



FACT SHEET

50 Phelan Avenue • S194 • San Francisco • CA • 94112 • (415) 239-3680 • Fax (415) 452-5150

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Diana Muñoz-Villanueva
Student Trustee

By Diana Muñoz-Villanueva

I was born in Mexico, but just like in the case of many other immigrants, Mexico's economy and lack of employment opportunities brought my mother in search of the American dream. After many sad phone conversations, my parents made the decision to bring me to the United States. At age 14, I was living in Los Angeles, where I started my American education knowing very little English. I was fortunate, I had no problem learning English, but emotionally I had a hard time adapting to the new country.

Seeing how much time I had to spare, I started getting involved in community activities. I helped out in my local YMCA where I participated in events such as summer camps, toy drives and other fund raising activities. Summer camps were by far the best experiences; I was a counselor and had a group of 13 years old children under my care. This experience was satisfactory because I was eager to share my experiences with other people. Summer camps offered me the

opportunity to open up, and share who I am with them. In most of the camp activities the purpose was to create strong children, by teaching them leadership, teamwork and trust.

After high school I was accepted at Berkeley, but declined the opportunity because of my legal status at the time and the monetary cost my education would mean for my family. I started my college education with a business degree in mind. However, just recently, I made the decision of changing my major because I was not being academically fulfilled. Thus, after analyzing my career path with my counselor and talking to my family, I changed my major to Industrial Engineering with which I hope to incorporate my business knowledge with production. Such change now means twice the amount of dedication in my academics, but it has turned out to be a gratifying choice for me. Despite the various changes I've made, I haven't given up on Berkeley; I'm planning on transferring there in two years.

I'm currently a peer advisor at the Latina/o Services Network, where I work very closely with students, and I have gained invaluable knowledge about the dynamics of City College's diverse student population. At LSN, I have been given the opportunity to experience the effectiveness of retention programs by participating in and spearheading study groups. These programs impact the student's academic performance, and it even sometimes improves their personal life. In the past semester, one of our students had an accident that left him paralyzed from the chest down. He was a good student who used the LSN

services regularly. The staff at LSN united efforts to fund raise money for the hospital expenses for him. He is currently attending therapy and now plans to continue his education.

I was never given the opportunity to decide where I wanted to live, but now every decision is my own. It has been my choice to stay and to continue my education always setting higher goals for myself. I am grateful for all the opportunities I have been given, and I make the most out of every experience. This case will not be the exception. As a Student Trustee, I will advocate on behalf of the student body; I will provide to the best of my knowledge student centered solutions, and I hope to continue the fine work Derick Brown has done by being open to all students and giving them the opportunity to speak up through me. I want to become a mentor and a model for other students and to continue my commitment to student success. I believe my academic career has prepared me to serve in a leadership capacity, and I will prove so this coming year.

I want to take the time to thank everyone who supported and mentored me throughout these last months. I will honor all I have received, especially this opportunity, by serving all CCSF students.

Student Trustee Muñoz-Villanueva encourages feedback, comments and suggestions at email dmunoz01@ccsf.edu