



2013 CLYLP Comcast Fellows



Marilyn Limon
St. Lawrence University
Sacramento Leadership Conference 2009
Office of Senator Lois Wolk

Marilyn Limon, a first generation college student, is an incoming senior at St. Lawrence University and is double majoring in History and Sociology. She attended the 2009 Sacramento Leadership Conference and returned as a Peer Counselor in 2011. Marilyn was awarded the Presidential Diversity Scholarship of \$120,000 at St. Lawrence University and was named a Ronald E. McNair Postbaccalaureate Achievement Program Scholar where she had the opportunity to participate in an 8-week faculty-mentored research internship exploring human trafficking in the context of civil war and then present her findings at the University of Buffalo 18th Annual McNair Undergraduate Research Conference. Among other accomplishments, she founded and became president of the St. Lawrence University Human Wrong Campaign organization, spearheaded *La Sociedad Hispana* on campus as Vice President, and studied abroad in Vienna, Austria and in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. Through the Chicano Latino Youth Leadership Comcast Fellowship she hopes to gain an insight on California's legislative and budgetary process, create a strong support network, and enhance her leadership capacities for the advancement of her personal goals and professional career. Marilyn aspires to attend graduate school and attain her master's degree in Public Policy Law in order to combat human trafficking in California, specifically in Chicano Latino communities, through legislation and community awareness initiatives.

Michelle Menchaca
Duke University
Los Angeles Institute, 2010
Office of Assemblyman Luis Alejo



Michelle grew up in San Gabriel, a small city outside Los Angeles. She recently completed her first year at Duke University in North Carolina where she plans to major in Public Policy with a minor in English and a certificate in Markets and Management. On campus, Michelle is an active member of the Catholic Center, tutors local ESL middle school students, and reports on local and national news for Duke's premier independent newspaper. Michelle is also a member of *Mi Gente*, a Hispanic organization at Duke, which holds events on campus and volunteers in the local community to bridge the gap between Latinos and non-Latinos. Michelle is a 2010 alumnus of the CLYLP Los Angeles Institute, which she credits with instilling in her a concern for issues affecting Latinos in California. She is passionate about K-12 education and reform, and is particularly interested in studying the effects of income and socioeconomic disparities on educational attainment. Michelle has volunteered for several local campaigns, and most recently served as an intern for Speaker John A. Pérez at his Los Angeles office. Through this internship, she gained insight and knowledge into the inner workings of the state government and was inspired to consider a possible career in the public sector. Michelle hopes she can utilize her experience as a Comcast Fellow to better understand the legislative process and explore opportunities for postgraduate work.



Felipe Sepulveda

Harvard University

Sacramento Leadership Conference, 2010

Office of Assemblymember Tom Daly

Felipe Sepulveda is a 2010 alumni of the CLYLP Sacramento Leadership Conference. He is an incoming sophomore at Harvard University where he intends to double major in Government and Economics and minor in Statistics. Felipe plans to implement the skills from these fields to pursue a career in either Business or Public Administration. In addition to being a Comcast Fellow this summer, Felipe is also completing a Public Administration Internship for the City of Anaheim. Felipe has also been recognized by the City of Anaheim and the United States Achievement Academy for his outstanding effort in working towards making a positive impact on his community and became a 2012 Coca-Cola Scholar in addition to being a recipient of the National Association of Theatre Owners Scholarship, which was accessible to him by working at a movie theatre for three years during high school. At Harvard, Felipe is involved with several cultural organizations including RAZA and the Harvard Latino Men's Collective, where he was recently elected secretary. Felipe is also involved with the Harvard Financial Analysts Club, Harvard Economics Association, the Outdoors Club, and intends to join intramural crew. Felipe was born in Guadalajara, Mexico and raised in Anaheim, California and is proud to be the first in his family to attend college. With the Comcast Fellowship, Felipe hopes to take back what he learns and make a difference in his university campus and hometown.

Victor Torres

University of California, Irvine

Sacramento Leadership Conference 2011

Office of Assemblymember Henry Perea



Irvine-born and Fresno-raised, Victor Torres, an alumnus of the CLYLP Sacramento Leadership Conference in 2011, is a second year student at UC Irvine pursuing a double major in Political Science and Chicano Latino Studies. Since his eye-opening and life-changing experience during the Sacramento Leadership Conference, Victor became empowered and committed to strive for excellence in his academics and extra-curricular activities in order to achieve his educational and professional goals that were inspired by CLYLP. In his first year at UC Irvine, Victor made the Dean's Honors List, became a competitor on UC Irvine's nationally ranked Mock Trial team and was nominated for the Nicholas Aeberhard Award, which recognizes the Outstanding Freshman on campus. Victor believes that the Comcast Fellowship Program will not only help him gain first-hand exposure to the American political process, but also the interpersonal and professional skills that will enable him to be successful in the immediate and distant future. He plans on using the knowledge and experience he will gain from the Comcast Fellows program to establish a Hermano Unidos chapter and into his Administrative Internship at UC Irvine's Cross-Culture Center as the Diversity Education Intern. After college, Victor plans on earning his law degree at a prestigious university in order to fight for the sociopolitical issues that are important to him and the Chicano/Latino community. In addition to all that he has accomplished thus far, Victor is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, National Honors Society, California Scholarship Federation, and an Association of Mexican American Educators (AMAE) Scholar.



Diana Vergara

San Francisco State University

Sacramento Leadership Conference, 2010

Office of Assemblymember Jimmy Gomez

Diana Vergara was raised in Encinitas, California in the San Diego area and participated in the Sacramento Leadership Conference in 2010. She is an incoming junior at San Francisco State University double majoring in Criminal Justice and Psychology. Diana's passion involves working with immigrants and plans to attend law school to become an immigration attorney. Diana was an outreach ambassador for Educators for Fair Consideration (E4FC) and is now a Legal Advocate Intern for this organization. She is the Vice President for the IDEAS club on her campus, whose primary goal is to advocate for undocumented students. She works with the International Institute of the Bay Area DACA collaborative and is also an active sister of Lambda Theta Nu Sorority, Inc. at her university. She is the first in her family to go to college and actively helps others to pursue their own educational journey. As a Comcast Fellow, Diana is most looking forward to growing professionally and working in the Capitol.

Karen Villegas

University of California, Los Angeles

Sacramento Leadership Conference 2011

Office of Assemblymember Bill Quirk



Karen Villegas is a CLYLP alumni from 2011, has returned as a peer counselor in 2012, and serves as a CLYLP intern for the 2013 year and a 2013 Comcast Fellow. She is passionate about programs that inspire Chicano youth to employ their cultural identity to pursue higher education. She is actively involved in Inland Empire Future Leaders, a program that encourages incoming high school Chicano students to consider pursuing a higher education before they attend high school. Upon graduation, she received the Dell and KFC scholarship each totaling 20,000 dollars as well as the prestigious Gates Millennium scholarship, a full ride scholarship up to a doctoral degree. She gives back to her community by doing local outreach to high schools as both a Gates and Bunche Ambassador with the mission of aiding disadvantaged youth into the application process for universities and scholarships. Karen is currently an honors student at UCLA with membership in the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma Honor Societies where she manages the scholarship process. She is majoring in political science with a minor in education and plans to receive her PhD and work in the education sector of legislature to find ways to improve the schooling system for students of color. Karen is from Hemet, California and is the first in her family to work towards a higher education. She hopes to pave the way for her younger sister and to gain knowledge in the legislature field through the Comcast Fellowship.