DIRECTOR’S MESSAGE

Since July 2010, the EOP staff and I have been working tirelessly to rebuild EOP. From 2002 to 2010, EOP had limited university support, but in 2010 the Provost and President at the time made the decision to reinstate the program, including the operational budget to provide the essential support services. As part of the rebuilding, the Guardian Scholars Program came under the umbrella of EOP. Today the program is thriving at SJSU. Now located in Clark Hall, EOP serves over 1,500 students per semester and includes a plethora of support services and programs—from academic and career advising to transitional and academic support programs such as mentoring and tutoring.

EOP strives to build a culture of community and support for students, providing a space for them to connect, and a number of community building events on campus.

EOP ALUMNI

As we celebrate the 45th anniversary of EOP this year, we begin a new initiative to reconnect alumni to the program. We have finally launched the EOP Alumni website and newsletter. It’s our hope to keep you up to date with what’s going on in EOP and for you to share your success stories. We want to encourage you to come to our events, support current EOP students by mentoring them and providing internships and jobs, or give back to EOP by donating to our student scholarships.

Sign our Guest Book and let us know what you’re up to. Join the EOP Alumni Association to connect to the EOP community with access to information on upcoming activities, recent accomplishments, and other news and success stories. Donate to EOP and give back! For more information, visit us online at http://www.sjsu.edu/eop/alumni/.

I AM EOP

Alberto Gutierrez, EOP Transitional Program Coordinator, directed the “I Am EOP” performance that premiered at SJSU on October 17, 2013. He created an evening of storytelling and performance from the experiences of current and past EOP students. Alberto conducted in-depth interviews with 56 students (from an initial response of 200) to select the final 11 interviews which were transcribed and prepared for presentation. We are pleased to announce that the “I Am EOP” performance is now online!

Find it at www.youtube.com/watch?v=2U3QEI_fd1Q

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thu. 5/15 • Honors Luncheon
Flames Restaurant
1:30am - 1:30pm

Wed. 5/21 • EOP Graduation
Tommie Smith & John Carlos Statue Lawn
4:00pm - 6:30pm

The EOP Office is located on the first floor of Clark Hall

You can reach us at 408-924-2637 or eop@sjsu.edu

Find us on Facebook! facebook.com/sjsueop
STUDENT HIGHLIGHT
Erik Martinez

Being placed on academic probation was a wake-up call for Erik Martinez, '17 Nursing. He says, "Honestly, I thought I'd have to drop out of college." Throughout his first semester he struggled with classes, hunger, and feeling alone. Erik feared being perceived as weak for needing help, so he suffered in silence and didn't reach out.

"EOP really pushed me to get help when I need help," says Erik. He felt encouraged after meeting his academic advisor who gave him hope that he could turn things around and connected him to campus resources. Erik immediately requested tutoring services, reached out to instructors, and became involved on campus. Today, thanks in part to EOP, Erik found people that believe and support him, and he is thriving academically and personally.

Meeting EOP staff members who are passionate about helping others had a huge impact on Erik. "I'm inspired by people who found their purpose or passion and they're pursuing it," says Erik. Finding support from a community of individuals who motivated and inspired him, he too found a passion for helping others.

Fundraising money and supplies for a volunteer opportunity to Honduras this summer, Erik wants to give back to others. "I want to use what I learn in school to work for non-profits or global organizations," he says. His goals include studying abroad during his junior year and eventually working in the medical field in underdeveloped countries.

Erik believes in EOP and the students it supports. He says, "EOP students have a lot of talent and ambition; they want to do more, contribute more," but they have financial restrictions. "I'm grateful for having enough to eat, having a place to live, and I'm grateful for having the support system that I have right now," Erik says as he reflects back on his college experience.

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHT
Thanh Thuy Luu

Recent EOP SJSU alumna, ThanhThuy Luu, '13 B.S. Nutritional Science, '16 Master's in Public Health, just began her graduate degree program in Fall 2013 immediately after she graduated with her baccalaureate degree. ThanhThuy was President's Scholar during her undergraduate program and was awarded a scholarship based on academic achievements. Her story of compassion towards the people that have helped her get to where she is today was recently featured in SJSU Today.

ThanhThuy extends her gratitude to EOP as well. EOP has helped ThanhThuy in several ways, particularly with advising, financial support, tutoring, recognition, and motivation. "It is great what EOP employees have done for thousands of first generation college students, especially immigrant students, who face uncountable difficulties in their academic life," ThanhThuy says. "I never take it for granted but always think of EOP with appreciation and gratitude."

The impact EOP had on ThanhThuy’s education was incredible. Through the program she found the motivation to continue toward achieving her academic, career, and personal goals. She says, "I am motivated by the 'can do' spirit that EOP always shares with students in order strengthen their determination to succeed."