

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

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These past months have been full of informative and creative events for the STEP Scholars Program. The team kicked off the semester with their Welcome event held by all the fellows and the Retention coordinator, Alexandra Chavez. Scholars had the opportunity to meet their fellows and played a little game of "Fellow May I" where scholars raced to get to the front of the stage. After the welcome event, STEP's first financial literacy event for the semester took place. In collaboration with Travis Credit Union, STEP put on Mad City Money where scholars mimicked life events and expectations while financing their money. The STEP team would like to thank all the scholars who took time out of their weekend to attend this fun-filled event. Following this collaboration, the STEP Program put on a Financial Literacy event where scholars learned about the difference between credit unions and banks, the importance of credit scores, and tips on how to manage money. Scholars who attended had the opportunity to win water bottles, lunch bags, and staplers. STEP definitely kicked up the year to a great start in terms of event. However, the program also stepped out of their comfort zone this Fall semester with their academic trip by attending UCSF.

UCSF ACADEMIC TRIP



SCHOLAR OPINIONS

"IT WAS A VERY INFORMATIVE TRIP AS WELL AS BEING ABLE TO HANG OUT WITH THE REST OF THE STEP SCHOLARS AT THE PIER."

"I SPOKE WITH ONE OF THE TOUR GUIDES AND THEY GAVE ME SOME HELPFUL ADVICE. I WAS THINKING TO REACH OUT AND THANK THEM, AND TO HOPEFULLY STAY IN TOUCH WITH THEM AS A MENTEE."

This semester, the program stepped out of their comfort zone by taking some of their pre-med scholars to visit and learn about the University of California, San Francisco campus. In the past, STEP has made the tradition of attending the UC Davis Pre-Health conference, but this year the team wanted scholars to experiment something different. The scholars started their day in sunny San Francisco with an introduction about the UC Prime program from Dr. Leticia Rolan. After this, the scholars received a tour of the beautiful campus from four UCSF Pre-Med students. Scholars then ended off their academic trip with an admissions presentation that offered an overview of the application process and tips about the interview portion of the process. After leaving UCSF, the STEP program had the opportunity to spend some time in Pier 39 where some students witnessed the annual airplane show near Alcatraz.



STEP'S FIRST SPOOK-TAGULAR HALLOWEEN SOCIAL

The last week of October, STEP fellows decided to put on a competitive spook-tacular social for scholars. Scholars played mummy run, pin the skull on the skeleton, and mummy strike. Fellows along with scholars showed on their competitive spirit during all games. Lead fellow, Breanna Bell came in roaring first place with her Lion King cohort. Alex Del Toro's Nemo cohort came in second place. Melissa's Lilo and Stitch family came in third place and finally Jasmine Posada's Monsters Inc. cohort came in last place. In the future, the team of fellows hopes to put on more socials to continue the cohort showdown.





MESSAGE FROM OUR RETENTION COORDINATOR

Scholars, what a start to the 2019 academic year it has been! I hope that you are all are finding the balance to juggle the many responsibilities that come with being a college student. The second round of exams are done and we are at the half way mark for the semester, only 6 more weeks to go!

I would first like to thank you again for your patience as we adjust to this new year. There have been many changes internally since August came around. STEP has been working diligently to ensure that our programming is meeting the needs that you have all shared, while also supporting your academic and professional interests. STEP still has plenty of events coming up this fall including Wellness Wednesdays, Fellow Fridays, the Post-Graduation Pathways Series, our cultural arts trip and more!

Remember to complete your 3-2-1 requirements by the first week of December. The program is moving forward in our dismissal policy, so please fulfill the 3-2-1 or schedule a meeting with me to develop an alternative plan. STEP is flexible and willing to work with you should you need an accommodation.

Walk in Wednesdays are still happening so if you have a question or want to stop by for a quick chat, stop by at SSB 216 from 9-11:30 am and 1:45-4 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. POST GRADUATION PATHWAY SERIES | OCT 30 - NOV 13
2. HARRY POTTER CULTURAL ARTS TRIP | NOV. 10
3. WELLNESS WEDNESDAY | NOV. 6 - DEC 4
4. FELLOW FRIDAYS | NOV. 1- NOV 29

TRIO STEP SCHOLAR SPOTLIGHT (SSS)



YENDY PADILLA HERNANDEZ

This semester, STEP has started highlighting one of their scholars each month. Scholars are chosen based on persistent participation with the program, important contributions to their community, and academic accomplishments. This month, the STEP team has nominated Yendy Padilla-Hernandez. Yendy became a STEP scholar this semester and has continuously shown participation in STEP events and has even taken the initiative to visit the office to complete work. The team would like to thank Yendy for her participation in the program. Read below to learn more Yendy.

Hello, my name is Yendy Padilla-Hernandez. I am a first-year majoring in Political Science to become an immigration lawyer and history teacher. I am a young Chicana born and raised in East Los Angeles where my passion for History started as I learned more about my own history, the East LA Walkouts, and the whole Chicano movement that occurred in my school and hometown. To stay focus with homework I listen to the Alexander Hamilton musical and songs played with the cello. My favorite sport is soccer and running early in the mornings. Some extracurriculars activities I was a part of in high school were my school's soccer team and Students Run LA (marathon team). Of course, I cannot forget about the Army JROTC program and my coach, mentor, and friend, First Sergeant Raymond Eason. He pushed me to go beyond my limits that I know I would not have done without his support. Now that I am in college, I know I will receive the same support from the fellows here in the STEP Program.

OPPORTUNITIES

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

EECU STUDENT GRANT PROGRAM

The application for the 2020 EECU Student Grant Program is now open. Fifty \$2,000 grants will be awarded for the 2020-2021 academic year. The deadline to apply is December 6, 2019. To be eligible you must be an EECU member which was registered prior to June 6, 2019. You must also be full-time high school or post-secondary school. It is recommended to show community service and success in the application .

To Apply: <https://www.myeecu.org/home/news-resources/financial-resources/student-grant-program>

DONALD A. STRAUSS FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

This prestigious competition awards \$15,000 to high achieving college students to fund a “high impact public service or social change project in their junior or senior year” (straussfoundation.org). To be eligible for this scholarship, you must be a sophomore or junior with a GPA of 3.7 and above and have the desire to make a change in your community. The deadline to apply is between December and January.

To Apply: <https://www.straussfoundation.org/apply>

INTERNSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

THE MADDY INSTITUTE LEGISLATIVE INTERN SCHOLAR PROGRAM

The Maddy Scholar Intern Program’s goal is to prepare the next generation of political, governmental, business, non-profit leaders for the San Joaquin Valley through internship opportunities in local, state and federal government offices in Washington, D.C., Sacramento and throughout the region. To be eligible for this, you must be in at least Junior standing with a 3.0 GPA. Must be able to work 3-5 hours per shift and at least 10 hours a week during the semester. Hours requirement is 150 hours total for local placements and 8-10 weeks full time for summer Sacramento/D.C. placements. The deadline to apply is November 8th.

To Apply: www.maddyinstitute.org