Men’s Summit 2017

In October 2017, EOP hosted the annual I Can/I Will Men’s Summit facilitated by the Washington Consulting Group. Through deep group discussion, the men were able to deepen their understanding of masculinity and race. Students also explored their multiple identities and how those identities impact who they are at SJSU. The summit helped students develop tangible tools to address and manage difficult situations faced by men of color. Students shared their stories helping them feel connected and empowered and ready to take on the obstacles ahead.

To celebrate the occasion of the fifth anniversary of I Can/I Will, a dinner was held for all current and past I Can/I Will students in the Student Union Ballroom. San José State University and EOP Alumnus, Judge Robert R. Rigsby, shared his story of the struggles he overcame as a man of color to help motivate and inspire the next generation of leaders. Students engaged in conversation with Judge Rigsby covering themes of race, inequality, and the power of mentorship. Through the event students connected and left empowered.

“The summit provides more motivation to keep striving for my goals”

- Raudel Toscano
EOP Alumni Spotlights

Judge Rigsby
Born in San Francisco, California and raised in Vallejo, California, he received his law degree from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law in San Francisco. He received his B.S. Degree in Justice Studies with distinction from San José State University and was an EOP student. On March 4, 2002, Robert R. Rigsby was nominated by President George W. Bush to be an Associate Judge of the District of Columbia Superior Court. The United States Senate unanimously confirmed Judge Rigsby on July 25, 2002.

Judge Rigsby is enthusiastic in returning and working with our current students to empower and guide them in their growth at SJSU and the community at large.

Along with being the keynote speaker for the I Can/I Will Fifth Anniversary Dinner, Judge Rigsby has been the keynote speaker at EOP Graduation, spoken to the I Can/I Will students in other events, and is planning to participate in a Men’s Retreat in Spring 2018 which is currently being developed. Judge Rigsby is an excellent role model for other EOP alumni wishing to give back to this community.

Meet the Staff

Travarus Fauntleroy
Travarus has joined our EOP family as a new academic advisor. He was born and raised in New Jersey. Being a three step thinker, Travarus is constantly working to change the world positively, and strives for minimum mistakes. “I would like for people to learn from others, but most importantly from their own.” Basketball is huge in his life because it brings him peace. Before finding himself at San José State University, Travarus worked at UC Santa Cruz. “San Jose was the right choice, the energy was good and I knew this was for me.”

Alongside being an academic advisor Travarus will be leading the I Can/I Will program. The I Can/I Will program is a good foundation by having retreats and speakers come in to motivate the students. Travarus wants to have more interactions with students, start a clothing drive for professional attire, prepare students for the real world, and bring back alumni so that they can help in providing guidance through a mentorship role.

“The program here is amazing, the structure and environment is rare,” says Travarus. Through the new Alumni Connect Program, “Alumni are able to come back, give some wisdom and the tricks that the alumni have learned after graduation.”

Noemma Cardenas
Noemma has joined our EOP family as the new Program Director for the Guardian Scholars Program. She is a native of San Jose and a first generation college graduate at UC Davis where she obtained a B.A. in French and minor in Spanish. After graduation, Noemma returned to San Jose and found her life’s calling at her first job at Uplift Family Services, where she served foster youth and supported other underserved children and families in Santa Clara County for nine years. She also worked at the Santa Clara County Office of Education and at The Hub with the Independent Living Program. She says, “In my present position, I get to advocate on Guardian Scholars’ behalf and enhance the programming to further remove barriers in their academic success”. She is excited to now serve this incredibly inspiring population in the realm of higher education and have big dreams for the future of this program.