the four children in the family. I have two sisters and a brother, all of them older than me. I grew up going to public schools in a very tough neighborhood in the projects. There were a lot of gangs and drugs in my neighborhood, and there were a lot of kids that did not make it through in that environment. My father played an important role in “La Milagrosa,” which was the church we attended, and he was a Boy Scout leader, so he became a father for a lot of kids in the neighborhood. My dad was a role model not only for my brother, sisters, and myself, but many of the boys in the neighborhood. My parents valued education very much. All of us received education in the public schools and through the City University system in New York.”

It is not easy to be the first person in a family to go to college. A lot of students at SCC have decided to pursue higher education regardless of their background. Was this your case as well? Are you first generation?

“Yes, I am a first-generation student along with my siblings. Both of my parents dropped out of high school. They knew that the way out from our neighborhood was through education.”

Did you attend a community college? How was your experience there?

“I went to Bronx Community College for a year and then transferred to the City University. An English professor from my community college encouraged my writing, so I started writing for the school’s newspaper. I was also involved in music not only in college, but through middle school and high school as well. I was involved in the band and also writing for the school’s newspaper. I was very involved in community organizations, including a group called “Spanish Harlem Tenants Council.”

Landlords would not give local tenants heaters in the winter or protection from rodents, so I spent a couple of years in this organization trying to improve the living conditions of people in my neighborhood. Also during college with the same organization, I contributed to creating and working with one of the first after-school reading programs for the children of our neighborhood.”

Were you always certain of what you wanted to do?

“I never really knew it. I majored in Philosophy from undergraduate school. At that time I was just exploring ideas and different philosophies. It served me well in the long run. Eventually, I knew I wanted to get into education, and once I figured that out it was like a natural flow because I had previous experience from working with kids from my neighborhood and drug addicts that I counseled in a program when I lived in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Working in groups was very enlightening and very rewarding. Like many of us, including myself, I did not know the path until I continued to walk down different paths and
Meet President Juan Vázquez

What was your first position when you started working at a community college, and how did this position lead to being the President?

“I started as an English teacher and basic skills teacher in a community college in Northern California. It all came step by step. I was a teacher and I did a lot of writing for grants. There were a lot of grants coming in so I was assigned to direct the programs, since I wrote the grants. Some of the grants dealt with specific departments, so I learned about the departments. I worked with the vocational departments the most, so I became an Assistant Dean of that division. Then that lead to Dean, then Vice President, and lastly I was President of that college for one year. Then I came to Santiago Canyon College.”

What was the major obstacle you faced while trying to accomplish your academic goals, and how did you overcome it?

“The financial obstacle was major because my parents were poor. My dad had a low paying position. I always needed to keep a little job on the side. I earned some money from working in the Tenant Council. I would have summer jobs as a truck driver at summer camps outside New York. I also worked in dairy farms milking cows. So I would always have to keep one or various little jobs on the side to sustain myself. Even at that point, when I started making a little money I would always send some money back home to help support family as well.”

What advice would you give to community college leaders?

“First, and foremost, they should know that they represent a broad spectrum of viewpoints. If someone is going to be a leader they need to be able to gather those viewpoints and try to find the most common elements, so that you represent the most people. You are never going to represent all people because the views are so different, but as long as you get feedback that you represent most of your constituents’ views, I think you will be a good leader. Also always check behind you, because if you are too far ahead of the group you are not leading anybody. Stay in touch with your constituency.”

Are there any words of wisdom you would like to share with SCC’s EOP&S students?

“Follow your dreams, work hard, and don’t be afraid to experiment, to test some new things.”

As we can see, President Vazquez has a very similar story to some of ours. Take this bit of information of this amazing man as a role model and as an inspiration to keep working hard every day to be as successful. There are no impossible dreams and the hardest part is to stay motivated, so cheer yourself up and make your dreams come true.

Interview by:

Fabiola Padilla,
SCC EOPS Student
**Discover SCC**

Discover SCC is a unique one day program for incoming matriculated freshmen where they learn about all the Student Support Services. Discover SCC took place the week before the fall semester.

The following EOPS students were leaders at Discover SCC: Itzelh Luna, Leslie Molina, Fabiola Padilla and Madiha Patel.

