

TRIO STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES
California State University San Marcos
GRADUATE RECOGNITION CEREMONY

April 26, 2024



PROGRAM

Reception

Welcome Remarks
Heather Northway
TRIO SSS Director

Honored Guest
Dr. Viridiana Diaz
Vice President for Student Affairs

Student Excellence Award Winner
Milly Lopez

Faculty Advocate Award
Dr. Cynthia Melendrez

Graduates

Closing Remarks

*Senior Excellence Award Finalist

STUDENT EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNER

Milly Lopez is a Guatemalan American, first-generation college student, majoring in Psychology. She enrolled in community college during the COVID-19 pandemic and graduated with honors in 2022 before transferring to CSUSM that same year. Milly is a dedicated advocate for mental health awareness and mental health care among marginalized communities such as LGBTQIA+, low income, and underrepresented minority communities. Milly's diverse background and intersectionalities have motivated her to share her personal journey as a diverse scholar to prospective students who may relate to her experiences. Similarly, Milly's compassion for people's mental health has carried into her professional career development as a behavioral health researcher working with young adults with substance use to advance prevention and treatments for future generations of young adults. On campus, Milly has dedicated her time to providing students with research opportunities, professional, and academic resources to support student success at CSUSM. Milly will continue her education at CSUSM in the MA Psychological Science program in Fall 2024 in order to pursue her aspirations as a clinical psychologist.



Milly Lopez

Psychological Science, B.A.

FACULTY ADVOCATE AWARD

Cynthia Meléndrez holds a Ph.D. in Spanish Literature from University of New Mexico. Her research and teaching interests focus on Chicana/o, Latina/o, and Mexican literature and film twenty and twenty-first centuries; Chicana/o, Latina/o and Mexican identity and subjectivities; national and transnational community formations; and Chicana/o and Mexican queer identity through cultural and film representations. She has published academic essay in several national and international academic journals and has also published short stories and poetry. Prior to joined California State University San Marcos in 2015, she taught at the University of Northern Colorado.



Dr. Cynthia Meléndrez

Associate Professor
CHABSS Modern Language
Studies

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

Suad Abdisalan, Sociology, B.A.

Juliana Abraham, Kinesiology, B.S.*

David Acevedo-Davila, Biological Sciences, B.S.

Jesus Arroyo, Business Administration, B.S.

Luis Bernal, Electrical Engineering, B.S.*

Daisy Bolanos, Business Administration, B.S.*

Kayla Bonilla, Sociology, B.A.

Jeannette Burgess, Psychological Science, B.A.

Jewel Anne Cawaling, Business Administration, B.S.

Venus Cazares, Communication, B.A.

Monica Cisneros, Chemistry, B.S.

Alexander Concepcion, Literature and Writing Studies, B.A.

Marisol Cortes, Spanish, B.A.

Guadalupe Cruz, Human Development, B.A.

Za'aliyah Daley, Human Development, B.A.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

Monica De La Rosa, Liberal Studies, B.A.

Monica Estrada, Child and Adolescent Development, B.A.

Isabell Felipe, Psychological Science, B.A.

Carissa Foster, Nursing, B.S.N.

Anais Garcia, Psychological Science, B.A.*

Eduardo Gutierrez, Criminology and Justice Studies, B.A.

Viviana Jimenez, Kinesiology, B.S.

Melauni Korkis, Business Administration, B.S.

Milly Lopez, Psychological Science, B.A.*

Naithan Lopez, Kinesiology, B.S.

Marlem Lopez Meza, Biological Sciences, B.S.

Sarai Martinez, Sociology, B.A.

Stephanie McCabe, Psychological Science, B.A.

Nathan Montoya, Psychological Science, B.A.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

Melina Mora Gonzalez, Child and Adolescent Development, B.A.

Sarai Mora Ortiz, Liberal Studies, B.A.

Cecilia Mosqueda Perez, Spanish, B.A.

Elizabeth Nevoso, Psychological Science, B.A.

Criminology and Justice Studies, B.A.

Bethany Nicholls, Criminology and Justice Studies, B.A.

Sociology, B.A.

Natalie Nieblas-Segura, Kinesiology, B.S.

Yanet Olvera, Biological Sciences, B.S.

Alexis Oropeza, Sociology, B.A.

Wendy Pena, Spanish, B.A.

Blandy Ramirez, Psychological Science, B.A.

Mayra Reyes, Chemistry, B.S.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

Esley Rivera, Mathematics, B.S.

Frances Salazar, Political Science, B.A.*

Sarah Salmon, Business Administration, B.S.

Loiza Tarwater, Business Administration, B.S.

Yong Turner, Psychological Science, B.A.

Jorge Valdez, Psychological Science, B.A.

Angelica Valencia, Spanish, B.A.

Shelby Ward, Communication, B.A.

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TRIO SSS MISSION

TRIO Student Support Services offers academic, personal, and professional support through services that empower and encourage undergraduate students from first-generation, low-income, and/or disability backgrounds to persist and graduate. TRIO SSS is committed to the CSUSM mission and provides an array of holistic cultural enrichment opportunities and social mobility programming that aligns with regional needs to enhance student life after graduation.

TRIO Student Support Services

California State University San Marcos

TRIO

STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

Heather Northway, Director
Andrea Plascencia, Advisor/Coordinator
Perla M. Rivas, Counselor

TRIO Student Support Services
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California State University
SAN MARCOS

TRIO Student Support Services

California State University San Marcos

STAY IN TOUCH!



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