EOP Fall 2016 Welcome

September was EOP month and to celebrate, we held the annual EOP Welcome. The EOP community came together to connect with one another and with SJSU faculty and staff.

Through community building activities students worked with one another to win prizes, have fun, and most importantly build connections with other students. Nearly 300 students attended this event and were welcomed into the new academic year by SJSU's new Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Kathleen Wong(Lau).

The theme for this year is "Born to Achieve Great Things: Strength in History." Students left the event with reusable EOP shopping totes, pens, and the 2016-2017 EOP themed t-shirt. This semester we have over 2,000 enrolled EOP students and over 4,500 EOP alumni. The EOP staff remain committed to helping students achieve their personal and academic goals in preparation for success beyond their undergraduate degrees.

New Program Within EOP: Alumni Connect

The Educational Opportunity Program is proud to announce the addition of a new program to the services we currently offer: EOP Alumni Connect. EOP Alumni Connect will provide services to both current and former SJSU EOP students. The program will foster, maintain, and support relationships between current EOP students and alumni as well as assist students in navigating life after graduation through access to key campus and community resources.

The Alumni Connect Program will target recent EOP graduates, EOP alumni with established careers, current EOP students, and families of EOP alumni with the goal of establishing and maintaining a mutually beneficial network. EOP Alumni Connect will support the needs of recent SJSU EOP alumni as they move beyond graduation through services such as:

Networking –
• Alumni Connect Events
• Career Center Partnerships
• Alumni Mentoring
• Scholarship Opportunities

Community Resources –
• Alumni Connect Website
• Alumni Connect Social Networks
• Newsletter and Weblog

EOP Advisory Board

We plan to implement an EOP Advisory Board in the near future to help guide our programs with the insight of past EOP members and the larger EOP community. The purpose of the Advisory Board is to advise, evaluate, and advocate the alumni and community voice and have those views reflected in the programing and services of EOP.

We will be putting a call-out for Alumni to serve in the EOP Advisory Board before the end of this year. The call-out will include the specific role and function of the board but for now we just wanted to get this new opportunity on your radar.
EOP Gala Reviews

Pete Michel
Former EOP Director

Congratulations, EOP Director, Debra Griffith, EOP staff and EOP students for a wonderful evening. What an honor to be present at the first annual EOP Gala. The night could not have been better — the food was great, the EOP Students presented perfectly, the house was full, and the guest of honor was one for the ages — Rita Moreno. She was truly memorable, inspiring, and so very thought provoking and instructive.

The evening was particularly significant to me because it made me proud of my own EOP heritage. I entered “San Jose State College” as an EOP student in 1969. Four years later, I graduated from “California State University, San Jose” in 1973 with a BA in Political Science. After my graduation, I worked for EOP as a work study student, followed by 20 years as EOP Associate Director and eventually EOP Director of what I am now proud to call “San Jose State University”.

Thank you for having me and my wife as a guest. I should note, the evening was also inspiring because of the support provided by the University Administration. Suffice it to say, it was gratifying to see the university administration front and center and clearly supportive of EOP and the values of diversity for which EOP has represented all these years.

Laura Vazquez
EOP Student

It was inspiring to be onstage with a public figure and to have my EOP peers, EOP staff, and SJSU staff witness the interview. It was inspiring to be told “you did a good job” after the interview because I felt a sense of automatic growth within me. I had done something that I had never imagined I could do and felt like there were no barriers after this experience.

Hearing Rita’s story of perseverance and her story as an immigrant motivated and inspired me to persevere as well and strive for greatness. I learned that I am capable of doing things I never imagined, that it is through exploring and trying new things that we learn more about ourselves.

Laura Vazquez is a proud EOP student majoring in Psychology with a minor in Kinesiology and will be graduating in December. In the past, she has been an EOP mentor and a member of EOP LINK. Where she facilitated programs for EOP. She has been a Resident Assistant for EOP Summer Bridge and is currently an EOP Student Assistant. Laura has also been a Residential Adviser for SJSU Housing and part of PHE (Peer Health Education). This past summer Laura was a Community Assistant for the new SJSU Transitional Program, Spartan Scholars and studied abroad in Thailand where she was able to teach English to children.

Laura has high interest in equal access and higher education and plans to attend graduate school to obtain a degree in higher education.