If you wish to be a leader next semester you can contact the Office of Student Life and Leadership at (714) 628-4808.

**Counseling Appointments**

All EOPS students are required to complete 3 contacts per semester with an EOPS counselor.

- Complete your 1st contact by the second week of the semester.
- 2nd contact by Nov. 8.
- 3rd contact when you participate in Early Scheduling the week on Nov. 12-Nov. 14.

Schedule your appointments by calling (714) 628-4915 or stop by the EOPS office.

**Progress Report**

The progress report form has a new name: Faculty Feedback Form.

All EOPS students must submit a Faculty Feedback form to be eligible for EOPS services as stated in the Mutual Responsibility. The Faculty Feedback form is due Nov. 1 by 12:00pm.

**Important Dates**

- **November 12-14**—Early Scheduling Week
- **November 17**—Drop Deadline for full semester courses with a “W”
- **November 30**—Last day to apply to CSU/UC for Fall 2014
- **December 9-15**—Finals Week
- **October 1**—Start applying for CSU transfer fall 2014
- **November 1**—Start applying to UC for Fall 2014
- **November 1**—Faculty Feedback Due
- **November 8**—Last Day to Complete 2nd appointment
Congratulations to the Summer Students

The following students earned their first 3 units of college coursework by completing counseling 101 in five weeks during the EOPS Summer Success Program. Students visited The Museum of Tolerance, The Getty and UCLA.

Amy Abad
Aquetzali Acevedo
Erika Aguirre
Diana Charco
Maricruz Cisneros
Manuel Cordova
Victor Cruz
Saray Del Rio
Angelica De Rosas
Jose De Rosas Sanchez
Priscilla Diaz
Ramiro Gonzalez
Axel Gutierrez
Alejandro Hernandez

Amalia Hernandez
Aldara Martinez
Fatima Martinez-Leon
Karen Mendoza
Amanda Miller
Nadia Munoz
Sharon Niua
Armando Organista
Aracely Ortega
Karen Ortiz
Fleury Perez
Bryan Ramon
Luis Reyes
Vanessa Rosas
Lizzet Ruiz
Ameyal Soriano Lima
Michael Tablada
Adilene Torres

Fabiola Padilla

“I consider myself a success story at SCC. I wouldn’t have been able to accomplish what I did without the support from EOPS. After high school I was not sure what I wanted to do with my life. I barely knew the difference between a UC and a Cal State University. Then, after I calculated how expensive my education was going to be I felt way too far from achieving my goals and I started to think I was not going to be possible to accomplish them. One of the highest expenses I encountered, after tuition, are textbooks especially for a STEM major like myself. Without the book vouchers and loans I wouldn’t had been able to have access to most of the textbooks required for my classes and this definitively would’ve affected my success in the courses I took. I can assure you that EOPS is making miracles in students lives with your donation. It surely made a difference in mine. In the name of all SCC EOPS students and from the bottom of my heart, thank you!”
-Fabiola Padilla
Former EOPS Students came into the Summer Success Class to share with students their experience at SCC and EOPS. These students were very successful EOPS students who graduated from SCC and have continued their educational journey. Below are the students that participated:

- Efrain Reyes, a summer success participant in 2008, SCC graduate 2011 and is currently at CSUDH completing his bachelor degree in Kinesiology and has applied to the Pre-Physical Therapy/Kinesiology Master program.

- Yvette Romero SCC graduate 2012, currently at CSUF in the Human Services program and applying to the Master in Educational Counseling fall 2014 at CSUF.

- Laura Franco: SCC graduate 2007 double major: Liberal Arts and Psychology, CSUF graduate in 2010 in Human Services and currently enrolled at Argosy University in the Master Program to become a Family Therapist.

- Angelica Melgoza: SCC graduate 2003, UC Berkeley graduate 2010 in Legal Studies, Currently working for SCC/CAMP program as a High School and Community Outreach Staff.

- Leonilla Lagunes, a summer success participant 2009, currently at CSUF as a Math and Biology Major who works at SCC MASH Center and will be applying to the Master Program at CSUF for a Math Master Degree.