



Achievement Awards KEY OF KNOWLEDGE RECIPIENTS



DESTINY MIRANDA CONTRERAS

Major: Sociology, Administration of Justice
Transfer Institution: University of California, Los Angeles
High School: Upland High School

Destiny began her journey at Citrus College in 2015 when she enrolled in the cosmetology program. In 2018, she decided to return with the goal of earning an associate degree and transferring to a four-year university.

"I didn't let my previous failures in high school determine how I was going to strive for greatness in my college career. It is truly something I wanted for myself, and I made it happen regardless of the circumstances and previous roadblocks," she says. In the future, Destiny plans on attending a nursing program in the hope of becoming a registered nurse.



MISSAEL AYRALDO CUEVAS CHAVEZ

Major: Mechanical Engineering
Transfer Institution: Cal Poly Pomona
High School: Azusa High School

Missael enrolled at Citrus College after serving in the U.S. Marine Corps. He considers veterans' counselor David Rodriguez and Veterans Success Center Director Maria Buffo as the two greatest factors in his successful transition

from a military mindset toward an academic mindset. He plans to complete a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and then continue his education by pursuing an MBA or a master's degree. He would like to use his education to help veterans, immigrants and other minorities gain upward mobility in life.

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ILEANNA DANIELLE GARCIA

Major: **Sociology**

Transfer Institution: **University of California, San Diego**

High School: **Bonita High School**

When Ileanna first began her college career, she did not have a clear path in mind for her education. However, that changed when she joined the college's honors transfer program and became a student employee. Ileanna found guidance from honors counselor Eileen Sin, as well as a sense of community and encouragement from her place of employment. She plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in sociology with a concentration in culture and communication and a minor in international studies. She would also like to pursue a master's degree and work for a nonprofit organization that helps survivors of human trafficking or child marriage.



AYAH RACHID HALABI

Major: **Applied Mathematics**

Transfer Institution: **California State University, Fullerton**

High School: **Glendora High School**

Alpha Gamma Sigma, STEM TRiO

Ayah credits her mother for providing her with the recipe for success: "patience, determination and diligence." She plans to obtain a bachelor's degree in applied mathematics and eventually attend graduate school, participate in research that targets climate change and/or teach math in the Middle East. She would like to thank Dr. Marianne Smith, counselor Leina Saikali and STEM TRiO facilitator Evelyn Uribe for supporting her and making her Citrus College experience an unforgettable one.

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LEAH AMEZQUITA HARTWELL

Major: Communications
Transfer Institution: University of California, Los Angeles
High School: Glendora High School
ASCC Commissioner of Activities, Vice President of Fellowship (Phi Theta Kappa)

For Leah, attending Citrus College has given her a fresh start. "I have completely transformed my identity as a student and rewritten my academic narrative," she says. Leah's future educational goals include attending graduate school to earn a master's degree in business administration, marketing or both. During her involvement in student government, Leah worked hard to create an environment for students to connect with each other amid the new virtual landscape. She hopes to continue bringing students together at her next institution.



PAULINA GABRIELA PIMENTEL-MORA

Major: Political Science, History, Spanish
Transfer Institution: Yale University
High School: Bonita High School
Honors Transfer Program, STEM TRiO

Paulina plans to double major in political science and history and minor in Spanish. After receiving her undergraduate degrees, she would like to enroll in law school in order to pursue a career in health law and ultimately shape the policies of the United States health care system. During her time at Citrus College, she has been involved in student government, worked at the Student Health Center, and is part of the honors transfer and STEM TRiO programs. She credits faculty members Brian Waddington, Dr. Senya Lubisich and Dr. Jennifer Miller-Thayer as her keys to success at Citrus College.

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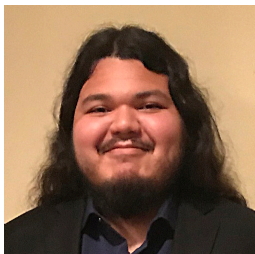
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AUSTIN G. RIGGS

Major: **Political Science and Philosophy**
Transfer Institution: **University of California, Los Angeles**
High School: **Glendora High School**
ASCC Student Trustee, Honors Transfer Program

Austin plans to obtain dual bachelor's degrees in political science and philosophy. He would then like to pursue a teaching credential, a master's degree in educational administration and a Ph.D. in philosophy. His goal is to teach high school students in the subjects of philosophy, American government and art history. Above all, he would like to become a superintendent of public instruction. "I want to ensure that equity is something that is at the forefront of all education moving forward," he says.



DANIEL ANGEL ROCA

Major: **Liberal Arts**
Transfer Institution: **Loyola Marymount University**
High School: **Damien High School**
Honors Transfer Program, Book Owls, Wise Owls
Philosophy Club

Daniel will be transferring to Loyola Marymount University in fall 2021 to major in screenwriting. He would like to eventually write comic books or work in the television and film industry. Daniel plans to use his education for "crafting tales that will speak to people, offering hope and philosophical enlightenment through the creation of modern myths." He credits instructor Jamie Love for introducing him to the field of humanities and all that it has to offer.

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RITA KATELANH TA

*Major: **Biology, Psychology***
*Transfer Institution: **Cal Poly Pomona***
*High School: **Saint Dominic School***

Rita plans to obtain dual bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology. She would then like to attend school to become a physician's assistant. During her time at Citrus College, Rita worked for EOPS and admissions and

records, and was part of the cross country team. She credits instructor Nora Sullivan for inspiring her to pursue biology and to "love and trust the process." She would like to use her education to bring attention and awareness to mental health.



MARINA ZAZA

*Major: **Biology***
*Transfer Institution: **University of California, Riverside***
*High School: **International Honors Transfer Program***

For Marina, receiving a Key of Knowledge was one of her greatest dreams in life. "This award represents years of challenging missions, patience and consistency," she says. Her goal is to become a medical doctor and researcher so that she may eventually achieve another dream of hers: to contribute to the invention of a new medicine that will improve lives around the world. She also gives thanks to her counselor, Nathalie Miramontes, for supporting and encouraging her every in step of the way at Citrus College.

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